

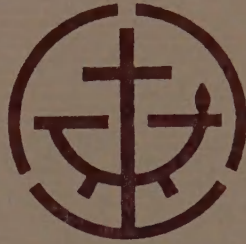
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The Lessons



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The Lessons

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The appointed First Lesson,
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for Series A, Series B, and Series C
of the three-year lectionary.

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Introduction

The lectionary to which these readings correspond is that printed in *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The two principles employed in the structuring of the lectionary will be noted. The first is a thematic principle of a semicontinuous reading of Scripture.

The thematic principle is employed generally during the festival portion of the church year. There is a theme for the festivals, and the readings have been selected in accord with that theme. The principal reading in every instance is the Gospel. In the application of the thematic principle, both of the other readings are selected to be in accord with the Gospel reading.

The principle of semicontinuous reading is generally employed in the nonfestival portion of the church year. In general, the Series A readings are from the Gospel of Matthew, Series B readings are from Mark, and Series C readings are from Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are employed in the festival half of all years, particularly on the Sundays of Easter. In Series B, in the post-Pentecost season, there is a continuous reading from John 6 for five Sundays, the tenth through the fourteenth Sundays after Pentecost.

On those Sundays when there is a semicontinuous reading from the Gospels, the Old Testament readings are selected because of the relationships to the Gospel readings. The Epistle readings are semicontinuous and may have no particular relationship to the Gospels. The idea is to have Epistle readings

which relate to each other from week to week. In Series C, for example, during the Epiphany season, most of 1 Corinthians 12 through 15 is read. If there is any relationship between the Epistle and the other readings it is coincidental.

Essentially the same lectionary is employed by the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Churches, the Roman Catholic Church, and the other Lutheran Churches. The Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal lectionaries have a consecutive series of readings from the First Sunday after the Epiphany to the end of the Season after Pentecost. This series of readings is interrupted by the Lent and Easter seasons. Therefore the synchronization of these lectionaries with those of the other churches will be off by one to three weeks during the season after Pentecost, depending upon the date of Easter. (For example, if the beginning of Lent should leave only five Sundays after the Epiphany, the readings for the remaining Sundays of the Epiphany season would not be read by Lutheran and Reformed churches. In the Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal churches the readings "skipped" by Lutheran and Reformed churches are resumed on the Second Sunday after Pentecost.)

A second lectionary rubric variation allows for Lesser Festivals to take precedence over Sundays in the Lutheran churches but not in the Reformed or Episcopal churches. Only a limited number of Lesser Festivals take precedence in the Roman Catholic tradition.

Preface

This book is designed to be a lectionary reader. The readings for Series A, B, and C of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* lectionary are reprinted from the Revised Standard Version Bible.

The titles used within this book to designate the readings are First Lesson, Second Lesson, and Gospel. Although there are a few exceptions, the First Lesson readings are those traditionally known as the Old Testament lessons. The Second Lesson readings are, with a few exceptions, the Epistle readings. The First Lesson, Second Lesson, and Gospel are complete for each Sunday, Principal Festival, Lesser Festival, and Day of Special Devotion.

In some instances the lectionary provides for options in the material to be read. If those options involve a longer and a shorter version of the same passage the optional portion of the reading is noted in the citation by brackets, for example, Isaiah 7:10-14 [15-17].

Within the text of the reading the optional section is enclosed in brackets and printed in italics. See the First Lesson for the Fourth Sunday in Advent, Series A.

In those instances where the option is an entirely different passage, or where the shorter version of the longer text is comprised of a number of short sections, the option passage is printed out separately. See the Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Advent, Series A.

The italic phrase or name, printed at the beginning of some readings, is the editor's insertion to aid the listener in identifying the speaker or subject of the passage. Care was taken in making these additions to the text, that extrabiblical thoughts or concepts not be introduced, and that a specific interpretation of either text or context not be inserted. The reader should feel free to omit the italic insertions or to substitute another word or phrase as an aid to the listener.

Series A

First Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 2:1-5*

The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,

³ and many peoples shall come, and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 13:11-14*

Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;

¹² the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 24:37-44*^o

Jesus said to them, ³⁷ “As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Or Matthew 21:1-11

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the vil-

^oOptional Gospel follows.

lage opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If any one says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of an ass."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the

ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee."

Second Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 11:1-10*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist,
and faithfulness the girdle of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

and the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall feed;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 15:4-13*

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfast-

ness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise thee among the Gentiles,
and sing to thy name";

¹⁰ and again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,

"Praise the Lord, all Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and further Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
he who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him shall the Gentiles hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 3:1-12*

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then he went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruit that befits repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Third Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,

and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a hart,

and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not pass over it,
and fools shall not err therein.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,

and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND LESSON

■ *James 5:7-10*

Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the

farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the late rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble, brethren, against one another, that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the doors. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 11:2-11*

Now when John (*the Baptist*) heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings’ houses. ⁹ Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

‘Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,
who shall prepare thy way before thee.’

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Fourth Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 7:10-14 [15-17]*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz,¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. [¹⁵ *He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.* ¹⁶ *For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.* ¹⁷ *The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.*”]

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 1:1-7*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh⁴ and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,⁵ through whom we have received grace and apos-

leship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;

⁷ To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 1:18-25*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit;¹⁹ and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit;²¹ she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel”

(which means, God with us).²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife,²⁵ but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

The Nativity of Our Lord

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas 1

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep
darkness,
on them has light shined.

³ Thou hast multiplied the nation,
thou hast increased its joy;
they rejoice before thee
as with joy at the harvest,
as men rejoice when they divide the
spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
thou hast broken as on the day of
Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping
warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his
shoulder,
and his name will be called
“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.”

⁷ Of the increase of his government and
of peace
there will be no end,
upon the throne of David, and over his
kingdom,
to establish it, and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and for
evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do
this.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Titus 2:11-14*

The grace of God has appeared for
the salvation of all men, ¹² training
us to renounce irreligion and worldly
passions, and to live sober, upright, and
godly lives in this world, ¹³ awaiting our
blessed hope, the appearing of the glory
of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us
from all iniquity and to purify for
himself a people of his own who are zeal-
ous for good deeds.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from
Caesar Augustus that all the world
should be enrolled. ² This was the first
enrollment, when Quirinius was gov-
ernor of Syria. ³ And all went to be en-
rolled, each to his own city. ⁴ And Joseph
also went up from Galilee, from the city
of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of Da-
vid, which is called Bethlehem, because
he was of the house and lineage of Da-
vid, ⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his be-
trothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while
they were there, the time came for her to
be delivered. ⁷ And she gave birth to her
first-born son and wrapped him in
swaddling cloths, and laid him in a man-
ger, because there was no place for them
in the inn.

⁸ And in that region there were shep-
herds out in the field, keeping watch
over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel
of the Lord appeared to them, and the
glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And
the angel said to them, “Be not afraid;
for behold, I bring you good news of a
great joy which will come to all the peo-
ple.”

ple; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with
whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Christmas 2

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings
good tidings,
who publishes peace, who brings good
tidings of good,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”
⁸ Hark, your watchmen lift up their
voice,
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem;

for the LORD has comforted his
people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 1:1-9*

In many and various ways God spoke
of old to our fathers by the prophets;
² but in these last days he has spoken to
us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir
of all things, through whom also he created
the world. ³ He reflects the glory of
God and bears the very stamp of his nature,
upholding the universe by his word
of power. When he had made purification
for sins, he sat down at the right
hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having
become as much superior to angels as
the name he has obtained is more excellent
than theirs.

⁵ For to what angel did God ever say,
“Thou art my Son,
today I have begotten thee”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶ And again, when he brings the
firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷ Of the angels he says,
“Who makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸ But of the Son he says,
“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and
ever,
the righteous scepter is the scepter of
thy kingdom.

⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness and
hated lawlessness;
therefore God, thy God, has
anointed thee
with the oil of gladness beyond thy
comrades.”

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Christmas 3

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 62:10-12*

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,

lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹ "Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the
end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion,

"Behold, your salvation comes;

behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."

¹² And they shall be called The holy
people,

The redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought out,
a city not forsaken.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Titus 3:4-7*

When the goodness and loving
kindness of God our Savior ap-
peared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of
deeds done by us in righteousness, but
in virtue of his own mercy, by the
washing of regeneration and renewal
in the Holy Spirit, ⁶ which he poured
out upon us richly through Jesus Christ
our Savior, ⁷ so that we might be
justified by his grace and become heirs
in hope of eternal life.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from
Caesar Augustus that all the world
should be enrolled. ² This was the first
enrollment, when Quirinius was gov-
ernor of Syria. ³ And all went to be en-
rolled, each to his own city. ⁴ And Joseph
also went up from Galilee, from the city
of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of Da-
vid, which is called Bethlehem, because
he was of the house and lineage of Da-
vid, ⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his be-
trothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while
they were there, the time came for her to
be delivered. ⁷ And she gave birth to her
first-born son and wrapped him in
swaddling cloths, and laid him in a man-
ger, because there was no place for them
in the inn.

⁸ And in that region there were shep-
herds out in the field, keeping watch
over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel
of the Lord appeared to them, and the
glory of the Lord shone around them,

and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with
whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from

them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

First Sunday after Christmas

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 63:7-9*

I will recount the steadfast love of
the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has
granted us,
and the great goodness to the house
of Israel
which he has granted them according
to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his
steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, Surely they are my
people,
sons who will not deal falsely;
and he became their Savior.

⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved
them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed
them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Galatians 4:4-7*

When the time had fully come, God
sent forth his Son, born of wom-
an, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem
those who were under the law, so that we
might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And
because you are sons, God has sent the
Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
"Abba! Father!" ⁷ So through God you
are no longer a slave but a son, and if a
son then an heir.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*

When they (*the Wise Men*) had de-
parted, behold, an angel of the
Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and
said, "Rise, take the child and his
mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain
there till I tell you; for Herod is about to
search for the child, to destroy him."
¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his
mother by night, and departed to Egypt,

¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.” . . .

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ²⁰ “Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and

took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Second Sunday after Christmas

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 61:10—62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my soul 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.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its
 shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown
 in it to spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause
 righteousness and praise
 to spring forth before all the nations.

¹ For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not
 rest,
 until her vindication goes forth as
 brightness,
 and her salvation as a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 which the mouth of the LORD will
 give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the
 hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of
 your God.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18*

Blessed be the God and Father of our
 Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed
 us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
 in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose
 us in him before the foundation of the
 world, that we should be holy and
 blameless before him. ⁵ He destined us
 in love to be his sons through Jesus
 Christ, according to the purpose of his
 will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace
 which he freely bestowed on us in the
 Beloved . . .

For this reason, because I have heard
 of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your
 love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not
 cease to give thanks for you, remem-
 bering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God
 of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
 glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom
 and of revelation in the knowledge of
 him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts en-
 lightened, that you may know what is
 the hope to which he has called you,
 what are the riches of his glorious inher-
 itance in the saints.

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew

him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. ¹⁵ (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") ¹⁶ And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

JANUARY 6

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴ Lift up your eyes round about, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far,
and your daughters shall be carried in the arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant,
your heart shall thrill and rejoice;
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 3:2-12*

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have

written briefly. ⁴ When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; ⁶ that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 2:1-12*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ² "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in

the East, and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will govern my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; ⁸ and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; ¹¹ and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Baptism of Our Lord

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 42:1-7*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul
delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him,
he will bring forth justice to the
nations.

² He will not cry or lift up his voice, or
make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,

and a dimly burning wick he will not
quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not fail or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the
earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and
stretched them out,
who spread forth the earth and what
comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶ "I am the LORD, I have called you in
righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and
kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the
people,
a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the
dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in
darkness."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 10:34-38*

Peter opened his mouth and said:
"Truly I perceive that God shows
no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation any

one who fears him and does what is right
is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the
word which he sent to Israel, preaching
good news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is
Lord of all), ³⁷ the word which was pro-
claimed throughout all Judea, begin-
ning from Galilee after the baptism
which John preached: ³⁸ how God
anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the
Holy Spirit and with power; how he
went about 'doing good and healing all
that were oppressed by the devil, for
God was with him."

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 3:13-17*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the
Jordan to John, to be baptized by
him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him,
saying, "I need to be baptized by you,
and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus an-
swered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it
is fitting for us to fulfil all righteous-
ness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when
Jesus was baptized, he went up immedi-
ately from the water, and behold, the
heavens were opened and he saw the
Spirit of God descending like a dove,
and alighting on him; ¹⁷ and lo, a voice
from heaven, saying, "This is my be-
loved Son, with whom I am well
pleased."

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 49:1-6*

Listen to me, O coastlands, and
hearken, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he
named my name.
² He made my mouth like a sharp
sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, "You are my
servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing
and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God."

⁵ And now the LORD says,
 who formed me from the womb to
 be his servant,
 to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to
 him,
 for I am honored in the eyes of the
 LORD,
 and my God has become my
 strength—

⁶ he says:
 “It is too light a thing that you should
 be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the preserved of Israel;
 I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the
 end of the earth.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

Paul, called by the will of God to be
 an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our
 brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God which is at
 Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Je-
 sus, called to be saints together with all
 those who in every place call on the
 name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both
 their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God
 our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to God always for you
 because of the grace of God which was
 given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every
 way you were enriched in him with all
 speech and all knowledge—⁶ even as the
 testimony to Christ was confirmed
 among you—⁷ so that you are not
 lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait
 for the revealing of our Lord Jesus
 Christ; ⁸ who will sustain you to the end,
 guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus

Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you
 were called into the fellowship of his
 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:29-41*

The next day he (*John the Baptist*)
 saw Jesus coming toward him, and
 said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who
 takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is
 he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a
 man who ranks before me, for he was
 before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know
 him; but for this I came baptizing with
 water, that he might be revealed to Is-
 rael.” ³² And John bore witness, “I saw
 the Spirit descend as a dove from
 heaven, and it remained on him. ³³ I
 myself did not know him; but he who
 sent me to baptize with water said to me,
 ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend
 and remain, this is he who baptizes with
 the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and
 have borne witness that this is the Son of
 God.”

³⁵ The next day again John was stand-
 ing with two of his disciples; ³⁶ and he
 looked at Jesus as he walked, and said,
 “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two
 disciples heard him say this, and they
 followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus turned, and saw
 them following, and said to them,
 “What do you seek?” And they said to
 him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher),
 “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to
 them, “Come and see.” They came and
 saw where he was staying; and they
 stayed with him that day, for it was
 about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two
 who heard John speak, and followed
 him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s
 brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Si-
 mon, and said to him, “We have found
 the Messiah” (which means Christ).

 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 9:1b-4*^o

In the former time he (*the Lord*) brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

³ Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian.

Or *Amos 3:1-8*

Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

² "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

³ "Do two walk together, unless they have made an appointment?

⁴ Does a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey?
Does a young lion cry out from his den, if he has taken nothing?

⁵ Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth,

when there is no trap for it?
Does a snare spring up from the ground,
when it has taken nothing?

⁶ Is a trumpet blown in a city,
and the people are not afraid?
Does evil befall a city,
unless the LORD has done it?

⁷ Surely the Lord GOD does nothing,
without revealing his secret
to his servants the prophets.

⁸ The lion has roared;
who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken;
who can but prophesy?"

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:10-17*

I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I am thankful that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; ¹⁵ lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

^oOptional First Lesson follows.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 4:12-23*

Now when he (*Jesus*) heard that John (*the Baptist*) had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; ¹³ and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
toward the sea, across the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region
and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach,

saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

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

²³ And he went about all Galilee teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Micah 6:1-8*

Hear what the LORD says:
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of bondage;

and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

Consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; ²⁷ but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; ³¹ therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord."

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 5:1-12*

Seeing the crowds, he (*Jesus*) went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 58:5-9a*

Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a man to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a rush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, Here I am.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 5:13-20*

Jesus taught them, saying, ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ “Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

Moses said to all Israel, ¹⁵ “See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you this day, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, then you shall live and multi-

ply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day, that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land which you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set

before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live,²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him; for that means life to you and length of days, that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 2:6-13*

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glorification.⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man conceived,
what God has prepared for those
who love him,”

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.¹¹ For what person knows a man’s thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 5:20-37*

Jesus taught them, saying,²⁰ “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees,

you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.’²² But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be liable to the hell of fire.²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.²⁵ Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison;²⁶ truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny.

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’³² But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ “Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’³⁴ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by

heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.³⁶ And do not swear by your head,

for you cannot make one hair white or black.³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil."

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18*

The LORD said to Moses,² "Say to all the congregation of the people of Israel, You shall be holy; for I the LORD your God am holy

¹⁷ "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbor, lest you bear sin because of him.¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23*

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it.¹¹ For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?¹⁷ If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If any one among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness,"²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows that the thought of the wise are futile."²¹ So let no one boast of men. For

all things are yours,²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours;²³ and you are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 5:38-48*

Jesus taught them, saying,³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also;⁴⁰ and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well;⁴¹ and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.⁴² Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?⁴⁸ You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 49:13-18*

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the LORD has comforted his people,
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

¹⁴ But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me."

¹⁵ "Can a woman forget her sucking child,
that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?"

Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.

¹⁶ Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are continually before me.

¹⁷ Your builders outstrip your destroyers,
and those who laid you waste go forth from you.

¹⁸ Lift up your eyes round about and see;

they all gather, they come to you.

As I live, says the LORD,
you shall put them all on as an ornament,
you shall bind them on as a bride does."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 4:1-13*

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not

even judge myself. ⁴ I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then every man will receive his commendation from God.

⁶ I have applied all this to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brethren, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. ⁷ For who sees anything different in you? What have you that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?

⁸ Already you are filled! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! ⁹ For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹ To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, ¹² and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 6:24-34*

Jesus taught them, saying, ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or

he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all

his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day.”

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 24:12, 15-18*

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tables of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” . . .

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸ And Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Peter 1:16-19 [20-21]*

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸ we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. [²⁰ *First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation,*

²¹ because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.]

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 17:1-9*

After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three

booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear," ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

Ash Wednesday

FIRST LESSON

■ *Joel 2:12-19*

Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments."

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, a cereal offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep

and say, "Spare thy people, O LORD, and make not thy heritage a reproach,

a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,

'Where is their God?'

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land, and had pity on his people.

¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people,

"Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:2*

We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the

righteousness of God. ¹ Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain.

² For he says,

“At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.”

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

Jesus taught them, saying, ¹ “Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² “Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

First Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17; 3:1-7*

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. . . .

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and

put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” . . .

¹ Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the

fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 5:12 [13-16] 17-19*

Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned— [¹³ *sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.* ¹⁴ *Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*

¹⁵ *But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.* ¹⁶ *And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.]* ¹⁷ If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Then as one man's trespass led to

condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 4:1-11*

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will give his angels charge of you,

and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! for it is written,

‘You shall worship the Lord your God

and him only shall you serve.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

 Second Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 12:1-8*

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions which they had gathered, and the persons that they had gotten in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.⁸ Thence he removed to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 4:1-5, 13-17*

What then shall we say about Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham be-

lieved God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”⁴ Now to one who works, his wages are not reckoned as a gift but as his due.⁵ And to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness. . . .

¹³ The promise to Abraham and his descendants, that they should inherit the world, did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why 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 us all,¹⁷ as 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.

GOSPEL

■ *John 4:5-26 [27-30, 39-42]*

He (*Jesus*) came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”⁸ For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.¹⁰ Jesus an-

swered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly."¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."²² You worship what you

do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him."²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

[²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"²⁸ So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people,²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"³⁰ They went out of the city and were coming to him. . . .

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."]

Third Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 42:14-21*

For a long time I have held my peace,
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in travail,

I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵ I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their herbage;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶ And I will lead the blind
in a way that they know not,
in paths that they have not known

I will guide them.
 I will turn the darkness before them
 into light,
 the rough places into level ground.
 These are the things I will do,
 and I will not forsake them.
¹⁷ They shall be turned back and
 utterly put to shame,
 who trust in graven images,
 who say to molten images,
 "You are our gods."
¹⁸ Hear, you deaf;
 and look, you blind, that you may
 see!
¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant,
 or deaf as my messenger whom I
 send?
 Who is blind as my dedicated one,
 or blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰ He sees many things, but does not
 observe them;
 his ears are open, but he does not
 hear.
²¹ The LORD was pleased, for his
 righteousness' sake,
 to magnify his law and make it
 glorious.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 5:8-14*

Once you were darkness, but now
 you are light in the Lord; walk as
 children of light⁹ (for the fruit of light is
 found in all that is good and right and
 true),¹⁰ and try to learn what is pleasing
 to the Lord.¹¹ Take no part in the
 unfruitful works of darkness, but instead
 expose them.¹² For it is a shame even to
 speak of the things that they do in secret;
¹³ but when anything is exposed by the
 light it becomes visible, for anything
 that becomes visible is light.

¹⁴ Therefore it is said,
 "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from
 the dead,
 and Christ shall give you light."

GOSPEL

■ *John 9:1-41*^o

As he (*Jesus*) passed by, he saw a
 man blind from his birth.² And his
 disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who
 sinned, this man or his parents, that he
 was born blind?"³ Jesus answered, "It
 was not that this man sinned, or his par-
 ents, but that the works of God might be
 made manifest in him."⁴ We must work
 the works of him who sent me, while it is
 day; night comes, when no one can
 work.⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am
 the light of the world."⁶ As he said this,
 he spat on the ground and made clay of
 the spittle and anointed the man's eyes
 with the clay,⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash
 in the pool of Siloam" (which means
 Sent). So he went and washed and came
 back seeing.⁸ The neighbors and those
 who had seen him before as a beggar,
 said, "Is not this the man who used to sit
 and beg?"⁹ Some said, "It is he"; others
 said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I
 am the man."¹⁰ They said to him, "Then
 how were your eyes opened?"¹¹ He an-
 swered, "The man called Jesus made
 clay and anointed my eyes and said to
 me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went
 and washed and received my sight."¹²
 They said to him, "Where is he?" He
 said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the
 man who had formerly been blind.
¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus
 made the clay and opened his eyes.
¹⁵ The Pharisees again asked him how he
 had received his sight. And he said to
 them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I
 washed, and I see."¹⁶ Some of the Phari-
 sees said, "This man is not from God, for
 he does not keep the sabbath." But oth-
 ers said, "How can a man who is a sinner
 do such signs?" There was a division
 among them.¹⁷ So they again said to the
 blind man, "What do you say about

^oOptional Gospel follows.

him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.

²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You

were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this, and they said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

Or John 9:13-17, 34-39

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

¹⁵ The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." . . .

³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus

said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may

see, and that those who see may become blind."

Fourth Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Hosea 5:15—6:2*

I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress they seek me, saying,

¹ "Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn, that he may heal us; he has stricken, and he will bind us up.

² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:1-10*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh, you

are in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 20:17-28*

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death, ¹⁹ and deliver him to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him, with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹ And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Command that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³ He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so

among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must

be your slave;²⁸ even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Fifth Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 37:1-3 [4-10] 11-14*

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones.² And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry.³ And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, thou knowest.” [⁴ *Again he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.* ⁵ *Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.* ⁶ *And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.*”

⁷ *So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.*

⁸ *And as I looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.* ⁹ *Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”* ¹⁰ *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host.]*

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.

Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel.¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, says the LORD.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:11-19*

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

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

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this

present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

GOSPEL

■ *John 11:1-53*^{*}

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.⁶ So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judea again."⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?"⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any one walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.¹⁰ But if any one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."¹¹ Thus he spoke, and then he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep."¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead;¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."¹⁶ Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found

that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying quietly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled;³⁴ and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who

^{*}Optional Gospel follows.

opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. ⁴² I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him; ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council, and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on thus, every one will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas,

who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all; ⁵⁰ you do not understand that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they took counsel how to put him to death.

Or John 11:47-53

So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council, and said, "What are we to do? For this man (*Jesus*) performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on thus, every one will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all; ⁵⁰ you do not understand that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they took counsel how to put him to death.

Sunday of the Passion

PALM SUNDAY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are
taught,

that I may know how to sustain with a
word
him that is weary.
Morning by morning he wakens,
he wakens my ear

to hear as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I turned not backward.

⁶ I gave my back to the smiters,
and my cheeks to those who pulled
out the beard;

I hid not my face
from shame and spitting.

⁷ For the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been
confounded;

therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to
shame;

⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me.

⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 2:5-11*

Have this mind among yourselves,
which is yours in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing
to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant, being born
in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being
found in human form he humbled
himself and became obedient unto
death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore
God has highly exalted him and be-
stowed on him the name which is above
every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow, in heaven and
on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and ev-
ery tongue confess that Jesus Christ is
Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 21:1-11*

When they drew near to Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage, to the
Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two dis-

ciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the vil-
lage opposite you, and immediately you
will find an ass tied, and a colt with her;
untie them and bring them to me. ³ If
any one says anything to you, you shall
say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and he
will send them immediately.” ⁴ This
took place to fulfil what was spoken by
the prophet, saying,

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of an ass.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had
directed them; ⁷ they brought the ass
and the colt, and put their garments on
them, and he sat thereon. ⁸ Most of the
crowd spread their garments on the
road, and others cut branches from the
trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And
the crowds that went before him and
that followed him shouted, “Hosanna to
the Son of David! Blessed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna
in the highest!” ¹⁰ And when he entered
Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, say-
ing, “Who is this?” ¹¹ And the crowds
said, “This is the prophet Jesus from
Nazareth of Galilee.”

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 26:1—27:66*

When Jesus had finished all these
sayings, he said to his disciples,
² “You know that after two days the
Passover is coming, and the Son of man
will be delivered up to be crucified.”

³ Then the chief priests and the elders
of the people gathered in the palace of
the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,
⁴ and took counsel together in order
to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill
him. ⁵ But they said, “Not during the
feast, lest there be a tumult among the
people.”

⁶ Now when Jesus was at Bethany in
the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman

**Optional Gospel follows.*

came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head, as he sat at table.

⁸ But when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? ⁹ For this ointment might have been sold for a large sum, and given to the poor." ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² In pouring this ointment on my body she has done it to prepare me for burial. ¹³ Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹⁷ Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the passover?" ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain one, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the passover.

²⁰ When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples; ²¹ and as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵ Judas, who be-

trayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?" He said to him, "You have said so."

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" ³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ³³ Peter declared to him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." ³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go yonder and pray." ³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." ³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." ⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh

is weak.”⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, thy will be done.”⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas came, out of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him.”⁴⁹ And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Hail, Master!” And he kissed him.⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, why are you here?” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.⁵¹ And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear.⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?”⁵⁴ But how then should the scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me.⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples forsook him and fled.

⁵⁷ Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where

the scribes and the elders had gathered.⁵⁸ But Peter followed him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end.⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward⁶¹ and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.’”⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”⁶³ But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes, and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy.⁶⁶ What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.”⁶⁷ Then they spat in his face, and struck him; and some slapped him,⁶⁸ saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a maid came up to him, and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.”⁷¹ And when he went out to the porch, another maid saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”⁷² And again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.”⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to

swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the cock crowed.⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

¹ When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death; ² and they bound him and led him away and delivered him to Pilate the governor.

³ When Judas, his betrayer, saw that he was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, ⁴ saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." ⁵ And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. ⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." ⁷ So they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. ⁸ Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel," ¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly.

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was

accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶ And they had then a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹ Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified." ²³ And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified."

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, ²⁹ and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped

him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simón by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross.

³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots;

³⁶ then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews."

³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabach-thani?" that is, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink.

⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; ⁵² the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵ There were also many women there, looking on from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him; ⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus.

⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.

⁶² Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.'

⁶⁴ Therefore order the sepulchre to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as

you can.”⁶⁶ So they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Or Matthew 27:11-54

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.”¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer.¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly.

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted.¹⁶ And they had then a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?”¹⁸ For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.¹⁹ Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream.”²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.”²² Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified.”²³ And he said, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified.”

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood;

see to it yourselves.”²⁵ And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!”²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him,²⁹ and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”³⁰ And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross.³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull),³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots;³⁶ then they sat down and kept watch over him there.³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.”³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.”⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires

him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"
⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabach-thani?" that is, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "This man is calling Elijah."
⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink.
⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see

whether Elijah will come to save him."
⁵⁰ And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; ⁵² the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Monday in Holy Week

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 42:1-9*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul
 delights;
 I have put my Spirit upon him,
 he will bring forth justice to the
 nations.
² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
 or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not
 quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not fail or be discouraged
 till he has established justice in the
 earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his law.
⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and
 stretched them out,
 who spread forth the earth and what
 comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶ "I am the LORD, I have called you in
 righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and
 kept you;
 I have given you as a covenant to the
 people,
 a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the
 dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in
 darkness.
⁸ I am the LORD, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to graven images.
⁹ Behold, the former things have come
 to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
 before they spring forth
 I tell you of them."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 9:11-15*

When Christ appeared as a high
 priest of the good things that
 have come, then through the greater
 and more perfect tent (not made with
 hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he
 entered once for all into the Holy Place,

taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

GOSPEL

■ *John 12:1-11*

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of

those at table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

⁹ When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

Tuesday in Holy Week

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 49:1-6*

Listen to me, O coastlands,
and hearken, you peoples from
afar.

The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he
named my name.

² He made my mouth like a sharp
sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, "You are my
servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain,

I have spent my strength for nothing
and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God."

⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me from the womb to
be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to
him,
for I am honored in the eyes of the
LORD,
and my God has become my
strength—

⁶ he says:
"It is too light a thing that you should
be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the preserved of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the
end of the earth.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

GOSPEL

■ *John 12:20-36*

Among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with

Philip and they told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify thy name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; ³² and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” ³³ He said this to show by what death he was to die. ³⁴ The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Christ remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said this, he departed and hid himself from them.

 Wednesday in Holy Week

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are
taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a
word

him that is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens,
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I turned not backward.

⁶ I gave my back to the smiters,
and my cheeks to those who pulled
out the beard;

I hid not my face
from shame and spitting.

⁷ For the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been
confounded;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to
shame;

⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me.
⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 5:6-11*

While we were still weak, at the
right time Christ died for the un-
godly. ⁷ Why, one will hardly die for a
righteous man—though perhaps for a
good man one will dare even to die. ⁸ But
God shows his love for us in that while
we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
⁹ Since, therefore, we are now justified
by his blood, much more shall we be

saved by him from the wrath of God.
¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were
reconciled to God by the death of his
Son, much more, now that we are recon-
ciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ Not
only so, but we also rejoice in God
through our Lord Jesus Christ, through
whom we have now received our rec-
onciliation.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 26:14-25*

Then one of the twelve, who was
called Judas Iscariot, went to the
chief priests ¹⁵ and said, “What will you
give me if I deliver him to you?” And
they paid him thirty pieces of silver.
¹⁶ And from that moment he sought an
opportunity to betray him.

¹⁷ Now on the first day of Unleavened
Bread the disciples came to Jesus, say-
ing, “Where will you have us prepare
for you to eat the passover?” ¹⁸ He said,
“Go into the city to a certain one, and
say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time
is at hand; I will keep the passover at
your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹ And
the disciples did as Jesus had directed
them, and they prepared the passover.

²⁰ When it was evening, he sat at table
with the twelve disciples; ²¹ and as they
were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to
you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And
they were very sorrowful, and began to
say to him one after another, “Is it I,
Lord?” ²³ He answered, “He who has
dipped his hand in the dish with me, will
betray me. ²⁴ The Son of man goes as it is
written of him, but woe to that man by
whom the Son of man is betrayed! It
would have been better for that man if
he had not been born.” ²⁵ Judas, who be-
trayed him, said, “Is it I, Master?” He
said to him, “You have said so.”

Maundy Thursday

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 12:1-14*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household; ⁴ and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his neighbor next to his house shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats; ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening. ⁷ Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled with water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’S passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see

the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance for ever.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 11:17-32°*

But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you assemble as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and I partly believe it, ¹⁹ for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰ When you meet together, it is not the Lord’s supper that you eat. ²¹ For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal, and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

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

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread

*Optional Second Lesson follows.

or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord.²⁸ Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.²⁹ For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself.³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we should not be judged.³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are chastened so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Or 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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

GOSPEL

■ *John 13:1-17, 34*

Before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.² And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all

things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God,⁴ rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel.⁵ Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.⁶ He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand."⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me."⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not every one of you."¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "You are not all clean."

¹² When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

 Good Friday

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 52:13—53:12*°

Behold, my servant shall prosper,
 he shall be exalted and lifted up,
 and shall be very high.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at him—
 his appearance was so marred,
 beyond human semblance,
 and his form beyond that of the sons
 of men—

¹⁵ so shall he startle many nations;
 kings shall shut their mouths because
 of him;

for that which has not been told them
 they shall see,
 and that which they have not heard
 they shall understand.

¹ Who has believed what we have
 heard?
 And to whom has the arm of the
 LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a
 young plant,
 and like a root out of dry ground;
 he had no form or comeliness that we
 should look at him,
 and no beauty that we should desire
 him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men;
 a man of sorrows, and acquainted
 with grief;
 and as one from whom men hide their
 faces
 he was despised, and we esteemed
 him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
 and carried our sorrows;
 yet we esteemed him stricken,
 smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our
 transgressions,
 he was bruised for our iniquities;
 upon him was the chastisement that

made us whole,
 and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
 we have turned every one to his own
 way;

and the LORD has laid on him
 the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was
 afflicted,
 yet he opened not his mouth;
 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
 and like a sheep that before its
 shearers is dumb,
 so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was
 taken away;
 and as for his generation, who
 considered
 that he was cut off out of the land of
 the living,
 stricken for the transgression of my
 people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the
 wicked
 and with a rich man in his death,
 although he had done no violence,
 and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to
 bruise him;
 he has put him to grief;
 when he makes himself an offering for
 sin,
 he shall see his offspring, he shall
 prolong his days;
 the will of the LORD shall prosper in
 his hand;

¹¹ he shall see the fruit of the travail
 of his soul and be satisfied;
 by his knowledge shall the righteous
 one, my servant,
 make many to be accounted
 righteous;
 and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion
 with the great,

* *Optional First Lesson follows.*

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
 because he poured out his soul to death,
 and was numbered with the transgressors;
 yet he bore the sin of many,
 and made intercession for the transgressors.

Or Hosea 6:1-6

Come, let us return to the LORD;
 for he has torn, that he may heal us;
 he has stricken, and he will bind us up.

² After two days he will revive us;
 on the third day he will raise us up,
 that we may live before him.

³ Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;
 his going forth is sure as the dawn;
 he will come to us as the showers,
 as the spring rains that water the earth.”

⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
 What shall I do with you, O Judah?
 Your love is like a morning cloud,
 like the dew that goes early away.

⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
 I have slain them by the words of my mouth,
 and my judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
 the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with

our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

GOSPEL

■ *John 18:1—19:42*

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When he said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go.” ⁹ This was to fulfil the word which he had spoken, “Of those whom thou gavest me I lost not one.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus

*Optional Gospel follows.

said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?"

¹² So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, ¹⁶ while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The maid who kept the door said to Peter, "Are not you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said." ²² When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and

warming himself. They said to him, "Are not you also one of his disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." ³² This was to fulfil the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die.

³³ Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world." ³⁷ Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them, "I find no crime in him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at

the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?"⁴⁰ They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. ² And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; ³ they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again, and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him."⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him."⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God."⁸ When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid;⁹ he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin."

¹² Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar."¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your

King!"¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

¹⁷ So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."²⁰ Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom;²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the scripture,

"They parted my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the

scripture), "I thirst."²⁹ A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth.³⁰ When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him;³³ but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe.³⁶ For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken."³⁷ And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

³⁸ After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body.³⁹ Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight.⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid.⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Or John 19:17-30

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha.¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."²⁰ Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.²¹ The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom;²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the scripture,

"They parted my garments among them,

and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst."²⁹ A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth.³⁰ When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Resurrection of Our Lord

EASTER DAY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 10:34-43*

Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the word which he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷ the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses to all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and made him manifest; ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Colossians 3:1-4*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ

who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

GOSPEL

John 20:1-9 [10-18]^o

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. ⁴ They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, ⁷ and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. [¹⁰ *Then the disciples went back to their homes.*

¹¹ *But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Saying*

^oOptional Gospel follows.

this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.]

Or Matthew 28:1-10

Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary

went to see the sepulchre. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you." ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Easter Evening

FIRST LESSON

■ Daniel 12:1c-3°

But at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."

Or Jonah 2:2-9

Jonah prayed to the Lord,
² "I called to the LORD, out of my
 distress,

and he answered me;
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
 and thou didst hear my voice.
³ For thou didst cast me into the deep,
 into the heart of the seas,
 and the flood was round about me;
 all thy waves and thy billows
 passed over me.
⁴ Then I said, 'I am cast out
 from thy presence;
 how shall I again look
 upon thy holy temple?'
⁵ The waters closed in over me,
 the deep was round about me;
 weeds were wrapped about my head
⁶ at the roots of the mountains.
 I went down to the land
 whose bars closed upon me for ever;

*Optional First Lesson follows.

yet thou didst bring up my life from
the Pit,

O LORD my God.

⁷ When my soul fainted within me,
I remembered the LORD;
and my prayer came to thee,
into thy holy temple.

⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols
forsake their true loyalty.
⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to thee;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Deliverance belongs to the LORD!"

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 5:6-8*

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 24:13-49*

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Con-

cerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning²³ and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see." ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, ²⁹ but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road,

and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, 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 before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

Second Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them. . . .

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may
not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will dwell in
hope.

²⁷ For thou wilt not abandon my soul to
Hades,

nor let thy Holy One see corruption.

²⁸ Thou hast made known to me the
ways of life;
thou wilt make me full of gladness
with thy presence.'

²⁹ "Brethren, I may say to you confidently of the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses."

SECOND LESSON

■ 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and to an inheritance which is imperishable,

undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. ⁹ As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL

■ *John 20:19-31*

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the

Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." 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 believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Third Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 2:14a, 36-47*

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them. . . .

³⁶ "Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter

and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other words and exhorted them, saying,

“Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common;⁴⁵ and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need.⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Peter 1:17-21*

If you invoke as Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake.²¹ Through him you have confidence in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 24:13-35*

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these

things that had happened.¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad.¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened.²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning²³ and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see.”²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further,²⁹ but they constrained him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at table with them, he

took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" ³³ And they rose that same

hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60*

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them.

⁷ And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the

Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. . . .

² And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶ and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, re-

ceive my spirit.”⁶⁰ And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Peter 2:19-25*

One is approved if, mindful of God, he endures pain while suffering unjustly.²⁰ For what credit is it, if when you do wrong and are beaten for it you take it patiently? But if when you do right and suffer for it you take it patiently, you have God’s approval.²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.²² He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips.²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly.²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL

■ *John 10:1-10*

Jesus said to them,¹ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber;² but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.³ To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”⁶ This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them.⁹ I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Fifth Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 17:1-15*

Now when they (Paul and Silas) had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and for three weeks he argued with them from the scriptures,³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.”⁴ And some of them were persuaded, and

joined Paul and Silas; as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.⁵ But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked fellows of the rabble, they gathered a crowd, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the people.⁶ And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren before the city authorities, crying, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,⁷ and Jason has received them; and they are all

acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.”

⁸ And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard this.

⁹ And when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

¹⁰ The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea; and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Beroea also, they came there too, stirring up and inciting the crowds. ¹⁴ Then the brethren immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Peter 2:4-10*

Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God’s sight chosen and precious; ⁵ and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious,

and he who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ To you therefore who believe, he is precious, but for those who do not believe,

“The very stone which the builders rejected

has become the head of the corner,”⁸ and

“A stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall”;

for they stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were no people but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL

■ *John 14:1-12*

Jesus said to them, ¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me?”

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for

the sake of the works themselves.

¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father.”

Sixth Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 17:22-31*

Paul, standing in the middle of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for

‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your poets have said,
‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in

righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Peter 3:15-22*

In your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶ and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God’s will, than for doing wrong. ¹⁸ For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; ¹⁹ in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

GOSPEL

■ *John 14:15-21*

Jesus said to them, ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

The Ascension of Our Lord

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 1:1-11*

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, ⁵ for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men

stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 1:16-23*

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; ²² and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fulness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 24:44-53*

Then he (*Jesus*) said to them, “These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins

should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

 Seventh Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 1:[1-7] 8-14*

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.³ To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God.⁴ And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me,⁵ for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority.]⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall

be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”⁹ And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away;¹³ and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.¹⁴ All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker; ¹⁶ yet if one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God. ¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? . . .

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. ⁷ Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. ⁸ Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

■ *John 17:1-11*

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, ² since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou has given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. ⁴ I glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do; ⁵ and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made.

⁶ "I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee; ⁸ for I have given them the words which thou gavest me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee; and they have believed that thou didst send me. ⁹ I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine; ¹⁰ all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

Vigil of Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 19:1-9°*

On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, on that day they

**Optional First Lesson follows.*

came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² And when they set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain. ³ And Moses went up to God, and the

LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. ⁸ And all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. ⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Lo, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you for ever."

Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

Or Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

⁷ And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:14-17, 22-27*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. . . .

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

GOSPEL

■ *John 7:37-39a*

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come

to me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive.

The Day of Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Joel 2:28-29*

The Lord said to his people, ²⁸ "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;

your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even upon the menservants and maidservants
in those days, I will pour out my spirit."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 2:1-21*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we

hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day; ¹⁶ but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'And in the last days it shall 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;
¹⁸ yea, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days
I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heaven above
and signs on the earth beneath,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰ the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day.

²¹ And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' ”

GOSPEL

■ *John 20:19-23*

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of

the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

The Holy Trinity

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 1:1—2:3*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.”

And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ And God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. ¹⁷ And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God

*Optional First Lesson follows.

saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens." ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to

every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.

Or Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

Moses said to all Israel, ³² "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. ³³ Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? ³⁴ Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? . . . ³⁹ Know therefore this day, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. ⁴⁰ Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you this day, that it may go well with you, and with your children after you, and that you may prolong

your days in the land which the LORD your God gives you for ever.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 13:11-14*

Finally, brethren, farewell. Mend your ways, heed my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss.

¹³ All the saints greet you.

¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 28:16-20*

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

Second Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28*

Moses said to all Israel, ¹⁸ “You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹ And you shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ²⁰ And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates, ²¹ that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth. . . .

²⁶ “Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse: ²⁷ the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day, ²⁸ and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way

which I command you this day, to go after other gods which you have not known.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 3:21-25a, 27-28*

Now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith. . . .

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On the principle of works? No, but on the principle of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 7:[15-20] 21-29*

*Jesus taught them, saying, [15 “Be -
ware of false prophets, who come to
you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly
are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know
them by their fruits. Are grapes gath-
ered from thorns, or figs from thistles?
17 So, every sound tree bears good fruit,
but the bad tree bears evil fruit. 18 A
sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor
can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every
tree that does not bear good fruit is cut
down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus
you will know them by their fruits.]*

*21 “Not every one who says to me,
‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of
heaven, but he who does the will of my
Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day
many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we
not prophesy in your name, and cast out
demons in your name, and do many*

*mighty works in your name?’ 23 And
then will I declare to them, ‘I never
knew you; depart from me, you evildo-
ers.’*

*24 “Every one then who hears these
words of mine and does them will be like
a wise man who built his house upon the
rock; 25 and the rain fell, and the floods
came, and the winds blew and beat upon
that house, but it did not fall, because it
had been founded on the rock. 26 And
every one who hears these words of mine
and does not do them will be like a
foolish man who built his house upon the
sand; 27 and the rain fell, and the floods
came, and the winds blew and beat
against that house, and it fell; and great
was the fall of it.”*

*28 And when Jesus finished these say-
ings, the crowds were astonished at his
teaching, 29 for he taught them as one
who had authority, and not as their
scribes.*

Third Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Hosea 5:15—6:6*

I will return again to my place,
until they acknowledge their guilt
and seek my face,
and in their distress they seek me,
saying,

¹ “Come, let us return to the LORD;
for he has torn, that he may heal us;
he has stricken, and he will bind us
up.

² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

³ Let us know, let us press on to know
the LORD;
his going forth is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,

as the spring rains that water the
earth.”

⁴ What shall I do with you, O
Ephraim?

What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early away.

⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the
prophets,
I have slain them by the words of my
mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the
light.

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not
sacrifice,
the knowledge of God, rather than
burnt offerings.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 4:18-25*

In hope he (*Abraham*) believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, "So shall your descendants be."¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.²² That is why his faith was "reckoned to him as righteousness."²³ But the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone,²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him that raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,²⁵ who was put to death for our

trespasses and raised for our justification.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 9:9-13*

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples.¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"¹² But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 19:2-8a*

When they (*the people of Israel*) set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain.³ And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:⁴ You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.⁵ Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine,⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to

the children of Israel."

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him.⁸ And all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 5:6-11*

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die.⁸ But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.⁹ Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 9:35—10:8*

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

¹ And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity.

² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 20:7-13*

O LORD, thou hast deceived me,
and I was deceived;
thou art stronger than I,
and thou hast prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all
the day;
every one mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I cry out,
I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become
for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a
burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering.
Terror is on every side!

"Denounce him! Let us denounce
him!"

say all my familiar friends,
watching for my fall.

"Perhaps he will be deceived,
then we can overcome him,
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the LORD is with me as a dread
warrior;

therefore my persecutors will
stumble,

they will not overcome me.

They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹² O LORD of hosts, who triest the
righteous,
who seest the heart and the mind,

let me see thy vengeance upon them,
for to thee have I committed my
cause.

¹³ Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the
needy
from the hand of evildoers.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 5:12-15*

Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned—¹³ sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 10:24-33*

Jesus said to them, ²⁴ "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶ "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 28:5-9*

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words which you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the ex-

iles. ⁷ Yet hear now this word which I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 6:1b-11*

Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For he who has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. ⁹ For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 10:34-42*

Jesus said to them, ³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and a man’s foes will be those of his own household. ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰ “He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹ He who receives a prophet because he is a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward, and he who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. ⁴² And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Zechariah 9:9-12*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of
Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on an ass,
on a colt the foal of an ass.

¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from
Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the
nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the
earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood
of my covenant with you,
I will set your captives free from the
waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O
prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to
you double.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 7:15-25a*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ So then it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will

deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 11:25-30*

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; ²⁶ yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 55:10-11*

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:18-25*

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; ²³ and not only the cre-

ation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 13:1-9 [18-23]*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat there; and the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the

thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear." . . .

[¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When any one hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart; this is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the delight in riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the word and understands it; he indeed bears fruit, and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."]

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 44:6-8*

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it,
let him declare and set it forth
before me.

Who has announced from of old the
things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and
declared it?

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:26-27*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the

mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 13:24-30 [36-43]*

Another parable he (*Jesus*) put before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants of the householder came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then has it weeds?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No; lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the

reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' " . . .

[³⁶ *Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."* ³⁷ *He answered, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed means the sons of the kingdom; the weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."*]

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Kings 3:5-12*

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "Thou hast shown great and steadfast love to thy servant David my father, because he walked before thee in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward thee; and thou hast kept for him this great and steadfast love, and hast given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And thy servant is in the midst

of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give thy servant therefore an understanding mind to govern thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to govern this thy great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:28-30*

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 13:44-52*

Jesus said to them, ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 55:1-5*

Ho, every one who thirsts,
 and he who has no money,
 come to the waters;
 and he who has no money,
 come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for
 that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does
 not satisfy?
 Hearken diligently to me, and eat what
 is good,
 and delight yourselves in fatness.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 hear, that your soul may live;
 and I will make with you an everlasting
 covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the
 peoples,
 a leader and commander for the
 peoples.
⁵ Behold, you shall call nations that you
 know not,
 and nations that knew you not shall
 run to you,
 because of the LORD your God, and of
 the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:35-39*

Who shall separate us from the love
 of Christ? Shall tribulation, or
 distress, or persecution, or famine, or na-
 kedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is
 written,

“For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 14:13-21*

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a lonely place apart. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ As he went ashore he saw a

great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Kings 19:9-18*

There he (*Elijah*) came to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹¹ And he said, “Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was

not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria; ¹⁶ and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷ And him who escapes from the sword

of Hazael shall Jehu slay; and him who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 9:1-5*

I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen by race. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ. God who is over all be blessed for ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 14:22-33*

Then he (*Jesus*) made the disciples get into the boat and go before him

to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately he spoke to them, saying, “Take heart, it is I; have no fear.”

²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; ³⁰ but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “O man of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 56:1, 6-8*

Thus says the LORD:
 “Keep justice, and do righteousness,
 for soon my salvation will come,
 and my deliverance be revealed. . . .
⁶ “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
 to minister to him, to love the name
 of the LORD,
 and to be his servants,
 every one who keeps the sabbath, and
 does not profane it,

and holds fast my covenant—
⁷ these I will bring to my holy
 mountain,
 and make them joyful in my house
 of prayer;
 their burnt offerings and their
 sacrifices
 will be accepted on my altar;
 for my house shall be called a house of
 prayer
 for all peoples.
⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
 who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 11:13-15, 29-32*

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry¹⁴ in order to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them.¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

²⁹ For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy.³² For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 15:21-28*

Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.”²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.”²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶ And he answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 6:2-8*

God said to Moses, “I am the LORD.³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.⁴ I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they dwelt as sojourners.⁵ Moreover I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold in bondage and I have remembered my covenant.⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm

and with great acts of judgment,⁷ and I will take you for my people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.⁸ And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.’”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 11:33-36*

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord,

or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 16:13-20*

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you

say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 15:15-21*

OLORD, thou knowest;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my
persecutors.
In thy forbearance take me not away;
know that for thy sake I bear
reproach.

¹⁶ Thy words were found, and I ate
them,
and thy words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by thy name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of
merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because thy hand was upon
me,
for thou hadst filled me with
indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Wilt thou be to me like a deceitful
brook,

like waters that fail?

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
"If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not
what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.

They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of
the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of
the ruthless."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 12:1-8*

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by
the mercies of God, to present your

bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of

mercy, with cheerfulness.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 16:21-26*

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?"

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 33:7-9*

So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way; he shall die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 13:1-10*

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of him who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in

vain; he is the servant of God to execute his wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be subject, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 18:15-20*

Jesus said to them, ¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 50:15-21*

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Fear not, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil

against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he reassured them and comforted them.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 14:5-9*

One man esteems one day as better than another, while another man esteems all days alike. Let every one be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. He also who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; while he who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.

⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 18:21-35*

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; ²⁵ and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will

pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; ³³ and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 55:6-9*

Seek the LORD while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways,
says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 1:1-5 [6-11], 19-27*

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who

are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. [⁶ *And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

⁷ *It is right for me to feel thus about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.* ⁸ *For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.* ⁹ *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,* ¹⁰ *so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,* ¹¹ *filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.] . . .*

¹⁹ Yes, and I shall rejoice. For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I shall not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to

glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus said to them, ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; ⁴ and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. ⁵ Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’

¹⁴ Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you.

¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose

with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

The word of the LORD came to me again: ² “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?’ ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins shall die. . . .

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶ When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die for it; for the iniquity which he has committed he shall die. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰ “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

³² For I have no pleasure in the death of

any one, says the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 2:1-5 [6-11]*

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [⁶ *who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,* ⁷ *but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.* ⁸ *And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.* ⁹ *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,* ¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* ¹¹ *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*]

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 21:28-32*

Jesus said to them, ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he repented and went. ³⁰ And he went to

the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the

kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him."

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Let me sing for my beloved
a love song concerning his
vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dugged it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge, I pray you, between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my
vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briars and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of
hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah

are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, a cry!

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 3:12-21*

Not that I have already obtained this
or am already perfect; but I press
on to make it my own, because Christ Je-
sus has made me his own. ¹³ Brethren, I
do not consider that I have made it my
own; but one thing I do, forgetting what
lies behind and straining forward to
what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the
goal for the prize of the upward call of
God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us
who are mature be thus minded; and if
in anything you are otherwise minded,
God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only
let us hold true to what we have at-
tained.

¹⁷ Brethren, join in imitating me, and
mark those who so live as you have an
example in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I
have often told you and now tell you
even with tears, live as enemies of the
cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruc-
tion, their god is the belly, and they
glory in their shame, with minds set on
earthly things. ²⁰ But our common-
wealth is in heaven, and from it we
await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who will change our lowly body to be
like his glorious body, by the power
which enables him even to subject all
things to himself.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 21:33-43*

Jesus said to them, ³³ “Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; ³⁵ and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. ³⁷ Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹ And they took him and

cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The very stone which the builders rejected
has become the head of the corner;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it.”

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 4:4-13*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of

peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me; you were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. ¹³ I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 22:1-10 [11-14]*

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, ³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready;

come to the marriage feast.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷ The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

[¹¹ “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”]

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 45:1-7*

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
 whose right hand I have grasped,
 to subdue nations before him
 and ungird the loins of kings,
 to open doors before him
 that gates may not be closed:
² “I will go before you
 and level the mountains,
 I will break in pieces the doors of
 bronze
 and cut asunder the bars of iron,
³ I will give you the treasures of
 darkness

and the hoards in secret places,
 that you may know that it is I, the
 LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by
 your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
 and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name,
 I surname you, though you do not
 know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other,
 besides me there is no God;

I gird you, though you do not know
 me,

⁶ that men may know, from the rising
 of the sun

and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe,
I am the LORD, who do all these things.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Thessalonians 1:1-5a*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brethren beloved by God, that he has chosen you; ⁵ for our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and

in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 22:15-21*

Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him (*Jesus*) in his talk. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the money for the tax.” And they brought him a coin. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹ They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18*

The LORD said to Moses, ² “Say to all the congregation of the people of Israel, You shall be holy; for I the LORD your God am holy. . . .

¹⁵ “You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go up and down as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand forth against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbor, lest you bear sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance

or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Thessalonians 1:5b-10*

You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit; ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not

say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us what a welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 22:34-40 [41-46]*

When the Pharisees heard that he (*Jesus*) had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first command-

ment. ³⁹ And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

[⁴¹ *Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴² saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,*

⁴⁴ *'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put thy enemies under thy feet?'*

⁴⁵ *If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?'*" ⁴⁶ *And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.]*

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Amos 5:18-24*

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why would you have the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, and not light;

¹⁹ as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him;

or went into the house and leaned with his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

²⁰ Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹ "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and cereal offerings, I will not accept them,

and the peace offerings of your fatted beasts

I will not look upon.

²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 [15-18]*

We would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. [¹⁵ *For this we declare to you by*

the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; ¹⁷ then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.]

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 25:1-13*

Jesus said to them, ¹ "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other maidens came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'"

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9*

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
² The more I called them,
the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,
and burning incense to idols.
³ Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them up in my arms;
but they did not know that I healed them.
⁴ I led them with cords of compassion,
with the bands of love,
and I became to them as one
who eases the yoke on their jaws,
and I bent down to them and fed them. . . .

⁸ How can I give you up, O Ephraim!
How can I hand you over, O Israel!
How can I make you like Admah!
How can I treat you like Zeboi-im!
My heart recoils within me,
my compassion grows warm and tender.

⁹ I will not execute my fierce anger,
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not man,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come to destroy.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

As to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

When people say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But, since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 25:14-30*

Jesus said to them, ¹⁴ "It will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the

master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' "

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Malachi 2:1-2, 4-10*

Now, O priests, this command is for you. ² If you will not listen, if you

will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; indeed I have al-

ready cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. . . . ⁴ So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may hold, says the LORD of hosts. ⁵ My covenant with him was a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him, that he might fear; and he feared me, he stood in awe of my name. ⁶ True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. ⁷ For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. ⁸ But you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, ⁹ and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you have not kept my ways but have shown partiality in your instruction.”

¹⁰ Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Thessalonians 2:8-13*

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹ For you remember our labor and toil, brethren; we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you, while we preached to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also,

how holy and righteous and blameless was our behavior to you believers; ¹¹ for you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you ¹² to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³ And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 23:1-12*

Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples, ² “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; ³ so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. ⁴ They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. ⁵ They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁶ and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. ⁸ But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. ⁹ And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. ¹⁰ Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. ¹¹ He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; ¹² whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

 Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 26:1-6*

In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD, ² “Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD’S house, and speak to all the cities of Judah which come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. ³ It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may repent of the evil which I intend to do to them because of their evil doings. ⁴ You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law which I have set before you, ⁵ and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not heeded, ⁶ then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’ ”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Thessalonians 3:7-13*

For this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith; ⁸ for now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanksgiving can we render to God for you, for all the joy which we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ praying earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you; ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men, as we do to you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God

and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 24:1-14*

Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another, that will not be thrown down.”

³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Take heed that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: ⁸ all this is but the beginning of the birth-pangs.

⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation, and put you to death; and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. ¹⁰ And then many will fall away, and betray one another, and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because wickedness is multiplied, most men’s love will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come.”

Christ the King

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 23-24*

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the fountains, and in all the inhabited places of the country.¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and upon the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on fat pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice. . . .

²³ “And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 15:20-28*

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.²¹ For as by

a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.²⁷ “For God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “All things are put in subjection under him,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things under him.²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to every one.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 25:31-46*

Jesus said to them,³¹ “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,³³ and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.³⁴ Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;’³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’³⁷ Then the righteous

will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink?'³⁸ And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee?'³⁹ And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?'⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty

and you gave me no drink,⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?'⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.'⁴⁶ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Series B

First Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1-8*

Thou, O LORD, art our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is thy
name.

¹⁷O LORD, why dost thou make us err
from thy ways
and harden our heart, so that we fear
thee not?

Return for the sake of thy servants, the
tribes of thy heritage

¹O that thou wouldst rend the heavens
and come down,
that the mountains might quake at
thy presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make thy name known to thy
adversaries,

and that the nations might tremble
at thy presence!

³When thou didst terrible things which
we looked not for,
thou camest down, the mountains
quaked at thy presence.

⁴From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides thee,

who works for those who wait for
him.

⁵Thou meetest him that joyfully works
righteousness,
those that remember thee in thy
ways.

Behold, thou wast angry, and we
sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time,
and shall we be saved?

⁶We have all become like one who is
unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a
polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind,
take us away.

⁷There is no one that calls upon thy
name,
that bestirs himself to take hold of
thee;

for thou hast hid thy face from us,
and hast delivered us into the hand
of our iniquities.

⁸Yet, O LORD, thou art our Father;
we are the clay, and thou art our
potter;
we are all the work of thy hand.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge—⁶ even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ; ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 13:33-37*

Jesus said to them, ³³ “Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Watch therefore—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning—³⁶ lest he come suddenly and

find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Watch.”

Or Mark 11:1-10

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he (*Jesus*) sent two of his disciples, ² and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it. ³ If any one says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴ And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it. ⁵ And those who stood there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said; and they let them go. ⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus, and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it. ⁸ And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!”

 Second Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 40:1-11*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD'S
hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of
the LORD,
make straight in the desert a high-
way for our God.

*Optional Gospel follows.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be
made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be
revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has
spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of
the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows
upon it;
surely the people is grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand
for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings,
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with
might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a
shepherd,
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with
young.

SECOND LESSON

■ 2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is as a
thousand years, and a thousand years
as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about
his promise as some count slowness, but

is forbearing toward you, not wishing
that any should perish, but that all
should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day
of the Lord will come like a thief, and
then the heavens will pass away with a
loud noise, and the elements will be
dissolved with fire, and the earth and
the works that are upon it will be
burned up.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be
dissolved, what sort of persons ought
you to be in lives of holiness and godli-
ness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the
coming of the day of God, because of
which the heavens will be kindled and
dissolved, and the elements will melt
with fire! ¹³ But according to his prom-
ise we wait for new heavens and a new
earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you wait
for these, be zealous to be found by
him without spot or blemish, and at
peace.

GOSPEL

■ Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus
Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
“Behold, I send my messenger
before thy face,
who shall prepare thy way;
³ the voice of one crying in the
wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight—”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the
wilderness, preaching a baptism of rep-
entance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ And there went out to him all the
country of Judea, and all the people of
Jerusalem; and they were baptized by
him in the river Jordan, confessing
their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with
camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle
around his waist, and ate locusts and
wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying,
“After me comes he who is mightier

than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I

have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Third Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11*

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
 because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;
 to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to 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;
 that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul 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.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause

righteousness and praise
 to spring forth before all the nations.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray constantly, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit, ²⁰ do not despise prophesying, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good, ²² abstain from every form of evil.
²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light
¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² They said to him then, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of

one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *2 Samuel 7:[1-7], 8-11, 16*

Now when the king (David) dwelt in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies round about, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart; for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶ I have not dwelt 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 for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'"]

⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant

them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.'"

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 16:25-27*

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷ to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name

was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel,

"How shall this be, since I have no husband?"

³⁵ And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

³⁶ And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Nativity of Our Lord

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas I

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

³ Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Titus 2:11-14*

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, ¹² training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, ¹³ awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. ² This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in

swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Christmas 2

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸ Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 1:1-9*

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to what angel did God ever say,
“Thou art my Son,
today I have begotten thee”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶ And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷ Of the angels he says,

“Who makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸ But of the Son he says,

“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and
ever,
the righteous scepter is the scepter of
thy kingdom.

⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness and
hated lawlessness;

therefore God, thy God, has
anointed thee
with the oil of gladness beyond thy
comrades.”

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the begin-

ning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Christmas 3

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 62:10-12*

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,

lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion,

“Behold, your salvation comes;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.”

¹² And they shall be called The holy
people,

The redeemed of the LORD;

and you shall be called Sought out,

a city not forsaken.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Titus 3:4-7*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, ⁶ which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. ² This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in that region there were shep-

herds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

First Sunday after Christmas

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 45:22-25*

Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
²³ By myself I have sworn,
from my mouth has gone forth in
righteousness

a word that shall not return:
'To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear.'

²⁴ "Only in the LORD, it shall be said
of me,
are righteousness and strength;
to him shall come and be ashamed,
all who were incensed against him.

²⁵ In the LORD all the offspring of
Israel
shall triumph and glory.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Colossians 3:12-17*

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, ¹³ forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 2:25-40*

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought

in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;

³⁰ for mine eyes have seen thy salvation
³¹ which thou hast prepared in the
presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to thy people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; ³⁴ and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

“Behold, this child is set for the fall
and rising of many in Israel,
and for a sign that is spoken against
³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through
your own soul also),
that thoughts out of many hearts
may be revealed.”

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, ³⁷ and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

 The Second Sunday after Christmas

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 61:10—62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my soul 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.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its
 shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown
 in it to spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause
 righteousness and praise
 to spring forth before all the nations.
¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not
 rest,
 until her vindication goes forth as
 brightness,
 and her salvation as a burning torch.
² The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 which the mouth of the LORD will
 give.
³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the
 hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of
 your God.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18*

Blessed be the God and Father of our
 Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed
 us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
 in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose
 us in him before the foundation of the
 world, that we should be holy and
 blameless before him. ⁵ He destined us
 in love to be his sons through Jesus

Christ, according to the purpose of his
 will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace
 which he freely bestowed on us in the
 Beloved

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have
 heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and
 your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not
 cease to give thanks for you, remem-
 bering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God
 of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
 glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom
 and of revelation in the knowledge of
 him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts en-
 lightened, that you may know what is
 the hope to which he has called you,
 what are the riches of his glorious inher-
 itance in the saints.

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word, and the
 Word was with God, and the Word
 was God. ² He was in the beginning with
 God; ³ all things were made through
 him, and without him was not anything
 made that was made. ⁴ In him was life,
 and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The
 light shines in the darkness, and the
 darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God,
 whose name was John. ⁷ He came for tes-
 timony, to bear witness to the light, that
 all might believe through him. ⁸ He was
 not the light, but came to bear witness to
 the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every
 man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He
 was in the world, and the world was
 made through him, yet the world knew
 him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home,
 and his own people received him not.
¹² But to all who received him, who be-
 lieved in his name, he gave power to be-
 come children of God; ¹³ who were born,

not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me

ranks before me, for he was before me.'") ¹⁶ And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

JANUARY 6

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has
come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen
upon you.

² For behold, darkness shall cover the
earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your
rising.

⁴ Lift up your eyes round about, and
see;
they all gather together, they come
to you;
your sons shall come from far,
and your daughters shall be carried
in the arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant,
your heart shall thrill and rejoice;
because the abundance of the sea shall
be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come
to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and
Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and
frankincense,

and shall proclaim the praise of the
LORD.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 3:2-12*

You have heard of the stewardship of
God's grace that was given to me
for you, ³ how the mystery was made
known to me by revelation, as I have
written briefly. ⁴ When you read this
you can perceive my insight into the
mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made
known to the sons of men in other gener-
ations as it has now been revealed to his
holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
⁶ that is, how the Gentiles are fellow
heirs, members of the same body, and
partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus
through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister
according to the gift of God's grace
which was given me by the working of
his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very
least of all the saints, this grace was
given, to preach to the Gentiles the un-
searchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to
make all men see what is the plan of the
mystery hidden for ages in God who cre-
ated all things; ¹⁰ that through the
church the manifold wisdom of God
might now be made known to the princi-
palities and powers in the heavenly

places.¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 2:1-12*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,² "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared;⁸ and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."⁹ When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy;¹¹ and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Baptism of Our Lord

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 42:1-7*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul
delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him,
he will bring forth justice to the
nations.

² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not
quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not fail or be discouraged

till he has established justice in the
earth;

and the coastlands wait for his law.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and
stretched them out,
who spread forth the earth and what
comes from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ "I am the LORD, I have called you in
righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and
kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the
people,
a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the
dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in
darkness.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 10:34-38*

And Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the word which he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷ the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 1:4-11*

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; ¹¹ and a voice came from heaven, “Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased.”

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Samuel 3:1-10*

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim, so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down within the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I

did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶ And the LORD called again, “Samuel!” And Samuel arose 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.” ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for thy servant

hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ And the LORD came and stood forth, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for thy servant hears.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 6:12-20*

All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved 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 not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit

within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:43-51*

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the

LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he cried, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth,

from the greatest of them to the least of them . . .

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God repented of the evil which he had said he would do to them; and he did not do it.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

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

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 1:14-20*

Now after John (*the Baptist*) was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.”

¹⁶ And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and followed him.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

Moses said to all Israel, ¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren—him you shall heed— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They have rightly said all that they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name

which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 8:1-13*

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” “Knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ² If any one imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But if one loves God, one is known by him.

⁴ Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all

things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷ However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through being hitherto accustomed to idols, eat food as really offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 1:21-28*

They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the sabbath he (*Jesus*) entered the synagogue and taught. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; ²⁴ and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching! With authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Job 7:1-7*

Has not man a hard service upon earth,
 and are not his days like the days of a hireling?
² Like a slave who longs for the shadow,
 and like a hireling who looks for his wages,
³ so I am allotted months of emptiness,
 and nights of misery are apportioned to me.
⁴ When I lie down I say, 'When shall I arise?'
 But the night is long,
 and I am full of tossing till the dawn.

⁵ My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt;
 my skin hardens, then breaks out afresh.
⁶ My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,
 and come to their end without hope.
⁷ "Remember that my life is a breath;
 my eye will never again see good."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 9:16-23*

If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not

of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in my preaching I may make the gospel free of charge, not making full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more.²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews; to those under the law I became as one under the law—though not being myself under the law—that I might win those under the law.²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law—not being without law toward God but under the law of Christ—that I might win those outside the law.²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 1:29-39*

Immediately he (*Jesus*) left the synagogue, and entered the house of Si-

mon and Andrew, with James and John.³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately they told him of her.³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her; and she served them.

³² That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.³³ And the whole city was gathered together about the door.³⁴ And he healed 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.

³⁵ And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed.³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him pursued him,³⁷ and they found him and said to him, "Every one is searching for you."³⁸ And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also; for that is why I came out."³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *2 Kings 5:1-14*

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little maid from the land of Israel, and she waited on Naaman's wife.³ She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."⁴ So Naaman went in and told his

lord, "Thus and so spoke the maiden from the land of Israel."⁵ And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten festal garments.⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy."⁷ And when the king of Israel read the letter, he rent his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word

to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.”

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you rent your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.” ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the door of Elisha’s house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” ¹¹ But Naaman was angry, and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much rather, then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 9:24-27*

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; ²⁷ but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 1:40-45*

A leper came to him (*Jesus*) beseeching him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” ⁴¹ Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I will; be clean.” ⁴² And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ And he sternly charged him, and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ and said to him, “See that you say nothing to any one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to the people.” ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 43:18-25*

Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. ¹⁹ Behold, I am doing 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.

²⁰ The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
that they might declare my praise.
²² “Yet you did not call upon me, O
Jacob;
but you have been weary of me, O
Israel!
²³ You have not brought me your sheep
for burnt offerings,
or honored me with your sacrifices.
I have not burdened you with
offerings,
or wearied you with frankincense.
²⁴ You have not bought me sweet cane
with money,
or satisfied me with the fat of your
sacrifices.
But you have burdened me with your
sins,
you have wearied me with your
iniquities.
²⁵ “I, I am He
who blots out your transgressions for
my own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.”

SECOND LESSON

■ 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

As surely as God is faithful, our word
to you has not been Yes and No.
¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ,
whom we preached among you, Silvanus
and Timothy and I, was not Yes and
No; but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all
the promises of God find their Yes in
him. That is why we utter the Amen
through him, to the glory of God. ²¹ But
it is God who establishes us with you in
Christ, and has commissioned us; ²² he

has put his seal upon us and given us his
Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

GOSPEL

■ Mark 2:1-12

When he (*Jesus*) returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question thus in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk?’ ¹⁰ But 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, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” ¹² And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Hosea 2:14-16 [17-18] 19-20*

Therefore, behold, I will allure her,
and bring her into the
wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.
¹⁵ And there I will give her her
vineyards,
and make the Valley of Achor a door
of hope.
And there she shall answer as in the
days of her youth,
as at the time when she came out of
the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ “And in that day, says the LORD, you
will call me, ‘My husband,’ and no
longer will you call me, ‘My Baal.’
[¹⁷ *For I will remove the names of the
Baal from her mouth, and they shall be
mentioned by name no more.* ¹⁸ *And I
will make for you a covenant on that
day with the beasts of the field, 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.*]

¹⁹ And I will betroth you to me for ever; I
will betroth you to me in righteousness
and in justice, in steadfast love, and in
mercy. ²⁰ I will betroth you to me in
faithfulness; and you shall know the
LORD.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 3:1b-6*

Do we need, as some do, letters of
recommendation to you, or from
you? ² You yourselves are our letter of

recommendation, written on your
hearts, to be known and read by all men;
³ and you show that you are a letter from
Christ delivered 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.

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have
through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that
we are competent of ourselves to claim
anything as coming from us; our compe-
tence is from God, ⁶ who has made us
competent to be ministers of a new cove-
nant, not in a written code but in the
Spirit; for the written code kills, but the
Spirit gives life.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 2:18-22*

Now John's disciples and the
Pharisees were fasting; and people
came and said to him (*Jesus*), “Why do
John's disciples and the disciples of the
Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not
fast?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, “Can
the wedding guests fast while the bride-
groom is with them? As long as they
have the bridegroom with them, they
cannot fast. ²⁰ The days will come, when
the bridegroom is taken away from
them, and then they will fast in that day.
²¹ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth
on an old garment; if he does, the patch
tears away from it, the new from the old,
and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one
puts new wine into old wineskins; if he
does, the wine will burst the skins, and
the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but
new wine is for fresh skins.”

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FIRST LESSON

■ *2 Kings 2:1-12a*

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² And Elijah said to Elisha, "Tarry here, I pray you; 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. ³ And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; hold your peace."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, tarry here, I pray you; 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. ⁵ The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; hold your peace."

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Tarry here, I pray you; 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. ⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you,

before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "I pray you, let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰ And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹ And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2*

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not see the end of the fading splendor. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened; for to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

¹ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 9:2-9*

After six days 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,³ and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them.⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus.⁵ And Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths,

one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."⁶ For he did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid.⁷ And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."⁸ And suddenly looking around they no longer saw any one with them but Jesus only.

⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of man should have risen from the dead.

 Ash Wednesday

FIRST LESSON

■ *Joel 2:12-19*

Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments."

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, a cereal offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare thy people, O LORD, and make not thy heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land, and had pity on his people.

¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:2*

We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹ Working together with him, then,

we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

“At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.”

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

Jesus taught them, saying, ¹ “Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² “Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not

be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

First Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 22:1-18*

After these things God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; and he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had

told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the ass; I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide

himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham put forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place The LORD will provide; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:31-39*

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us?

³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; ³⁴ who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written,

"For thy sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 1:12-15*

The Spirit immediately drove him (*Jesus*) out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel."

 Second Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 28:10-17 [18-22]*

Jacob left Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran.¹¹ And he came to a certain place, and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants;¹⁴ and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves.¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you."¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place; and I did not know it."¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ [So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone which he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear,²¹ so that I come again to

my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God,²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that thou givest me I will give the tenth to thee."]

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 5:1-11*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.² Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.³ More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

⁶ While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die.⁸ But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.⁹ Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.¹¹ Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 8:31-38*

He (*Jesus*) began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter, and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men."

³⁴ And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, "If

any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

 Third Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 20:1-17*

God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸ "Remember the sabbath day, to

keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; ¹¹ for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

¹³ "You shall not kill.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:22-25*

Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

GOSPEL

■ *John 2:13-22*

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴ In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business.¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove

them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶ And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade."¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for thy house will consume me."¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign have you to show us for doing this?"¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"²¹ But he spoke of the temple of his body.²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

 Fourth Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Numbers 21:4-9*

From Mount Hor they (*the people of Israel*) set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient on the way.⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food."⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.⁷ And the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent,

and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it on a pole; and if a serpent bit any man, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 2:4-10*

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),⁶ and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your

own doing, it is the gift of God—⁹ not because of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

GOSPEL

■ *John 3:14-21*

Jesus said, ¹⁴ “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eter-

nal life. ¹⁷ For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant which 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 upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘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 I will remember their sin no more.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 5:7-9*

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

GOSPEL

■ *John 12:20-33*

Among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip and they told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of man to be

glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have

come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify thy name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; ³² and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." ³³ He said this to show by what death he was to die.

Sunday of the Passion

PALM SUNDAY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Zechariah 9:9-10*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of
Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on an ass,
on a colt the foal of an ass.

¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from
Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the
nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the
earth.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 2:5-11*

Have this mind among yourselves,
which is yours in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing
to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant, being born
in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being
found in human form he humbled

himself and became obedient unto
death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore
God has highly exalted him and be-
stowed on him the name which is above
every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow, in heaven and
on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and ev-
ery tongue confess that Jesus Christ is
Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

■ *Mark 11:1-10*

When they drew near to Jerusalem,
to Bethphage and Bethany, at the
Mount of Olives, he (*Jesus*) sent two of
his disciples, ² and said to them. "Go into
the village opposite you, and immedi-
ately as you enter it you will find a colt
tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie
it and bring it. ³ If any one says to you,
'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord
has need of it and will send it back here
immediately.'" ⁴ And they went away,
and found a colt tied at the door out in
the open street; and they untied it. ⁵ And
those who stood there said to them,
"What are you doing, untying the colt?"
⁶ And they told them what Jesus had

said; and they let them go. ⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus, and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it. ⁸ And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" ¹⁰ Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!"

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 14:1—15:47*^o

It was now two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him (*Jesus*) by stealth, and kill him; ² for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be a tumult of the people."

³ And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. ⁴ But there were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment thus wasted?" ⁵ For this ointment might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor." And they reproached her. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you will, you can do good to them; but you will not always have me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burying. ⁹ And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in

order to betray him to them. ¹¹ And when they heard it they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹² And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the pass-over lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the passover?" ¹³ And he sent two of his disciples, and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the householder, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶ And the disciples set out and went to the city, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover.

¹⁷ And when it was evening he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ And as they were at table eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They began to be sorrowful, and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹ For the Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

²² And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

^oOptional Gospel follows.

²⁶ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷ And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'" ²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹ Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." ³⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." ³¹ But he said vehemently, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

³² And they went to a place which was called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I pray." ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch." ³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt." ³⁷ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the third time, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come; the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

⁴³ And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve,

and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ And when he came, he went up to him at once, and said, "Master!" And he kissed him. ⁴⁶ And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸ And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ And they all forsook him, and fled.

⁵¹ And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body; and they seized him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

⁵³ And they led Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴ And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, and warming himself at the fire.

⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council sought testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none.

⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against him, and their witness did not agree.

⁵⁷ And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹ Yet not even so did their testimony agree. ⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"

⁶¹ But he was silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

⁶² And Jesus said, "I am; and you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." ⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments, and said, "Why do we still need witnesses?" ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵ And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" And the guards received him with blows.

⁶⁶ And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the maids of the high priest came; ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him, and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway. ⁶⁹ And the maid saw him, and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ But again he denied it. And after a little while again the bystanders said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." ⁷² And immediately the cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

¹ And as soon as it was morning the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. ² And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ³ And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵ But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate wondered.

⁶ Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷ And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸ And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he was wont to do for them. ⁹ And he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹² And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas; and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they struck his head with a reed, and spat upon him, and they knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mingled with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him, and divided his garments among them, casting lots for

them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour, when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ So also the chief priests mocked him to one another with the scribes, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabach-thani?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" ³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered to him; and also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴² And when evening had come, since

it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

Or Mark 15:1-39

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³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabach-thani?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" ³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Monday in Holy Week

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 42:1-9*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul
delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him,
he will bring forth justice to the
nations.

² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not
quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not fail or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the
earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and
stretched them out,
who spread forth the earth and what
comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶ "I am the LORD, I have called you in
righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and
kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the
people,
a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the
dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in
darkness.
⁸ I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to graven images.
⁹ Behold, the former things have come
to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 9:11-15*

When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of

goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

GOSPEL

■ *John 12:1-11*

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

⁹ When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

 Tuesday in Holy Week

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 49:1-6*

Listen to me, O coastlands,
and hearken, you peoples from
afar.

The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he
named my name.

² He made my mouth like a sharp
sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, "You are my
servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing
and vanity;

yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God."

⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me from the womb to
be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to
him,

for I am honored in the eyes of the
LORD,
and my God has become my
strength—

⁶ he says:
"It is too light a thing that you should
be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the preserved of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the
end of the earth."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

The word of the cross is folly to those
who are perishing, but to us who are

being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For
it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the
wise,
and the cleverness of the clever I will
thwart."

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the
scribe? Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of
the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of
God, the world did not know God
through wisdom, it pleased God through
the folly of what we preach to save those
who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs
and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we
preach Christ crucified, a stumbling
block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but
to those who are called, both Jews and
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the
wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of
God is wiser than men, and the weakness
of God is stronger than men.

GOSPEL

■ *John 12:20-36*

Among those who went up to wor-
ship at the feast were some
Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who
was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said
to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew
went with Philip and they told Jesus.
²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour
has come for the Son of man to be
glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, un-
less a grain of wheat falls into the earth
and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it
bears much fruit. ²⁵ He who loves his life
loses it, and he who hates his life in this
world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If
any one serves me, he must follow me;
and where I am, there shall my servant
be also; if any one serves me, the Father
will honor him.

²⁷ “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify thy name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; ³² and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” ³³ He said this

to show by what death he was to die. ³⁴ The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Christ remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said this, he departed and hid himself from them.

Wednesday in Holy Week

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are
taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a
word
him that is weary.
Morning by morning he wakens,
he wakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I turned not backward.
⁶ I gave my back to the smiters,
and my cheeks to those who pulled
out the beard;
I hid not my face
from shame and spitting.
⁷ For the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been
confounded;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to
shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me.

⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 5:6-11*

While we were still weak, at the
right time Christ died for the un-
godly. ⁷ Why, one will hardly die for a
righteous man—though perhaps for a
good man one will dare even to die. ⁸ But
God shows his love for us in that while
we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
⁹ Since, therefore, we are now justified
by his blood, much more shall we be
saved by him from the wrath of God.
¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were
reconciled to God by the death of his
Son, much more, now that we are recon-
ciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ Not
only so, but we also rejoice in God
through our Lord Jesus Christ, through
whom we have now received our rec-
onciliation.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 26:14-25*

Then one of the twelve, who was
called Judas Iscariot, went to the

chief priests¹⁵ and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.¹⁶ And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹⁷ Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the passover?"¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain one, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at your house with my disciples.'"¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the passover.

²⁰ When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples;²¹ and as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."²² And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?"²³ He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me."²⁴ The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?" He said to him, "You have said so."

Maundy Thursday

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 24:3-11*

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do."⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.⁵ And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar.⁷ Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it upon the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel

went up,¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel; and there was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.¹¹ And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 10:16-17 [18-21]*

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. [¹⁸ *Consider the people of Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar?*¹⁹ *What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?*²⁰ *No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons.*²¹ *You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.*]

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 14:12-26*

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the passover lamb, his (*Jesus*) disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the passover?”¹³ And he sent two of his disciples, and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him,¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the householder, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?’¹⁵ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.”¹⁶ And the disciples set out and went to the city, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover.

¹⁷ And when it was evening he came with the twelve.¹⁸ And as they were at table eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who

is eating with me.”¹⁹ They began to be sorrowful, and to say to him one after another, “Is it I?”²⁰ He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me.²¹ For the Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

²² And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.”²³ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it.²⁴ And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.²⁵ Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Good Friday

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 52:13—53:12*^o

Behold, my servant shall prosper,
 he shall be exalted and lifted up,
 and shall be very high.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at him—
 his appearance was so marred,
 beyond human semblance,
 and his form beyond that of the sons
 of men—

¹⁵ so shall he startle many nations;
 kings shall shut their mouths because
 of him;
 for that which has not been told them
 they shall see,
 and that which they have not heard
 they shall understand.

¹ Who has believed what we have
 heard?
 And to whom has the arm of the
 LORD been revealed?
² For he grew up before him like a
 young plant,
 and like a root out of dry ground;
 he had no form or comeliness that we
 should look at him,
 and no beauty that we should desire
 him.
³ He was despised and rejected by men;
 a man of sorrows, and acquainted
 with grief;
 and as one from whom men hide their
 faces
 he was despised, and we esteemed
 him not.

^oOptional First Lesson follows.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our
transgressions,
he was bruised for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that
made us whole,
and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own
way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was
afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its
shearers is dumb,
so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was
taken away;
and as for his generation, who
considered
that he was cut off out of the land of
the living,
stricken for the transgression of my
people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the
wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to
bruise him;
he has put him to grief;
when he makes himself an offering for
sin,
he shall see his offspring, he shall
prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in
his hand;

¹¹ he shall see the fruit of the travail
of his soul and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous
one, my servant,

make many to be accounted
righteous;
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion
with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the
strong;
because he poured out his soul to death,
and was numbered with the
transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the
transgressors.

Or Hosea 6:1-6

Come, let us return to the LORD;
for he has torn, that he may heal
us;
he has stricken, and he will bind us
up.

² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

³ Let us know, let us press on to know
the LORD;
his going forth is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the
earth.”

⁴ What shall I do with you, O
Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early away.

⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the
prophets,
I have slain them by the words of my
mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the
light.

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not
sacrifice,
the knowledge of God, rather than
burnt offerings.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need . . .

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

GOSPEL

■ *John 18:1—19:42**

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When he said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus an-

swered, “I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go.” ⁹ This was to fulfil the word which he had spoken, “Of those whom thou gavest me I lost not one.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?”

¹² So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, ¹⁶ while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The maid who kept the door said to Peter, “Are not you also one of this man’s disciples?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸ Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²² When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his

*Optional Gospel follows.

hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?"²³ Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"²⁴ Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "Are not you also one of his disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not."²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"²⁷ Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the passover.²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over."³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death."³² This was to fulfil the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die.

³³ Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?"³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world."³⁷ Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was

born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice."³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them, "I find no crime in him."³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?"⁴⁰ They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him.² And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe;³ they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.⁴ Pilate went out again, and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him."⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him."⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God."⁸ When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid;⁹ he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer.¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin."

¹² Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; every one who makes himself a

king sets himself against Caesar.”

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour.

He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”

¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

¹⁷ So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha.

¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

²⁰ Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

²¹ The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”

²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom;

²⁴ so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.”

This was to fulfil the scripture,

“They parted my garments among them,

and for my clothing they cast lots.”

²⁵ So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary the Magdalene.

²⁶ When

Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”

²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!”

And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), “I thirst.”

²⁹ A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth.

³⁰ When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished”; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him;

³³ but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe.

³⁶ For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, “Not a bone of him shall be broken.”

³⁷ And again another scripture says, “They shall look on him whom they have pierced.”

³⁸ After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body.

³⁹ Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds’ weight.

⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices,

as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. ⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Or John 19:17-30

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Je-

sus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; ²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the scripture,

"They parted my garments among them,

and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Resurrection of Our Lord

EASTER DAY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away

from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 15:19-28*

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ “For God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “All things are put in subjection under him,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things under him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to every one.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 16:1-8°*

When the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?” ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that

he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.” ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Or John 20:1-9 [10-18]

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. ⁴ They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, ⁷ and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. [¹⁰ *Then the disciples went back to their homes.*

¹¹ *But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it*

[°]Optional Gospel follows.

was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means

Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.]

Easter Evening

FIRST LESSON

■ *Daniel 12:1c-3°*

But at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."

Or Jonah 2:2-9

I called to the LORD, out of my distress,
 and he answered me;
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
 and thou didst hear my voice.
³ For thou didst cast me into the deep,
 into the heart of the seas,
 and the flood was round about me;
 all thy waves and thy billows
 passed over me.
⁴ Then I said, 'I am cast out
 from thy presence;
 how shall I again look
 upon thy holy temple?'
⁵ The waters closed in over me,
 the deep was round about me;
 weeds were wrapped about my head
⁶ at the roots of the mountains.
 I went down to the land

whose bars closed upon me for ever;
 yet thou didst bring up my life from
 the Pit,

O LORD my God.

⁷ When my soul fainted within me,
 I remembered the LORD;
 and my prayer came to thee,
 into thy holy temple.

⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols
 forsake their true loyalty.

⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving
 will sacrifice to thee;
 what I have vowed I will pay.

Deliverance belongs to the LORD!"

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 5:6-8*

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 24:13-49*

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all

[°]Optional First Lesson follows.

these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning ²³ and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see." ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, ²⁹ but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he

took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, 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 before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

 Second Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ Acts 3:13-15, 17-26

Peter said,¹³ “The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,¹⁵ and killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses

¹⁷ “And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer, he thus fulfilled.¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,²⁰ and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for establishing all God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.²² Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet from your brethren as he raised me up. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.’²³ And it shall be that every soul that does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’²⁴ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came afterwards, also proclaimed these days.²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God gave to your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your posterity shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you in turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

SECOND LESSON

■ 1 John 5:1-6

Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God, and every one who loves the parent loves the child.² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith.⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶ This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood.

GOSPEL

■ John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.”²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be

faithless, but believing.” 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 believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Third Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 4:8-12*

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a cripple, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the head of the corner. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 John 1:1–2:2*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the

Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹ My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and he is the expiation for our sins, and

not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 24:36-49*

As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, 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 before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Fourth Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 4:23-33*

When they (*Peter and John*) were released they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of our father David, thy servant, didst say by the Holy Spirit,

‘Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples imagine vain things?’

²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves
in array,
and the rulers were gathered
together,
against the Lord and against his
Anointed’—

²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against thy holy servant

Jesus, whom thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever thy hand and thy plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, ³⁰ while thou stretchest out thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of thy holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

³² Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 John 3:1-2*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

GOSPEL

■ *John 10:11-18*

Jesus said to them, ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own

the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father."

 Fifth Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 8:26-40*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert road. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless some one guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this:

"As a sheep led to the slaughter
or a lamb before its shearer is dumb,

so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken up from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, pray, does the prophet say this, about himself or about some one else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. ³⁶ And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip was found at Azotus, and passing on he

preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesarea.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 John 3:18-24*

Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

GOSPEL

■ *John 15:1-8*

Jesus said to them, ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser. ² Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.”

Sixth Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 11:19-30*

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews.

²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. ²² News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain

faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians.

²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. ²⁹ And the disciples determined, every

one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea; ³⁰ and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 John 4:1-11*

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist, of which you heard that it was coming, and now it is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are of God, and have overcome them; for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world, therefore what they say is of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and he who is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might

live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

GOSPEL

■ *John 15:9-17*

Jesus said to them, ⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ This I command you, to love one another."

The Ascension of Our Lord

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 1:1-11*

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ To them

he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, ⁵ for John baptized

with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 1:16-23*

Ido not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might

²⁰ which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; ²² and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fulness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 24:44-53*

Then he (*Jesus*) said to them, “These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 1:15-26*

In those days Peter stood up among the brethren (the company of persons was in all about a hundred and twenty), and

said, ¹⁶ “Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David, concerning Judas who was guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was num-

bered among us, and was allotted his share in this ministry. ¹⁸ (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ For it is written in the book of Psalms,

‘Let his habitation become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it’;
and

‘His office let another take.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two thou hast chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place.”

²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was enrolled with the eleven apostles.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 John 4:13-21*

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we know and believe the love God

has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love, because he first loved us. ²⁰ If any one says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should love his brother also.

GOSPEL

■ *John 17:11b-19*

Jesus prayed, ¹¹ “Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in thy name, which thou hast given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them thy word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth. ¹⁸ As thou didst send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

Vigil of Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 19:1-9*^o

On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.² And when they set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain.³ And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.⁵ Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine,⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him.⁸ And all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Lo, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you for ever."

Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

Or Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.² And suddenly a sound came

^o*Optional First Lesson follows.*

from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them.⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.⁷ And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,¹¹ Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:14-17, 22-27*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"¹⁶ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now;²³ and not only the creation, but

we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the

Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

GOSPEL

■ *John 7:37-39a*

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive.

The Day of Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, thou knowest." ⁴ Again he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And as I looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them,

and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, says the LORD."

SECOND LESSON

■ Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these men

are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day; ¹⁶ but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'And in the last days it shall 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;

¹⁸ yea, and on my menservants and
my maidservants in those days
I will pour out my Spirit; and they
shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the
heaven above
and signs on the earth beneath,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
²⁰ the sun shall be turned into
darkness

and the moon into blood,
before the day of the Lord comes,
the great and manifest day.

²¹ And it shall be that whoever calls
on the name of the Lord shall be
saved.'"

GOSPEL

■ John 7:37-39a

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive.

The Holy Trinity

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

Moses said to all Israel, ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD; ⁵ and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶ And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; ⁷ and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:14-17*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

GOSPEL

■ *John 3:1-17*

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that

you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can this be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

 Second Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 5:12-15*

Moses said to all Israel, ¹²“Observe the sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; ¹⁴but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, or your manservant, or your maidservant, or your ox, or your ass, or any of your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your manservant and your maidservant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵You shall remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out thence with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 4:5-12*

What we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants 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 Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent

power belongs to God and not to 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 manifested 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 manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 2:23-28*

One sabbath he (*Jesus*) was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴And the 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 was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: ²⁶how he entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” ²⁷And he said to them, “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath; ²⁸so the Son of man is lord even of the sabbath.”

 Third Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 3:9-15*

The LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of thee

in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The

man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,
 "Because you have done this, cursed
 are you above all cattle, and
 above all wild animals;
 upon your belly you shall go, and
 dust you shall eat all the days of
 your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and
 the woman, and between your
 seed and her seed;
 he shall bruise your head, and you
 shall bruise his heel."

SECOND LESSON

■ 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak,¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day.¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,¹⁸ because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

GOSPEL

■ Mark 3:20-35

The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.²¹ And when his (*Jesus*' family heard it, they went out to seize him, for people were saying, "He is beside himself."²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul, and by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."²³ And he (*Jesus*) called them to him, and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan?²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man; then indeed he may plunder his house.

²⁸ "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter;²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—³⁰ for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹ And his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside they sent to him and called him.³² And a crowd was sitting about him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, asking for you."³³ And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"³⁴ And looking around on those who sat about him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother."

 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar, and will set it out; I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it upon a high and lofty mountain; ²³ on the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bring forth boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar; and under it will dwell all kinds of beasts; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it."

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 5:1-10*

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 Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ so that by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we sigh with anxiety; not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶ So we are always of good courage; we know that while we are at home in

the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 4:26-34*

He (*Jesus*) said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, ²⁷ and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON■ *Job 38:1-11*

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

² “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷ when the morning stars sang together,
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸ “Or who shut in the sea with doors,
when it burst forth from the womb;

⁹ when I made clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,

¹¹ and said, “Thus far shall you come,
and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed?”

SECOND LESSON■ *2 Corinthians 5:14-21*

The love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard

no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

GOSPEL■ *Mark 4:35-41*

On that day, when evening had come, he (*Jesus*) said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care if we perish?” ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were filled with awe, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?”

 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

 ■ *Lamentations 3:22-33*

The steadfast love of the LORD
 never ceases,
 his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
 great is thy faithfulness.
²⁴ “The LORD is my portion,” says my
 soul,
 “therefore I will hope in him.”
²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait
 for him,
 to the soul that seeks him.
²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
 for the salvation of the LORD.
²⁷ It is good for a man that he bear
 the yoke in his youth.
²⁸ Let him sit alone in silence
 when he has laid it on him;
²⁹ let him put his mouth in the dust—
 there may yet be hope;
³⁰ let him give his cheek to the smiter,
 and be filled with insults.
³¹ For the Lord will not
 cast off for ever,
³² but, though he cause grief, he will
 have compassion
 according to the abundance of his
 steadfast love;
³³ for he does not willingly afflict
 or grieve the sons of men.

SECOND LESSON

 ■ *2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-14*

We want you to know, brethren,
 about the grace of God which has
 been shown in the churches of Mace-
 donia, ² for in a severe test of affliction,
 their abundance of joy and their ex-

tremere poverty have overflowed in a
 wealth of liberality on their part. ³ For
 they gave according to their means, as I
 can testify, and beyond their means, of
 their own free will, ⁴ begging us ear-
 nestly for the favor of taking part in the
 relief of the saints—⁵ and this, not as we
 expected, but first they gave themselves
 to the Lord and to us by the will of God.
⁶ Accordingly we have urged Titus that
 as he had already made a beginning, he
 should also complete among you this
 gracious work. ⁷ Now as you excel in
 everything—in faith, in utterance, in
 knowledge, in all earnestness, and in
 your love for us—see that you excel in
 this gracious work also.

⁸ I say this not as a command, but to
 prove by the earnestness of others that
 your love also is genuine. ⁹ For you know
 the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that
 though he was rich, yet for your sake he
 became poor, so that by his poverty you
 might become rich. . . . ¹³ I do not mean
 that others should be eased and you bur-
 dened, ¹⁴ but that as a matter of equality
 your abundance at the present time
 should supply their want, so that their
 abundance may supply your want, that
 there may be equality.

GOSPEL

 ■ *Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43*^o

When Jesus had crossed again in the
 boat to the other side, a great
 crowd gathered about him; and he was
 beside the sea. ²² Then came one of the
 rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name;
 and seeing him, he fell at his feet, ²³ and
 besought him, saying, “My little daugh-
 ter is at the point of death. Come and lay
 your hands on her, so that she may be

^oOptional Gospel follows.

made well, and live.”²⁴ And he went with him. . . .

³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler’s house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”³⁶ But ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.³⁸ When they came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, he saw a tumult, and people weeping and wailing loudly.³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a tumult and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.”⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But 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.⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi”; which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”⁴² And immediately the girl got up and walked (she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.⁴³ And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Or Mark 5:24b-34

A great crowd followed him (*Jesus*) and thronged about him.²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years,²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment.²⁸ For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I shall be made well.”²⁹ And immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone forth from him, immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, “Who touched my garments?”³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’”³² And he looked around to see who had done it.³³ But the woman, knowing what had been done to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.³⁴ And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 2:1-5*

He said to me, “Son of man, stand upon your feet, and I will speak with you.”² And when he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me upon my feet; and I heard him speaking to me.³ And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels, who have rebelled against me; they and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day.⁴ The people also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them; and you

shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’”⁵ And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that there has been a prophet among them.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

To keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated.⁸ Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it

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

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 6:1-6*

He (*Jesus*) went away from there and came to his own country; and his disciples followed him. ² And on the sabbath he began to teach in the syna-

gogue; and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get all this? What is the wisdom given to him? What mighty works are wrought by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴ And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.” ⁵ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands upon a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And he marveled because of their unbelief.

And he went about among the villages teaching.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Amos 7:10-15*

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’”

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 1:3-14*

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

¹¹ In him, according to the purpose of

him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will,¹² we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory.¹³ In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 6:7-13*

He (*Jesus*) called to him the twelve, and began to send them out two by

two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.⁸ He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;⁹ but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics.¹⁰ And he said to them, "Where you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place.¹¹ And if any place will not receive you and they refuse to hear you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet for a testimony against them."¹² So they went out and preached that men should repent.¹³ And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 23:1-6*

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" says the LORD.² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.³ Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.⁴ I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is

the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' "

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 2:13-22*

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility,¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end.¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near;¹⁸ for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the

cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;²² in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 6:30-34*

The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.³¹ And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place,

and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.³² And they went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves.³³ Now many saw them going, and knew them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns, and got there ahead of them.³⁴ As he went ashore he saw a great throng, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 24:3-11*

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do."⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.⁵ And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar.⁷ Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it upon the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up,¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel; and there was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like

the very heaven for clearness.¹¹ And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16*

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call,⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.⁷ But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. . . .¹¹ And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ;¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried

about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles.¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.

GOSPEL

■ *John 6:1-15*

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.² And a multitude followed him, because they saw the signs which he did on those who were diseased.³ Jesus went up on the mountain, and there sat down with his disciples.⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?"⁶ This he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hun-

dred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,⁹ "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?"¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand.¹¹ Jesus then 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.¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost."¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten.¹⁴ When the people saw the sign which he had done, they said, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!"

¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 16:2-15*

The whole congregation of the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness,³ and said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I

may prove them, whether they will walk in my law or not.⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your murmurings against the LORD. For what are we, that you murmur against us?"⁸ And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening flesh to eat and in the morning

bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your murmurings which you murmur against him—what are we? Your murmurings are not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹ And Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your murmurings.’”

¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the murmurings of the people of Israel; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning dew lay round about the camp. ¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as hoarfrost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 4:17-24*

Now this I affirm and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; ¹⁸ they are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart; ¹⁹ they have become callous and have given themselves up to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of uncleanness. ²⁰ You did not so learn Christ!—²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus. ²² Put off

your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

GOSPEL

■ *John 6:24-35*

When the people saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform?” ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.”

 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Kings 19:4-8*

He (*Elijah*) himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree; and he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am no better than my fathers."⁵ And he lay down and slept under a broom tree; and behold, an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."⁶ And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank, and lay down again.⁷ And the angel of the LORD came again a second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, else the journey will be too great for you."⁸ And he arose, and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 4:30—5:2*

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice,³² and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

GOSPEL

■ *John 6:41-51*

The Jews then murmured at him (*Jesus*), because he said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."⁴² They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Do not murmur among yourselves.⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Every one who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.⁴⁶ Not that any one has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father.⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die.⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."

 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Proverbs 9:1-6*

Wisdom has built her house,
she has set up her seven pillars.

² She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.

³ She has sent out her maids to call
from the highest places in the town,

¹ “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”

To him who is without sense she says,

⁵ “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶ Leave simpleness, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 5:15-20*

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰ always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

GOSPEL

■ *John 6:51-58*

Jesus said to them, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; ⁵⁴ he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever.”

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18*

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, . . . ¹⁴ “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ And if you be unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your

fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, and who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out

before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land; therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 5:21-31*

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man shall leave his father and

mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

GOSPEL

■ *John 6:60-69*

Many of his (*Jesus*’) disciples, when they heard it, said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you that do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8*

Moses said to all Israel, ¹ “Now, O Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances which I teach you, and do them; that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, gives you. ² You shall not add to the

word which I command you, nor take from it; that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. . . . ⁶ Keep them and do them; for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and under-

standing people.’⁷ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?⁸ And what great nation is there, that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I set before you this day?”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 6:10-20*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.¹³ Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.¹⁸ Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,¹⁹ and also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

Now when the Pharisees gathered together to him (*Jesus*), with some of the scribes, who had come from Jerusalem,² they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands defiled, that is, unwashed.³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, observing the tradition of the elders;⁴ and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they purify themselves; and there are many other traditions which they observe, the washing of cups and pots and vessels of bronze.)⁵ And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with hands defiled?”⁶ And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
⁷ in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’

⁸ You leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men.” . . .

¹⁴ And he called the people to him again, and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him.” . . . ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man.”

 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 35:4-7a*

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ they shall the lame man leap like a hart,

and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

SECOND LESSON

■ *James 1:17-22 [23-25] 26-27*

Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not

hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [²³ For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing.]

²⁶ If any one thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this man's religion is vain.

²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 7:31-37*

Then he (*Jesus*) returned from the region of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through the region of the Decapolis. ³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech; and they besought him to lay his hand upon him. ³³ And taking him aside from the multitude privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue; ³⁴ and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And he charged them to tell no one; but the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.”

 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 50:4-10*

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a
word

him that is weary.

Morning by morning he wakens,
he wakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I turned not backward.

⁶ I gave my back to the smiters,
and my cheeks to those who pulled
out the beard;

I hid not my face
from shame and spitting.

⁷ For the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been
confounded;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to
shame;

⁸ he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me.

⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Behold, all of them will wear out like a
garment;
the moth will eat them up.

¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant,
who walks in darkness
and has no light,
yet trusts in the name of the LORD
and relies upon his God?

SECOND LESSON

■ *James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18*

My brethren, show no partiality as
you hold the faith of our Lord Je-
sus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a
man with gold rings and in fine clothing
comes into your assembly, and a poor
man in shabby clothing also comes in,
³ and you pay attention to the one who
wears the fine clothing and say, "Have a
seat here, please," while you say to the
poor man, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my
feet," ⁴ have you not made distinctions
among yourselves, and become judges
with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved
brethren. Has not God chosen those who
are poor in the world to be rich in faith
and heirs of the kingdom which he has
promised to those who love him? . . .

⁸ If you really fulfil the royal law, ac-
cording to the scripture, "You shall love
your neighbor as yourself," you do well.

⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit
sin, and are convicted by the law as
transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the
whole law but fails in one point has be-
come guilty of all of it. . . .

¹⁴ What does it profit, my brethren, if
a man says he has faith but has not
works? Can his faith save him? ¹⁵ If a
brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of
daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to
them, "Go in peace, be warmed and
filled," without giving them the things
needed for the body, what does it profit?
¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is
dead.

¹⁸ But some one will say, "You have
faith and I have works." Show me your
faith apart from your works, and I by
my works will show you my faith.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 8:27-35*

Jesus went on with his disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that I am?"²⁸ And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others one of the prophets."²⁹ And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."³⁰ And he charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be

killed, and after three days rise again.³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter, and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men."

³⁴ And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."

 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 11:18-20*

The LORD made it known to me
and I knew;
then thou didst show me their evil
deeds.

¹⁹ But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

I did not know it was against me
they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of
the living,
that his name be remembered no
more."

²⁰ But, O LORD of hosts, who judgest
righteously,
who triest the heart and the mind,
let me see thy vengeance upon them,
for to thee have I committed my
cause.

SECOND LESSON

■ *James 3:16—4:6*

Where jealousy and selfish ambi-
tion exist, there will be disorder

and every vile practice.¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity.¹⁸ And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

¹ What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? ² You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is in vain that the scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶ But he gives more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 9:30-37*

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he (*Jesus*) would not have any one know it;³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”³² But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to ask him.

³³ And they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them,

“What were you discussing on the way?”³⁴ But they were silent; for on the way they had discussed with one another who was the greatest.³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve; and he said to them, “If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶ And he took a child, and put him in the midst of them; and taking him in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29*

Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving; and the people of Israel also wept again, and said, “O that we had meat to eat! ⁵ We remember the fish we ate in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶ but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.” . . .

¹⁰ Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, every man at the door of his tent; and the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹ Moses said to the LORD, “Why hast thou dealt ill with thy servant? And why have I not found favor in thy sight, that thou dost lay the burden of all this people upon me? ¹² Did I conceive all this people? Did I bring them forth, that thou shouldst say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries the sucking child, to the land which thou didst swear to give their fathers?’ ¹³ Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, ‘Give us meat, that

we may eat.’ ¹⁴ I am not able to carry all this people alone, the burden is too heavy for me. ¹⁵ If thou wilt deal thus with me, kill me at once, if I find favor in thy sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.”

¹⁶ And the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. . . .”

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and placed them round about the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was upon him and put it upon the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did so no more.

²⁶ Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested upon them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the

camp.²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”²⁸ And Joshua the son of Nun, the minister of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, forbid them.”²⁹ But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’S people were prophets, that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!”

SECOND LESSON

■ James 4:7-12 [13—5:6]

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.⁸ Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind.⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to dejection.¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brethren. He that speaks evil against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.¹² There is one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you that you judge your neighbor?

[¹³ *Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain”;*¹⁴ *whereas you do not know about tomorrow. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.*¹⁵ *Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that.”*¹⁶ *As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.*¹⁷ *Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

¹ *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon*

*you.*² *Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten.*³ *Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days.*⁴ *Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.*⁵ *You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.*⁶ *You have condemned, you have killed the righteous man; he does not resist you.]*

GOSPEL

■ Mark 9:38-50

John said to him (*Jesus*), “Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us.”³⁹ But Jesus said, “Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me.⁴⁰ For he that is not against us is for us.⁴¹ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward.

⁴² “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung round his neck and he were thrown into the sea.⁴³ And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell,⁴⁸ where their worm does not die,

and the fire is not quenched.⁴⁹ For every one will be salted with fire.⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its saltness,

how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 2:18-24*

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”¹⁹ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh;²² and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 2:9-11 [12-18]*

We see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for every one.

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pio-

neer of their salvation perfect through suffering.¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, [¹² saying,

*“I will proclaim thy name to my
brethren,
in the midst of the congregation I
will praise thee.”*

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

*“Here am I, and the children God
has given me.”*

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage.¹⁶ For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people.¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.]

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 10:2-16*

Pharisees came up and in order to test him (*Jesus*) asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”³ He answered them, “What did Moses command you?”⁴ They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of

divorce, and to put her away.”⁵ But Jesus said to them, “For your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.⁶ But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’⁷ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh.⁹ What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.”

¹⁰ And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹ And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits

adultery against her; ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³ And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Amos 5:6-7, 10-15*

Seek the LORD and live,
lest he break out like fire in the
house of Joseph,
and it devour, with none to quench it
for Bethel,

⁷ O you who turn justice to wormwood,
and cast down righteousness to the
earth! . . .

¹⁰ They hate him who reproves in the
gate,
and they abhor him who speaks the
truth.

¹¹ Therefore because you trample upon
the poor
and take from him exactions of
wheat,

you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not dwell in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

¹² For I know how many are your
transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take
a bribe,
and turn aside the needy in the gate.

¹³ Therefore he who is prudent will
keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

¹⁴ Seek good, and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be with you,
as you have said.

¹⁵ Hate evil, and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of
hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of
Joseph.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 3:1-6*

Therefore, holy brethren, who share
in a heavenly call, consider Jesus,
the apostle and high priest of our
confession. ² He was faithful to him who
appointed him, just as Moses also was
faithful in God’s house. ³ Yet Jesus has
been counted worthy of as much more
glory than Moses as the builder of a
house has more honor than the house.
⁴ (For every house is built by some one,
but the builder of all things is God.)

⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ was faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if we hold fast our confidence and pride in our hope.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 10:17-27 [28-30]*

As he (*Jesus*) was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have observed from my youth." ²¹ And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² At that saying his counte-

nance fell, and he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

²³ And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." [²⁸ *Peter began to say to him, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you."* ²⁹ *Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,* ³⁰ *who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life."*]

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 53:10-12*

Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him;
 he has put him to grief;
 when he makes himself an offering for sin,
 he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days;
 the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand;

¹¹ he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied;
 by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
 make many to be accounted righteous;
 and he shall bear their iniquities.
¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great,
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out his soul to death,
and was numbered with the
transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the
transgressors.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 4:9-16*

So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labors as God did from his.

¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, that no one fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And before him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 10:35-45*

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him (*Jesus*), and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶ And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" ³⁹ And they said to him, "We are able." And 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; ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." ⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 31:7-9*

Thus says the LORD:
"Sing aloud with gladness for
Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the
nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,
'The LORD has saved his people,
the remnant of Israel.'

⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the
north country,
and gather them from the farthest
parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame,
 the woman with child and her who is
 in travail, together;
 a great company, they shall return
 here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
 and with consolations I will lead
 them back,
 I will make them walk by brooks of
 water,
 in a straight path in which they shall
 not stumble;
 for I am a father to Israel,
 and Ephraim is my first-born.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 5:1-10*

Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ³ Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴ And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“Thou art my Son,
 today I have begotten thee”;

⁶ as he says also in another place,

“Thou art a priest for ever,
 after the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered

up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 10:46-52*

They came to Jericho; and as he (*Jesus*) was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; rise, he is calling you.” ⁵⁰ And throwing off his mantle he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Master, let me receive my sight.” ⁵² And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 6:1-9*

Moses said to all Israel, ¹ “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the ordinances which the LORD your God commanded me to

teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it; ² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command

you, all the days of your life; and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them; that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD; ⁵ and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶ And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; ⁷ and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 7:23-28*

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴ but he (*Jesus*) holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. ²⁵ Consequently he is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. ²⁸ Indeed, the law appoints men in their

weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 12:28-34 [35-37]*

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

[³⁵ *And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?” ³⁶ David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit, declared,*

*‘The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
till I put thy enemies under thy
feet.’*

³⁷ *David himself calls him Lord; so how is he his son?” And the great throng heard him gladly.]*

 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Kings 17:8-16*

Then the word of the LORD came to him (*Elijah*), ⁹“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹ And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹² And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a cruse; and now, I am gathering a couple of sticks, that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³ And Elijah said to her, “Fear not; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of meal shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” ¹⁵ And she went and did as Elijah said; and she, and he, and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of meal was not spent, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD which he spoke by Elijah.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 9:24-28*

Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of

the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the Holy Place yearly with blood not his own; ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 12:41-44*

He (*Jesus*) sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.”

 Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Daniel 12:1-3*

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 10:11-18*

Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ then to wait until his enemies should be made a stool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness 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 on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,"

¹⁷ then he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their misdeeds no more."

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 13:1-13*

As he (*Jesus*) came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" ² And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another, that will not be thrown down."

³ And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign when these things are all to be accomplished?" ⁵ And Jesus began to say to them, "Take heed that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷ And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places, there will be famines; this is but the beginning of the birth-pangs.

⁹ "But take heed to yourselves; for they will deliver you up to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. ¹¹ And when they bring you to trial and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say; but say whatever is given

you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² And brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children

will rise against parents and have them put to death; ¹³ and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Daniel 7:9-10*

As I looked,
 thrones were placed
 and one that was Ancient of Days
 took his seat;
 his raiment was white as snow,
 and the hair of his head like pure
 wool;
 his throne was fiery flames,
 its wheels were burning fire.
¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
 and came forth from before him;
 a thousand thousands served him,
 and ten thousand times ten thousand
 stood before him;
 the court sat in judgment,
 and the books were opened."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 13:20-21*

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight,

through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 13:24-31*

Jesus said to them, ²⁴ "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Christ the King

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST LESSON

■ *Daniel 7:13-14*

Isaw in the night visions,
 and behold, with the clouds of
 heaven

there came one like a son of man,
 and he came to the Ancient of Days
 and was presented before him.
¹⁴ And to him was given dominion
 and glory and kingdom,

that all peoples, nations, and languages
 should serve him;
 his dominion is an everlasting
 dominion,
 which shall not pass away,
 and his kingdom one
 that shall not be destroyed.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Revelation 1:4b-8*

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, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. 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.

GOSPEL

■ *John 18:33-37*

Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world.” ³⁷ Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.”

Series C

First Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' "

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

What thanksgiving can we render to God for you, for all the joy which we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ praying earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you; ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one

another and to all men, as we do to you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 21:25-36*^o

Jesus said to them, ²⁵ "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see

^oOptional Gospel follows.

these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare; ³⁵ for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Or Luke 19:28-40

When he (*Jesus*) had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village opposite, where on entering you will

find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If any one asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this, ‘The Lord has need of it.’” ³² So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt they set Jesus upon it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. ³⁷ As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

Second Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Malachi 3:1-4*

Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

“For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the LORD. ⁴ Then the

offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 1:3-11*

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel thus about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both

in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of

Abilene, ² in the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness; ³ and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be brought low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Third Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Zephaniah 3:14-18a*

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the
judgments against you,
he has cast out your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in
your midst;
you shall fear evil no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to
Jerusalem:

“Do not fear, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your
midst,

a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸ as on a day of festival.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 4:4-7 [8-9]*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.]

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 3:7-18*

He (*John the Baptist*) said therefore to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits that befit repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the multitudes asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what

shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he preached good news to the people.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Micah 5:2-4*

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in travail has brought forth;

then the rest of his brethren shall return

to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he

shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired,

but a body hast thou prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings thou hast taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God,'

as it is written of me in the roll of the book."

⁸ When he said above, "Thou hast neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are

offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "Lo, I have come to do thy will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]*

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." [⁴⁶ *And Mary said,*

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ *and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*
⁴⁸ *for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.*
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ *for he who is mighty has done great things for me,*
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ *And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.*
⁵¹ *He has shown strength with his arm,*
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,
⁵² *he has put down the mighty from their thrones,*
and exalted those of low degree;
⁵³ *he has filled the hungry with good things,*
and the rich he has sent empty away.
⁵⁴ *He has helped his servant Israel,*
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ *as he spoke to our fathers,*
to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."]

The Nativity of Our Lord

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas 1

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
³ Thou hast multiplied the nation,
thou hast increased its joy;
they rejoice before thee
as with joy at the harvest,

as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

- ⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
thou hast broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his
shoulder,
and his name will be called
“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.”

⁷ Of the increase of his government and
of peace
there will be no end,
upon the throne of David, and over his
kingdom,
to establish it, and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and for
evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do
this.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Titus 2:11-14*

The grace of God has appeared for
the salvation of all men, ¹² training
us to renounce irreligion and worldly
passions, and to live sober, upright, and
godly lives in this world, ¹³ awaiting our
blessed hope, the appearing of the glory
of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us
from all iniquity and to purify for
himself a people of his own who are zeal-
ous for good deeds.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from
Caesar Augustus that all the world
should be enrolled. ² This was the first
enrollment, when Quirinius was gov-
ernor of Syria. ³ And all went to be en-
rolled, each to his own city. ⁴ And Joseph
also went up from Galilee, from the city
of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of Da-
vid, which is called Bethlehem, because
he was of the house and lineage of Da-
vid, ⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his be-
trothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while
they were there, the time came for her to
be delivered. ⁷ And she gave birth to her

first-born son and wrapped him in
swaddling cloths, and laid him in a man-
ger, because there was no place for them
in the inn.

⁸ And in that region there were shep-
herds out in the field, keeping watch
over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel
of the Lord appeared to them, and the
glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the
angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for
behold, I bring you good news of a great
joy which will come to all the people;
¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will
find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly
there was with the angel a multitude of
the heavenly host praising God and
saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with
whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from
them into heaven, the shepherds said to
one another, “Let us go over to Bethle-
hem and see this thing that has hap-
pened, which the Lord has made known
to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and
found Mary and Joseph, and the babe
lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw
it they made known the saying which
had been told them concerning this
child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it wondered
at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But
Mary kept all these things, pondering
them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds
returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen, as it had
been told them.

Christmas 2

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings
good tidings,

who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good,
 who publishes salvation,
 who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
⁸ Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice,
 together they sing for joy;
 for eye to eye they see
 the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing,
 you waste places of Jerusalem;
 for the LORD has comforted his people,
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations;
 and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 1:1-9*

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to what angel did God ever say, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"?

Or again,

"I will be to him a father,
 and he shall be to me a son"?

⁶ And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷ Of the angels he says,

"Who makes his angels winds,
 and his servants flames of fire."

⁸ But of the Son he says,
 "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
 the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy kingdom.
⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;
 therefore God, thy God, has anointed thee
 with the oil of gladness beyond thy comrades."

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Christmas 3

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 62:10-12*

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,

lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion,

“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

¹² And they shall be called The holy
people,

The redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought out,
a city not forsaken.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Titus 3:4-7*

When the goodness and loving
kindness of God our Savior ap-
peared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of
deeds done by us in righteousness, but in
virtue of his own mercy, by the washing
of regeneration and renewal in the Holy
Spirit, ⁶ which he poured out upon us
richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
⁷ so that we might be justified by his
grace and become heirs in hope of eter-
nal life.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from
Caesar Augustus that all the world
should be enrolled. ² This was the first
enrollment, when Quirinius was gov-
ernor of Syria. ³ And all went to be en-
rolled, each to his own city. ⁴ And Joseph
also went up from Galilee, from the city
of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of Da-

vid, which is called Bethlehem, because
he was of the house and lineage of Da-
vid, ⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his be-
trothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while
they were there, the time came for her to
be delivered. ⁷ And she gave birth to her
first-born son and wrapped him in
swaddling cloths, and laid him in a man-
ger, because there was no place for them
in the inn.

⁸ And in that region there were shep-
herds out in the field, keeping watch
over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel
of the Lord appeared to them, and the
glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And
the angel said to them, “Be not afraid;
for behold, I bring you good news of a
great joy which will come to all the peo-
ple; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the
city of David a Savior, who is Christ the
Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you:
you will find a babe wrapped in
swaddling cloths and lying in a man-
ger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the
angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with
whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from
them into heaven, the shepherds said to
one another, “Let us go over to Bethle-
hem and see this thing that has hap-
pened, which the Lord has made known
to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and
found Mary and Joseph, and the babe
lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw
it they made known the saying which
had been told them concerning this
child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it wondered
at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But
Mary kept all these things, pondering
them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds
returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen, as it had
been told them.

First Sunday after Christmas

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 31:10-13*

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands afar off;

say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.

¹³ Then shall the maidens 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."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 2:10-18*

It was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying,

"I will proclaim thy name to my brethren,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee."

¹³ And again,
"I will put my trust in him."

And again,
"Here am I, and the children God has given me."

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage.

¹⁶ For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 2:41-52*

Now his (*Jesus*) parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; ⁴³ and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; ⁴⁷ and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when they saw him

they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously."⁴⁹ And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying

which he spoke to them.⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

Second Sunday after Christmas

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 61:10—62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my soul 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 forth 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 goes forth as
brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
which 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.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18*

Blessed be the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed
us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places,⁴ even as he chose
us in him before the foundation of the
world, that we should be holy and
blameless before him.⁵ He destined us
in love to be his sons through Jesus
Christ, according to the purpose of his
will,⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace
which he freely bestowed on us in the
Beloved. . . .

¹⁵For this reason, because I have
heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and
your love toward all the saints,¹⁶ I do not
cease to give thanks for you, remem-
bering you in my prayers,¹⁷ that the God
of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom
and of revelation in the knowledge of
him,¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts en-
lightened, that you may know what is
the hope to which he has called you,
what are the riches of his glorious inher-
itance in the saints.

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word, and
the Word was with God, and the

Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. ¹⁵ (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") ¹⁶ And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

JANUARY 6

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴ Lift up your eyes round about, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far,
and your daughters shall be carried in the arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant,

your heart shall thrill and rejoice;
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 3:2-12*

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made

known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; ⁶ that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 2:1-12*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ² "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship

him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will govern my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; ⁸ and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; ¹¹ and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Baptism of Our Lord

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 42:1-7*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul
delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him,
he will bring forth justice to the
nations.

² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not
 quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not fail or be discouraged
 till he has established justice in the
 earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his law.
⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and
 stretched them out,
 who spread forth the earth and what
 comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶ "I am the LORD, I have called you in
 righteousness,
 I have taken you by the hand and
 kept you;
 I have given you as a covenant to the
 people,
 a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the
 dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in
 darkness."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 10:34-38*

Peter opened his mouth and said:
 "Truly I perceive that God shows
 no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation any
 one who fears him and does what is right
 is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the

word which he sent to Israel, preaching
 good news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is
 Lord of all), ³⁷ the word which was pro-
 claimed throughout all Judea, begin-
 ning from Galilee after the baptism
 which John preached: ³⁸ how God
 anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the
 Holy Spirit and with power; how he
 went about doing good and healing all
 that were oppressed by the devil, for
 God was with him."

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

As the people were in expectation,
 and all men questioned in their
 hearts concerning John, whether per-
 haps he were the Christ, ¹⁶ John an-
 swered them all, "I baptize you with
 water; but he who is mightier than I is
 coming, the thong of whose sandals I am
 not worthy to untie; he will baptize you
 with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His
 winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear
 his threshing floor, and to gather the
 wheat into his granary, but the chaff he
 will burn with unquenchable fire." . . .

²¹ Now when all the people were bap-
 tized, and when Jesus also had been bap-
 tized and was praying, the heaven was
 opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit de-
 scended upon him in bodily form, as a
 dove, and a voice came from heaven,
 "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I
 am well pleased."

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 62:1-5*

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will
 not rest,
 until her vindication goes forth as
 brightness,

and her salvation as a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 which the mouth of the LORD will
 give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the

hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of
 your God.
⁴ You shall no more be termed
 Forsaken,
 and your land shall no more be
 termed Desolate;
 but you shall be called My delight is in
 her,
 and your land Married;
 for the LORD delights in you,
 and your land shall be married.
⁵ For as a young man marries a virgin,
 so shall your sons marry you,
 and as the bridegroom rejoices over the
 bride,
 so shall your God rejoice over you.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

Now concerning spiritual gifts; brethren, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were heathen, you were led astray to dumb idols, however you may have been moved. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another

the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

GOSPEL

■ *John 2:1-11*

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ² Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when man have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 61:1-6*

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good tidings to the afflicted;
he has sent me to bind up the
brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to
those who are bound;

² to proclaim the year of the LORD'S
favor,
and the day of vengeance of our
God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³ to grant to 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;
that they may be called oaks of
righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he
may be glorified.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Aliens shall stand and feed your
flocks,
foreigners shall be your plowmen
and vinedressers;

⁶ but you shall be called the priests of
the LORD,
men shall speak of you as the
ministers of our God;
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,
and in their riches you shall glory.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 12:12-21, 26-27*

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single organ, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." . . . ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 4:14-21*

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and a report concerning him went out through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the

synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read;¹⁷ and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

²⁰ And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you you shall go, and whatever I command you you shall speak.

⁸ Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put forth his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 12:27–13:13*

You are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; ⁵ it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, en-

dures all things.

⁸ Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. ¹³ So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 4:21-32*

He (*Jesus*) began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this

proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself; what we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here also in your own country.'"

²⁴ And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his own country. ²⁵ But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land; ²⁶ and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹ And they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw him down headlong. ³⁰ But passing through the midst of them he went away.

³¹ And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the sabbath; ³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word was with authority.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]*

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called,

and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶ Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." ⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here

am I! Send me.” [9 And he said, “Go, and say to this people:

‘Hear and hear, but do not understand;

see and see, but do not perceive.’

¹⁰ *Make the heart of this people fat, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes;*

lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

¹¹ *Then I said “How long, O Lord?” And he said:*

“Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without men, and the land is utterly desolate,

¹² *and the LORD removes men far away,*

and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

¹³ *And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains standing when it is felled.”*

The holy seed is its stump.]

¹⁷ For you may give thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all; ¹⁹ nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; be babes in evil, but in thinking be mature.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 5:1-11*

While the people pressed upon him (*Jesus*) to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. ² And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, ⁷ they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” ⁹ For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men.” ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 14:12b-20*

Since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

¹³ Therefore, he who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.

¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how can any one in the position of an outsider say the “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON■ *Jeremiah 17:5-8*

Thus says the LORD:
 “Cursed is the man who trusts in
 man and makes flesh his arm,
 whose heart turns away from the
 LORD.

⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert,
 and shall not see any good come.
 He shall dwell in the parched places of
 the wilderness,
 in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ “Blessed is the man who trusts in the
 LORD,
 whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ He is like a tree planted by water,
 that sends out its roots by the stream,
 and does not fear when heat comes,
 for its leaves remain green,
 and is not anxious in the year of
 drought,
 for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

SECOND LESSON■ *1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20*

If Christ is preached as raised from the
 dead, how can some of you say that
 there is no resurrection of the dead? . . .

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then
 Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ
 has not been raised, your faith is futile
 and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then
 those also who have fallen asleep in
 Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life
 only we have hoped in Christ, we are of
 all men most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised
 from the dead, the first fruits of those

who have fallen asleep.

GOSPEL■ *Luke 6:17-26*

He (*Jesus*) came down with them and
 stood on a level place, with a great
 crowd of his disciples and a great multi-
 tude of people from all Judea and
 Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and
 Sidon, who came to hear him and to be
 healed of their diseases; ¹⁸ and those who
 were troubled with unclean spirits were
 cured. ¹⁹ And all the crowd sought to
 touch him, for power came forth from
 him and healed them all.

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his dis-
 ciples, and said:

“Blessed are you poor, for yours is the
 kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you that hunger now,
 for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you that weep now, for
 you shall laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when men hate
 you, and when they exclude you and re-
 vile you, and cast out your name as evil,
 on account of the Son of man! ²³ Rejoice
 in that day, and leap for joy, for behold,
 your reward is great in heaven; for so
 their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you that are rich, for
 you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you that are full now, for
 you shall hunger.

“Woe to you that laugh now, for you
 shall mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you, when all men speak
 well of you, for so their fathers did to the
 false prophets.”

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 45:3-8a, 15*

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, I pray you." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God." . . . ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 15:35-38a, 42-50*

Some one will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen. . . .

⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is

written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual which is first but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ I tell you this, brethren: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to them, ²⁷ "But I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to every one who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again. ³¹ And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish.

³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be

forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 7:1-7 [8-15]*

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² “Stand in the gate of the LORD’S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD. ³ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will let you dwell in this place. ⁴ Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’

⁵ “For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly execute justice one with another, ⁶ if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, ⁷ then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers for ever.

[⁸ “Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. ⁹ Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—only to go on doing all these abominations? ¹¹ Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, says the LORD. ¹² Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it for the

wickedness of my people Israel. ¹³ And now, because you have done all these things, says the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, ¹⁴ therefore I will do to the house which is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. ¹⁵ And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim.”]

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 15:51-58*

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is thy victory?

O death, where is thy sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abound-

ing in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 6:39-49*

He (*Jesus*) also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?”⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but every one when he is fully taught will be like his teacher.⁴¹ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye.

⁴³ “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good

fruit;⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.⁴⁵ The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

⁴⁶ “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ Every one who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep, and laid the foundation upon rock; and when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But he who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation; against which the stream broke, and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 34:1-12*

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan,² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,³ the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.⁴ And the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall

not go over there.”⁵ So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD,⁶ and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Bethpeor; but no man knows the place of his burial to this day.⁷ Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.⁸ And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

⁹ And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands upon him; so the people of

Israel obeyed him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰ And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹ none like him for all the signs and the wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ¹² and for all the mighty power and all the great and terrible deeds which Moses wrought in the sight of all Israel.

SECOND LESSON

■ 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God. ⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

GOSPEL

■ Luke 9:28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings he (*Jesus*) took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became dazzling white. ³⁰ And behold, two men talked with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, and when they wakened they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ As he said this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silence and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Ash Wednesday

FIRST LESSON

■ Joel 2:12-19

Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,

and repents of evil. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, a cereal offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the elders;

gather the children,
 even nursing infants.
 Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the
 LORD, weep
 and say, "Spare thy people, O LORD,
 and make not thy heritage a
 reproach,
 a byword among the nations.
 Why should they say among the
 peoples,
 'Where is their God?'"

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for
 his land,
 and had pity on his people.

¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his
 people,
 "Behold, I am sending to you grain,
 wine, and oil,
 and you will be satisfied;
 and I will no more make you
 a reproach among the nations."

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:2*

We beseech you on behalf of Christ,
 be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our
 sake he made him to be sin who knew no
 sin, so that in him we might become the
 righteousness of God.

¹ Working together with him, then,
 we entreat you not to accept the grace of
 God in vain. ² For he says,

"At the acceptable time I have
 listened to you,
 and helped you on the day of
 salvation."

Behold, now is the acceptable time;
 behold, now is the day of salvation.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

Jesus taught them saying, ¹ "Beware
 of practicing your piety before men
 in order to be seen by them; for then you
 will have no reward from your Father
 who is in heaven.

² "Thus, when you give alms, sound
 no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites
 do in the synagogues and in the streets,
 that they may be praised by men. Truly,
 I say to you, they have received their re-
 ward. ³ But when you give alms, do not
 let your left hand know what your right
 hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be
 in secret; and your Father who sees in se-
 cret will reward you.

⁵ "And when you pray, you must not
 be like the hypocrites; for they love to
 stand and pray in the synagogues and at
 the street corners, that they may be seen
 by men. Truly, I say to you, they have
 received their reward. ⁶ But when you
 pray, go into your room and shut the
 door and pray to your Father who is in
 secret; and your Father who sees in se-
 cret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶ "And when you fast, do not look dis-
 mal, like the hypocrites, for they
 disfigure their faces that their fasting
 may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you,
 they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But
 when you fast, anoint your head and
 wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may
 not be seen by men but by your Father
 who is in secret; and your Father who
 sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves trea-
 sures on earth, where moth and rust
 consume and where thieves break in and
 steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves trea-
 sures in heaven, where neither moth nor
 rust consumes and where thieves do not
 break in and steal. ²¹ For where your
 treasure is, there will your heart be
 also."

 First Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 26:5-10*

Moses said to all Israel, ⁵ “You shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father; and he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶ And the Egyptians treated us harshly, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage. ⁷ Then we cried to the LORD the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice, and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression; ⁸ and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror, with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which thou, O LORD, hast given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 10:8b-13*

The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); ⁹ because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him.

¹³ For, “every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 4:1-13*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit ² for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ And the devil took him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it shall all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘You shall worship the Lord your God,

and him only shall you serve.’”

⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here; ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will give his angels charge of you, to guard you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

 Second Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

 ■ *Jeremiah 26:8-15*

When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die!"⁹ Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, "This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?" And all the people gathered about Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰ When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD.

¹¹ Then the priests and the prophets said to the princes and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

¹² Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³ Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will repent of the evil which he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴ But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you.

¹⁵ Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

SECOND LESSON

 ■ *Philippians 3:17-4:1*

Brethren, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us.¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ.¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.²⁰ But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹ Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

GOSPEL

 ■ *Luke 13:31-35*

At that very hour some Pharisees came, and said to him (*Jesus*), "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."³² And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.'³³ Nevertheless I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.'³⁴ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!³⁵ Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Third Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 3:1-8b, 10-15*

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey. . . . ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain."

¹³ Then Moses said to God, "If I come

to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': this is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

Iwant you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same supernatural food ⁴ and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things are warnings for us, not to desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to dance." ⁸ We must not indulge in immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let any one

who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 13:1-9*

There were some present at that very time who told him (*Jesus*) of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered

thus? ³ I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

⁶ And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vine-dresser, ‘Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸ And he answered him, ‘Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. ⁹ And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Fourth Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 12:1-6*

You will say in that day:
 “I will give thanks to thee, O
 LORD,
 for though thou wast angry with me,
 thy anger turned away,
 and thou didst comfort me.

² “Behold, God is my salvation;
 I will trust, and will not be afraid;
 for the Lord GOD is my strength and
 my song,
 and he has become my salvation.”

³ With joy you will draw water from
 the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say
 in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,
 call upon his name;
 make known his deeds among the
 nations,
 proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ “Sing praises to the LORD, for he has

done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant
 of Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One
 of Israel.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*^o

The word of the cross is folly to those
 who are perishing, but to us who
 are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the
 wise,

and the cleverness of the clever I will
 thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the
 scribe? Where is the debater of this age?
 Has not God made foolish the wisdom of
 the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of
 God, the world did not know God

^oOptional Second Lesson follows.

through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶ For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; ²⁷ but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; ³¹ therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord."

Or 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . . ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him

(*Jesus*). ² And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: . . . "There was a man who had two sons; ¹² and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; ²³ and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet

you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' "

Fifth Sunday in Lent

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 43:16-21*

Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings forth chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like
 a wick:

¹⁸ "Remember not the former things,
 nor consider the things of old.

¹⁹ Behold, I am doing 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.

²⁰ The wild beasts will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ the people whom I formed for
 myself
 that they might declare my praise."

may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 20:9-19*

He (*Jesus*) began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰ When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, that they should give him some of the fruit of the vineyard; but the tenants beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ And he sent another servant; him also they beat and

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 3:8-14*

Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I

treated shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² And he sent yet a third; this one they wounded and cast out. ¹³ Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; it may be they will respect him.' ¹⁴ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.' ¹⁵ And they cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy those tenants, and give the vineyard to others."

When they heard this, they said, "God forbid!" ¹⁷ But he looked at them and said, "What then is this that is written:

'The very stone which the builders rejected

has become the head of the corner?'

¹⁸ Every one who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but when it falls on any one it will crush him."

¹⁹ The scribes and the chief priests tried to lay hands on him at that very hour, but they feared the people; for they perceived that he had told this parable against them.

Sunday of the Passion

PALM SUNDAY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 32:36-39*

Moses spoke, ³⁶ The LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone, and there is none remaining, bond or free.

³⁷ Then he will say, 'Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, ³⁸ who ate the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offering?'

Let them rise up and help you,
let them be your protection!

³⁹ " 'See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.' "

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philippians 2:5-11*

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

■ *Luke 19:28-40*

When he (*Jesus*) had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village opposite, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If any one asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this, 'The Lord has need of

it.’”³² So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them.³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?”³⁴ And they said, “The Lord has need of it.”³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt they set Jesus upon it.³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road.³⁷ As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen,³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.”⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 22:1—23:56*

Now the feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover.² And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him (*Jesus*) to death; for they feared the people.

³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve;⁴ he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them.⁵ And they were glad, and engaged to give him money.⁶ So he agreed, and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of the multitude.

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the passover lamb had to be sacrificed.⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the passover for us, that we may eat it.”⁹ They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?”¹⁰ He said to them, “Behold,

when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house which he enters,¹¹ and tell the householder, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?’¹² And he will show you a large upper room furnished; there make ready.”¹³ And they went, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover.

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him.¹⁵ And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer;¹⁶ for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves;¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”²⁰ And likewise the cup after supper, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.²¹ But behold the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table.²² For the Son of man goes as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!”²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it was that would do this.

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.²⁵ And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors.²⁶ But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.²⁷ For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at

*Optional Gospel follows.

table? But I am among you as one who serves.

²⁸ “You are those who have continued with me in my trials; ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren.” ³³ And he said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.” ³⁴ He said, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me.”

³⁵ And he said to them, “When I sent you out with no purse or bag or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “Nothing.” ³⁶ He said to them, “But now, let him who has a purse take it, and likewise a bag. And let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one. ³⁷ For I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in me, ‘And he was reckoned with transgressors’; for what is written about me has its fulfilment.” ³⁸ And they said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords.” And he said to them, “It is enough.”

³⁹ And he came out, and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he came to the place he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.” ⁴⁵ And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him; ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹ And when those who were about him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?”

⁵⁰ And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³ When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. Peter followed at a distance;

⁵⁵ and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

⁵⁶ Then a maid, seeing him as he sat in the light and gazing at him, said, “This man also was with him.” ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” ⁵⁸ And a little later some one else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.” ⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

⁶³ Now the men who were holding Je-

sus mocked him and beat him; ⁶⁴ they also blindfolded him and asked him, “Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?” ⁶⁵ And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him.

⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷ “If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe; ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” ⁷⁰ And they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” ⁷¹ And they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

¹ Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ a king.” ³ And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” ⁴ And Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes, “I find no crime in this man.” ⁵ But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹ So he questioned him at some length; but he made no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ And

Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹² And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; ¹⁵ neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him; ¹⁶ I will therefore chastise him and release him.”

¹⁸ But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”—¹⁹ a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder. ²⁰ Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus; ²¹ but they shouted out, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²² A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him.” ²³ But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

²⁶ And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. ²⁸ But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of

Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!'³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.'³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.³³ And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left.³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar,³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour,⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the tem-

ple was torn in two.⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!"⁴⁸ And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man,⁵¹ who had not consented to their purpose and deed, and he was looking for the kingdom of God.⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid.⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning.⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid;⁵⁶ then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Or Luke 23:1-49

Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him (*Jesus*) before Pilate.² And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ a king."³ And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so."⁴ And Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes, "I find no crime in this man."⁵ But they were

urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹ So he questioned him at some length; but he made no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹² And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; ¹⁵ neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him; ¹⁶ I will therefore chastise him and release him."

¹⁸ But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"—¹⁹ a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder. ²⁰ Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus; ²¹ but they shouted out, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²² A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him."

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with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

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²⁷ And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. ²⁸ But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left.

³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you

not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”

⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun’s

light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, “Certainly this man was innocent!” ⁴⁸ And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

Monday in Holy Week

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 42:1-9*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul
delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him,
he will bring forth justice to the
nations.

² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not
quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not fail or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the
earth;

and the coastlands wait for his law.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and
stretched them out,
who spread forth the earth and what
comes from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ “I am the LORD, I have called you in
righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and
kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the
people,

a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the
dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in
darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to graven images.

⁹ Behold, the former things have come
to pass,

and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth

I tell you of them.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 9:11-15*

When Christ appeared as a high
priest of the good things that
have come, then through the greater
and more perfect tent (not made with
hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he
entered once for all into the Holy Place,
taking not the blood of goats and calves
but his own blood, thus securing an eter-
nal redemption. ¹³ For if the sprinkling
of defiled persons with the blood of

goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

GOSPEL

■ *John 12:1-11*

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard

and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

⁹ When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

Tuesday in Holy Week

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 49:1-6*

Listen to me, O coastlands,
and hearken, you peoples from afar.

The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he
named my name.

² He made my mouth like a sharp
sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, "You are my
servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing
and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,

and my recompense with my God."

⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me from the womb to
be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to
him,
for I am honored in the eyes of the
LORD,
and my God has become my
strength—

⁶ he says:
"It is too light a thing that you should
be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the preserved of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the
end of the earth."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

GOSPEL

■ *John 12:20-36*

Among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip and they told Jesus.

²³ And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, un-

less a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify thy name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; ³² and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” ³³ He said this to show by what death he was to die.

³⁴ The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Christ remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said this, he departed and hid himself from them.

Wednesday in Holy Week

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are

taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him that is weary.

Morning by morning he wakens,
 he wakens my ear
 to hear as those who are taught.
⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
 and I was not rebellious,
 I turned not backward.
⁶ I gave my back to the smiters,
 and my cheeks to those who pulled
 out the beard;
 I hid not my face
 from shame and spitting.
⁷ For the Lord GOD helps me;
 therefore I have not been
 confounded;
 therefore I have set my face like a flint,
 and I know that I shall not be put to
 shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
 Who will contend with me?
 Let us stand up together.
 Who is my adversary?
 Let him come near to me.
⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
 who will declare me guilty?

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 5:6-11*

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. ⁸ But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are recon-

ciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 26:14-25*

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹⁷ Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the passover?” ¹⁸ He said, “Go into the city to a certain one, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the passover.

²⁰ When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples; ²¹ and as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” ²³ He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Is it I, Master?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

Maundy Thursday

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new

covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out

of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant which 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 upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, '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 I will remember their sin no more."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 10:15-39*

The Holy Spirit also bears witness 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 on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

¹⁷ then he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their misdeeds no more."

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near 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. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one an-

other, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

²⁶ For if we sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire which will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ A man who has violated the law of Moses dies without mercy at the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment do you think will be deserved by the man who has spurned the Son of God, and profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on the prisoners, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised.

³⁷ "For yet a little while, and the coming one shall come and shall not tarry;

³⁸ but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and keep their souls.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 22:7-20*

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the passover for us, that we may eat it.” ⁹ They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” ¹⁰ He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house which he enters, ¹¹ and tell the householder, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?’” ¹² And he will show you a large upper room furnished; there make ready.” ¹³ And they went, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover.

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And likewise the cup after supper, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

 Good Friday

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 52:13—53:12*^o

Behold, my servant shall prosper,
 he shall be exalted and lifted
 up,
 and shall be very high.
¹⁴ As many were astonished at him—
 his appearance was so marred,
 beyond human semblance,
 and his form beyond that of the sons
 of men—
¹⁵ so shall he startle many nations;
 kings shall shut their mouths because
 of him;
 for that which has not been told them
 they shall see,
 and that which they have not heard
 they shall understand.
¹ Who has believed what we have
 heard?
 And to whom has the arm of the
 LORD been revealed?
² For he grew up before him like a

young plant,
 and like a root out of dry ground;
 he had no form or comeliness that we
 should look at him,
 and no beauty that we should desire
 him.
³ He was despised and rejected by men;
 a man of sorrows, and acquainted
 with grief;
 and as one from whom men hide their
 faces
 he was despised, and we esteemed
 him not.
⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
 and carried our sorrows;
 yet we esteemed him stricken,
 smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But he was wounded for our
 transgressions,
 he was bruised for our iniquities;
 upon him was the chastisement that
 made us whole,
 and with his stripes we are healed.
⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;

^oOptional First Lesson follows.

we have turned every one to his own way;
 and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
 yet he opened not his mouth;
 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
 and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb,
 so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
 and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
 stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked
 and with a rich man in his death,
 although he had done no violence,
 and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him;
 he has put him to grief;
 when he makes himself an offering for sin,
 he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days;
 the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand;

¹¹ he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied;
 by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
 make many to be accounted righteous;
 and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great,
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
 because he poured out his soul to death,
 and was numbered with the transgressors;
 yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

Or Hosea 6:1-6

Come, let us return to the LORD;
 for he has torn, that he may heal us;
 he has stricken, and he will bind us up.

² After two days he will revive us;
 on the third day he will raise us up,
 that we may live before him.

³ Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;
 his going forth is sure as the dawn;
 he will come to us as the showers,
 as the spring rains that water the earth.”

⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
 What shall I do with you, O Judah?
 Your love is like a morning cloud,
 like the dew that goes early away.

⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
 I have slain them by the words of my mouth,
 and my judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
 the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

GOSPEL

■ *John 18:1—19:42**

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When he said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go.” ⁹ This was to fulfil the word which he had spoken, “Of those whom thou gavest me I lost not one.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?”

¹² So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews

seized Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, ¹⁶ while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The maid who kept the door said to Peter, “Are not you also one of this man’s disciples?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸ Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²² When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴ Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, “Are not you also one of his disciples?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut

* *Optional Gospel follows.*

off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"²⁷ Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the passover.²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over."³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death."³² This was to fulfil the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die.

³³ Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?"³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world."³⁷ Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice."³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them, "I find no crime in him."³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?"⁴⁰ They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged

him.² And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe;³ they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.⁴ Pilate went out again, and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him."⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him."⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God."⁸ When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid;⁹ he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer.¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin."

¹² Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar."¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha.¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."¹⁶ Then he

handed him over to them to be crucified.

¹⁷ So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; ²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the scripture,

"They parted my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and

he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; ³³ but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

³⁸ After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. ⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Or John 19:17-30

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. ¹⁸ There

they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

²⁰ Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; ²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the scripture,

"They parted my garments among them,

and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Resurrection of Our Lord

EASTER DAY

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 15:1-11*°

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

² The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD is a man of war;
the LORD is his name.

⁴ "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea;

and his picked officers are sunk in the Red Sea.

⁵ The floods cover them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

⁶ Thy right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,
thy right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

⁷ In the greatness of thy majesty thou overthrowest thy adversaries;
thou sendest forth thy fury, it consumes them like stubble.

⁸ At the blast of thy nostrils the waters piled up,
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire

°Optional First Lesson follows.

- shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword, my hand shall
destroy them.
¹⁰ Thou didst blow with thy wind, the
sea covered them;
they sank as lead in the mighty
waters.
¹¹ “Who is like thee, O LORD, among
the gods?
Who is like thee, majestic in holiness,
terrible in glorious deeds, doing
wonders?”

Or Psalm 118:14-24

The LORD is my strength and my
song;

he has become my salvation.

- ¹⁵ Hark, glad songs of victory
in the tents of the righteous;
“The right hand of the LORD does
valiantly,
¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is
exalted,
the right hand of the LORD does
valiantly!”
¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me sorely,
but he has not given me over to
death.

- ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of
righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
²¹ I thank thee that thou hast answered
me
and hast become my salvation.
²² The stone which the builders rejected
has become the head of the corner.
²³ This is the LORD’S doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
²⁴ This is the day which the LORD has
made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND LESSON

■ 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brethren,
in what terms I preached to you
the gospel, which you received, in which
you stand, ² by which you are saved, if
you hold it fast—unless you believed in
vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first im-
portance what I also received, that
Christ died for our sins in accordance
with the scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day in ac-
cordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that
he appeared to Cephas, then to the
twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than
five hundred brethren at one time, most
of whom are still alive, though some
have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared
to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last
of all, as to one untimely born, he ap-
peared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of
the apostles, unfit to be called an apos-
tle, because I persecuted the church of
God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am
what I am, and his grace toward me was
not in vain. On the contrary, I worked
harder than any of them, though it was
not I, but the grace of God which is with
me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so
we preach and so you believed.

GOSPEL

■ Luke 24:1-11*

On the first day of the week, at early
dawn, they (*the women*) went to
the tomb, taking the spices which they
had prepared. ² And they found the
stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but
when they went in they did not find the
body. ⁴ While they were perplexed
about this, behold, two men stood by
them in dazzling apparel; ⁵ and as they
were frightened and bowed their faces
to the ground, the men said to them,
“Why do you seek the living among the
dead?” ⁶ Remember how he told you,

*Optional Gospel follows.

while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.”⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

Or John 20:1-9 [10-18]

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. ⁴ They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, ⁷ and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then

the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. [¹⁰ *Then the disciples went back to their homes.*

¹¹ *But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?” 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.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.]*

Easter Evening

FIRST LESSON

■ *Daniel 12:1c-3°*

But at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of

the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”

[°]Optional First Lesson follows.

Or *Jonah 2:2-9*

I called to the LORD, out of my
distress,
and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and thou didst hear my voice.
³ For thou didst cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood was round about me;
all thy waves and thy billows
passed over me.
⁴ Then I said, 'I am cast out
from thy presence;
how shall I again look
upon thy holy temple?'
⁵ The waters closed in over me,
the deep was round about me;
weeds were wrapped about my head
⁶ at the roots of the mountains.
I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me for ever;
yet thou didst bring up my life from
the Pit,
O LORD my God.
⁷ When my soul fainted within me,
I remembered the LORD;
and my prayer came to thee,
into thy holy temple.
⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols
forsake their true loyalty.
⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to thee;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Deliverance belongs to the LORD!"

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 5:6-8*

Your boasting is not good. Do you
not know that a little leaven
leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out
the old leaven that you may be a new
lump, as you really are unleavened. For
Christ, our paschal lamb, has been
sacrificed. ⁸ Let us, therefore, celebrate
the festival, not with the old leaven, the
leaven of malice and evil, but with the
unleavened bread of sincerity and
truth.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 24:13-49*

That very day two of them were go-
ing to a village named Emmaus,
about seven miles from Jerusalem,
¹⁴ and talking with each other about all
these things that had happened.
¹⁵ While they were talking and dis-
cussing together, Jesus himself drew
near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their
eyes were kept from recognizing him.
¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this
conversation which you are holding
with each other as you walk?" And they
stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of
them, named Cleopas, answered him,
"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know the things that have
happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And
he said to them, "What things?" And
they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of
Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in
deed and word before God and all the
people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and
rulers delivered him up to be con-
demned to death, and crucified him.
²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one
to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all
this, it is now the third day since this
happened. ²² Moreover, some women of
our company amazed us. They were at
the tomb early in the morning ²³ and did
not find his body; and they came back
saying that they had even seen a vision
of angels, who said that he was alive.
²⁴ Some of those who were with us went
to the tomb, and found it just as the
women had said; but him they did not
see." ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish
men, and slow of heart to believe all that
the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not
necessary that the Christ should suffer
these things and enter into his glory?"
²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the
prophets, he interpreted to them in all
the scriptures the things concerning
himself.
²⁸ So they drew near to the village to

which they were going. He appeared to be going further,²⁹ but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight.³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?"³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them,³⁴ who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them.³⁷ But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit.³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled,

and why do questionings rise in your hearts?"³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have."⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, 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 before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

Second Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ Acts 5:12, 17-32

Now many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. . . .

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison.¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said,²⁰ "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

²¹ And when they heard this, they en-

tered the temple at daybreak and taught.

Now the high priest came and those who were with him and called together the council and all the senate of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, and they returned and reported,²³ "We found the prison securely locked and the sentries standing at the doors, but when we opened it we found no one inside."²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were much perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to.

²⁵ And some one came and told them, “The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” ²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Revelation 1:4-18*

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

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, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. 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.

⁹ I John, your brother, who share with you in Jesus the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden girdle round his breast; ¹⁴ his head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ in his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth issued a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

GOSPEL

■ *John 20:19-31*

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has

sent me, even so I send you.”²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Je-

sus 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.”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 believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Third Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 9:1-20*

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.³ Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him.⁴ And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting;⁶ but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.⁸ Saul arose from the ground; and when his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.⁹ And for three days

he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight; and inquire in the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying,¹² and he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to thy saints at Jerusalem;¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon thy name.”¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands

on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized,¹⁹ and took food and was strengthened.

For several days he was with the disciples at Damascus.²⁰ And in the synagogues immediately he proclaimed Jesus, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Revelation 5:11-14*

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, “To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!”¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

GOSPEL

■ *John 21:1-14*

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he revealed himself in this way.² Simon Peter, Thomas called the

Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together.³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any fish?” They answered him, “No.”⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish.⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea.⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread.¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.”¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord.¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 13:15-16a, 26-33*

After the reading of the laws and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it." ¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: . . .

²⁶ "Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. ²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning him. ²⁸ Though they could charge him with nothing deserving death, yet they asked Pilate to have him killed. ²⁹ And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead; ³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. ³² And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm,

'Thou art my Son,
today I have begotten thee.'

SECOND LESSON

■ *Revelation 7:9-17*

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the

throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ Therefore are they before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night within his temple;
and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence.
¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more;
the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water;
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

GOSPEL

■ *John 10:22-30*

It was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem; ²³ it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered round him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not

believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; ²⁸ and I give them eternal

life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

Fifth Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 13:44-52*

The next sabbath almost the whole city gathered together to hear the word of God. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy, and contradicted what was spoken by Paul, and reviled him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.' "

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of God; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord spread throughout all the region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Revelation 21:1-5*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; ³ and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

⁵ And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

GOSPEL

■ *John 13:31-35*

When he (*Judas*) had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of man glorified, and in him God is glorified; ³² if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will

seek me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;

even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Sixth Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 14:8-18*

Now at Lystra there was a man sitting, who could not use his feet; he was a cripple from birth, who had never walked.⁹ He listened to Paul speaking; and Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well,¹⁰ said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and walked.¹¹ And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, because he was the chief speaker, they called Hermes.¹³ And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the people.¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out among the multitude, crying,¹⁵ "Men, why are you doing this? We also are men, of like nature with you, and bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways;¹⁷ yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good and gave you from heaven rains and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."¹⁸ With these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23*

In the Spirit he (*one of the seven angels*) carried me away to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed;¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . .²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

GOSPEL

■ *John 14:23-29*

Jesus answered him, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.²⁴ He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you,

while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be trou-

bled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe."

The Ascension of Our Lord

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 1:1-11*

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, ⁵ for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men

stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 1:16-23*

Ido not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; ²² and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fulness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 24:44-53*

Then he (*Jesus*) said to them, “These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins

should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

 Seventh Sunday of Easter

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 16:6-10*

They (*Paul and Timothy*) went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.⁷ And when they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them;⁸ so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing beseeching him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”¹⁰ And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Revelation 22:12-17, 20*

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done.¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

¹¹ Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter

the city by the gates.¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and every one who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶ “I Jesus have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.”

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let him who hears say, “Come.” And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price. . . .

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

GOSPEL

■ *John 17:20-26*

Jesus prayed,²⁰ “I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word,²¹ that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.²² The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,²³ I in them and thou

in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom thou hast given me, may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me in thy love for me before the

foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, the world has not known thee, but I have known thee; and these know that thou hast sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them thy name, and I will make it known, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Vigil of Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 19:1-9*^o

On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² And when they set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain. ³ And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. ⁸ And all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. ⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Lo, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I

speak with you, and may also believe you for ever."

Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

Or Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

^oOptional First Lesson follows.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 8:14-17, 22-27*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if

we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

GOSPEL

■ *John 7:37-39a*

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive.

 The Day of Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 11:1-9*

Now the whole earth had one language and few words. ² And as men migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." ⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is

only the beginning of what they will do; and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 2:1-21*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly a sound came

from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty words of God." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day; ¹⁶ but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'And in the last days it shall 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;

¹⁸ yea, and on my menservants and my
maidservants in those days
I will pour out my Spirit; and they
shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the
heaven above
and signs on the earth beneath,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
²⁰ the sun shall be turned into darkness
and the moon into blood,
before the day of the Lord comes,
the great and manifest day.

²¹ And it shall be that whoever calls on
the name of the Lord shall be
saved.' "

GOSPEL

■ *John 15:26-27; 16:4b-11*

Jesus said to them, ²⁶ "When the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; ²⁷ and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning . . .

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

The Holy Trinity

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST LESSON

■ *Proverbs 8:22-31*

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old.

²³ Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth, where there were no springs abounding with water.

²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth;

²⁶ before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world.

²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

²⁸ when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,

²⁹ when he assigned the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master workman; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world

and delighting in the sons of men.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 5:1-5*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.² Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.³ More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

GOSPEL

■ *John 16:12-15*

Jesus said to them,¹² “I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Second Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Kings 8:[22-23, 27-30] 41-43*

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread

forth his hands toward heaven;²³ and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to thy servants

who walk before thee with all their heart

²⁷ “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built! ²⁸ Yet have regard to the prayer of thy servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, hearkening to the cry and to the prayer which thy servant prays before thee this day; ²⁹ that thy eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which thou hast said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that thou mayest hearken to the prayer which thy servant offers toward this place. ³⁰ And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant and of thy people Israel, when they pray toward this place; yea, hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place; and when thou hearest, forgive]

⁴¹ “Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of thy people Israel, comes from a far country for thy name’s sake ⁴² (for they shall hear of thy great name, and thy mighty hand, and of thy outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³ hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to thee; in order that all the peoples of the earth may know thy name and fear thee, as do thy people Israel, and that they may know that his house which I have built is called by thy name.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Galatians 1:1-10*

Paul an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brethren who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver

us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father; ⁵ to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to a different gospel—⁷ not that there is another gospel, but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, If any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

¹⁰ Am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of Christ.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 7:1-10*

After he (*Jesus*) had ended all his sayings in the hearing of the people he entered Capernaum. ² Now a centurion had a slave who was dear to him, who was sick and at the point of death. ³ When he heard of Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his slave. ⁴ And when they came to Jesus, they besought him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵ for he loves our nation, and he built us our synagogue.” ⁶ And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; ⁷ therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸ For I am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to

my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." ⁹ When Jesus heard this he marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that followed him, "I tell you, not

even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰ And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave well.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Kings 17:17-24*

After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; and his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!" ¹⁹ And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her bosom, and carried him up into the upper chamber, where he lodged, and laid him upon his own bed. ²⁰ And he cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, hast thou brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?" ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's soul come into him again." ²² And the LORD hearkened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³ And Elijah took the child, and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and delivered him to his mother; and Elijah said, "See, your son lives." ²⁴ And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Galatians 1:11-24*

Iwould have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it,

but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; ¹⁴ and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was still not known by sight to the churches of Christ in Judea; ²³ they only heard it said, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 7:11-17*

Soon afterward he (*Jesus*) went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹² As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being

carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her.¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."¹⁴ And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."¹⁵ And

the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother.¹⁶ Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"¹⁷ And this report concerning him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *2 Samuel 11:26—12:10, 13-15*

When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she made lamentation for her husband.²⁷ And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

¹ And 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.² The rich man had very many flocks and herds;³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his morsel, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him.⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling 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 it for the man who had come to him."⁵ Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die;⁶ and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

⁷ Nathan said to David, "You are the man. Thus says the LORD, the God of

Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul;⁸ and I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have smitten Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have slain him with the sword of the Ammonites.¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'"¹¹ . . .¹³ David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.¹⁴ Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child that is born to you shall die."¹⁵ Then Nathan went to his house.

And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became sick.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Galatians 2:11-21*

When Cephas came to Antioch I (*Paul*) opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.¹² For before certain men came from James, he ate with the Gentiles; but when they

came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

¹³ And with him the rest of the Jews acted insincerely, so that even Barnabas was carried away by their insincerity.

¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" ¹⁵ We ourselves, who are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners, ¹⁶ yet who know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification were through the law, then Christ died to no purpose.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 7:36-50*

One of the Pharisees asked him (*Jesus*) to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house, and took his place at table. ³⁷ And behold, a

woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "What is it, Teacher?" ⁴¹ "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, to whom he forgave more." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Zechariah 12:7-10*

The LORD will give victory to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be exalted over that of Judah. ⁸ On that day the LORD will put a shield about the inhabitants of Jerusalem so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, at their head. ⁹ And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

¹⁰ “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of compassion and supplication, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first-born.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Galatians 3:23-29*

Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. ²⁴ So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you

are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 9:18-24*

Now it happened that as he (*Jesus*) was praying alone the disciples were with him; and he asked them, “Who do the people say that I am?” ¹⁹ And they answered, “John the Baptist; but others say, Elijah; and others, that one of the old prophets has risen.” ²⁰ And he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.” ²¹ But he charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, ²² saying, “The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

²³ And he said to all, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it.”

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Kings 19:14-21*

He (*Elijah*) said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy

altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, you

shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria; ¹⁶ and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷ And him who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay; and him who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

¹⁹ So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing, with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his mantle upon him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again; for what have I done to you?” ²¹ And he returned from following him, and took the yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah, and ministered to him.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Galatians 5:1, 13-25*

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery . . .

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another.

¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another take heed that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are

against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 9:51-62*

When the days drew near for him (*Jesus*) to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him; ⁵³ but the people would not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to bid fire come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ But he said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go

and proclaim the kingdom of God.”
⁶¹ Another said, “I will follow you, Lord;
 but let me first say farewell to those at

my home.”⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one
 who puts his hand to the plow and looks
 back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 66:10-14*

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad
 for her,
 all you who love her;
 rejoice with her in joy,
 all you who mourn over her;
¹¹ that you may suck and be satisfied
 with her consoling breasts;
 that you may drink deeply with delight
 from the abundance of her glory.”

¹² For thus says the LORD:
 “Behold, I will extend prosperity to her
 like a river,
 and the wealth of the nations like an
 overflowing stream;
 and you shall suck, you shall be carried
 upon her hip,
 and dandled upon her knees.
¹³ As one whom his mother comforts,
 so I will comfort you;
 you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
¹⁴ You shall see, and your heart shall
 rejoice;
 your bones shall flourish like the
 grass;
 and it shall be known that the hand of
 the LORD is with his servants,
 and his indignation is against his
 enemies.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Galatians 6:1-10, 14-16*

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in
 any trespass, you who are spiritual
 should restore him in a spirit of gentle-
 ness. Look to yourself, lest you too be
 tempted. ² Bear one another’s burdens,
 and so fulfil the law of Christ. ³ For if

any one thinks he is something, when he
 is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let
 each one test his own work, and then his
 reason to boast will be in himself alone
 and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each man
 will have to bear his own load.

⁶ Let him who is taught the word
 share all good things with him who
 teaches.

⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not
 mocked, for whatever a man sows, that
 he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his
 own flesh will from the flesh reap cor-
 ruption; but he who sows to the Spirit
 will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
⁹ And let us not grow weary in well-
 doing, for in due season we shall reap, if
 we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ So then, as we
 have opportunity, let us do good to all
 men, and especially to those who are of
 the household of faith. . . .

¹⁴ But far be it from me to glory except
 in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by
 which the world has been crucified to
 me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither cir-
 cumcision counts for anything, nor un-
 circumcision, but a new creation.
¹⁶ Peace and mercy be upon all who
 walk by this rule, upon the Israel of
 God.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 10:1-12, 16 [17-20]*

After this the Lord appointed sev-
 enty others, and sent them on
 ahead of him, two by two, into every
 town and place where he himself was
 about to come. ² And he said to them,
 “The harvest is plentiful, but the labor-

ers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our

feet, we wipe off against you; nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I tell you, it shall be more tolerable on that day for Sodom than for that town. . . .

¹⁶ "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

[¹⁷ *The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"* ¹⁸ *And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.* ¹⁹ *Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you.* ²⁰ *Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*"]

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 30:9-14*

Moses said to all Israel, ⁹ "The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, and in the fruit of your cattle, and in the fruit of your ground; for the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, ¹⁰ if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ "For this commandment which I command you this day is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up for us to heaven, and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say,

'Who will go over the sea for us, and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴ But the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Colossians 1:1-14*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love which you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ which

has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—so among yourselves, from the day you heard and understood the grace of God in truth,⁷ as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ And so, from the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,¹⁰ to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.¹¹ May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.¹³ He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 10:25-37*

Behold, a lawyer stood up to put him (*Jesus*) to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read?”

²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered right; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead.³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion,³⁴ and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”³⁷ He said, “The one who showed mercy on him.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 18:1-10a [10b-14]*

The LORD appeared to him (*Abraham*) by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and

bowed himself to the earth,³ and said, “My lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant.⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree,⁵ while I fetch a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do

as you have said.”⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said “Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes.”

⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.

⁸ Then he took curds, and milk, and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.”¹⁰ The LORD said, “I will surely return to you in the spring, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” [*And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.*¹¹ *Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.*

¹² *So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?”*

¹³ *The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’*

¹⁴ *Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, in the spring, and Sarah shall have a son.”]*

SECOND LESSON

■ *Colossians 1:21-28*

You, who once were estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,²² he (*Jesus*) has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him,²³ provided that you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of

the gospel which you heard, which has been preached to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the divine office which was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now made manifest to his saints.²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 10:38-42*

As they went on their way, he (*Jesus*) entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house.³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching.⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.”⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; ⁴² one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 18:20-32*

Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry which has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom; but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham drew near, and said, "Wilt thou indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; wilt thou then destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from thee to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from thee! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Wilt thou destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak

again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Colossians 2:6-15*

As therefore you received Christ Jesus, the Lord, so live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him for the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ having canceled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 11:1-13*

He (*Jesus*) was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us

to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

² And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread; ⁴ and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive every one who is indebted to us; and lead us not into temptation.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you

anything’?” ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impotency he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:18-26*

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,

vanity of vanities! All is vanity. . . .

¹⁸ I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me; ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes a man who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by a man who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What has a man from all the toil and strain with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³ For all his days are full of pain, and his work is a vexation; even in the night his mind does not rest. This also is vanity.

²⁴ There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God; ²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶ For to the man who pleases him God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy; but to the sinner he gives the work of gathering and heaping, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Colossians 3:1-11*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is

earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you once walked, when you lived in them. ⁸ But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 12:13-21*

One of the multitude said to him (*Jesus*), “Teacher, bid my brother

divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or divider over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 15:1-6*

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what wilt thou give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, thou hast given me no offspring; and a slave born in my house will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; your own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the men of old received divine approval. ³ By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear. . . .

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go. ⁹ By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was

past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹¹ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 12:32-40*

Jesus said to them, "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good

pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

³⁵ "Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will gird himself and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 23:23-29*

Am I a God at hand, says the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' ²⁶ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams which they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a

dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer which breaks the rock in pieces?"

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 12:1-13*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated

at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons?—

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor lose courage when you are
punished by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves,
and chastises every son whom he
receives.”

⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share

his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 12:49-53*

Jesus said to them, ⁴⁹ “I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division; ⁵² for henceforth in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 66:18-23*

I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹ and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Put, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they shall

bring all your brethren from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their cereal offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD.

²¹ And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

²² “For as the new heavens and the new earth
which I will make

shall remain before me, says the
 LORD;
 so shall your descendants and your
 name remain.

²³ From new moon to new moon,
 and from sabbath to sabbath,
 all flesh shall come to worship before
 me,
 says the LORD.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 12:18-24*

You have not come to what may be
 touched, a blazing fire, and dark-
 ness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and
 the sound of a trumpet, and a voice
 whose words made the hearers entreat
 that no further messages be spoken to
 them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the
 order that was given, “If even a beast
 touches the mountain, it shall be
 stoned.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the
 sight that Moses said, “I tremble with
 fear.” ²² But you have come to Mount
 Zion and to the city of the living God,
 the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innum-
 erable angels in festal gathering,
²³ and to the assembly² of the first-born
 who are enrolled in heaven, and to a
 judge who is God of all, and to the spirits
 of just men made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus,
 the mediator of a new covenant, and to

the sprinkled blood that speaks more
 graciously than the blood of Abel.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 13:22-30*

He (*Jesus*) went on his way through
 towns and villages, teaching, and
 journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ And
 some one said to him, “Lord, will those
 who are saved be few?” And he said to
 them, ²⁴ “Strive to enter by the narrow
 door; for many, I tell you, will seek to en-
 ter and will not be able. ²⁵ When once
 the householder has risen up and shut
 the door, you will begin to stand outside
 and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord,
 open to us.’ He will answer you, ‘I do not
 know where you come from.’ ²⁶ Then
 you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank
 in your presence, and you taught in our
 streets.’ ²⁷ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do
 not know where you come from; depart
 from me, all you workers of iniquity!’
²⁸ There you will weep and gnash your
 teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac
 and Jacob and all the prophets in the
 kingdom of God and you yourselves
 thrust out. ²⁹ And men will come from
 east and west, and from north and south,
 and sit at table in the kingdom of God.
³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be
 first, and some are first who will be
 last.”

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Proverbs 25:6-7*

Do not put yourself forward in the
 king’s presence
 or stand in the place of the great;
⁷ for it is better to be told, “Come up
 here,”
 than to be put lower in the presence
 of the prince.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 13:1-8*

Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not
 neglect to show hospitality to
 strangers, for thereby some have enter-
 tained angels unawares. ³ Remember
 those who are in prison, as though in
 prison with them; and those who are ill-
 treated, since you also are in the body.

⁴ Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for God will judge the immoral and adulterous. ⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never fail you nor forsake you."

⁶ Hence we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper,
I will not be afraid;
what can man do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 14:1, 7-14*

One sabbath when he (*Jesus*) went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him. . . .

⁷ Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he marked how they chose the places of honor, saying to

them, ⁸ "When you are invited by any one to a marriage feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest a more eminent man than you be invited by him; ⁹ and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹ For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Proverbs 9:8-12*

Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you;
reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

⁹ Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;
teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

¹¹ For by me your days will be multiplied,
and years will be added to your life.

¹² If you are wise, you are wise for yourself;
if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Philemon 1 [2-9] 10-21*

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker [*2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:*

³ *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

⁴ *I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,* ⁵ *because I*

hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints,⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may promote the knowledge of all the good that is ours in Christ.⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required,⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an ambassador and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—] ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will.

¹⁵ Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my

own hand, I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

GOSPEL

■ Luke 14:25-33

Now great multitudes accompanied him (*Jesus*); and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build, and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ Exodus 32:7-14

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down; for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have cor-

rupted themselves; ⁸ they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them; they have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said,

‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’”⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people;¹⁰ now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; but of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does thy wrath burn hot against thy people, whom thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent did he bring them forth, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth?’ Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou didst swear by thine own self, and didst say to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.’”¹⁴ And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do to his people.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Timothy 1:12-17*

I thank him who has given me strength for this, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful by appointing me to his service,¹³ though I formerly blasphemed and persecuted and insulted him; but I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.¹⁵ The say-

ing is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners;¹⁶ but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.¹⁷ To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 15:1-10*

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him (*Jesus*).² And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable:
⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it?⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.’⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.’¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Amos 8:4-7*

Hear this, you who trample upon
the needy,
and bring the poor of the land to an
end,
⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be
over,
that we may sell grain?
And the sabbath,
that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and
the shekel great,
and deal deceitfully with false
balances,
⁶ that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and sell the refuse of the wheat?”
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of
Jacob:
“Surely I will never forget any of
their deeds.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Timothy 2:1-8*

First of all, then, I urge that
supplications, prayers, interces-
sions, and thanksgivings be made for all
men, ² for kings and all who are in high
positions, that we may lead a quiet and
peaceable life, godly and respectful in
every way. ³ This is good, and it is ac-
ceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to
come to the knowledge of the truth.
⁵ For there is one God, and there is one
mediator between God and men, the
man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a
ransom for all, the testimony to which
was borne at the proper time. ⁷ For this I
was appointed a preacher and apostle (I
am telling the truth, I am not lying), a
teacher of the Gentiles in faith and
truth.

⁸ I desire then that in every place the
men should pray, lifting holy hands
without anger or quarreling.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 16:1-13*

He (*Jesus*) also said to the disciples,
“There was a rich man who had a
steward, and charges were brought to
him that this man was wasting his goods.
² And he called him and said to him,
‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn
in the account of your stewardship, for
you can no longer be steward.’ ³ And the
steward said to himself, ‘What shall I do,
since my master is taking the steward-
ship away from me? I am not strong
enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.
⁴ I have decided what to do, so that peo-
ple may receive me into their houses
when I am put out of the stewardship.’
⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors
one by one, he said to the first, ‘How
much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He said,
‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said
to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down
quickly and write fifty.’ ⁶ Then he said
to another, ‘And how much do you
owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of
wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill,
and write eighty.’ ⁸ The master com-
mended the dishonest steward for his
shrewdness; for the sons of this world are
more shrewd in dealing with their own
generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I
tell you, make friends for yourselves by
means of unrighteous mammon, so that
when it fails they may receive you into
the eternal habitations.

¹⁰ “He who is faithful in a very little is
faithful also in much; and he who is dis-
honest in a very little is dishonest also in
much. ¹¹ If then you have not been
faithful in the unrighteous mammon,
who will entrust to you the true riches?”

¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters; for either he

will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Amos 6:1-7*

Woe to those who are at ease in
Zion,
and to those who feel secure on the
mountain of Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the
nations,

to whom the house of Israel come!

² Pass over to Calneh, and see;
and thence go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the
Philistines.

Are they better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your
territory,

³ O you who put far away the evil day,
and bring near the seat of violence?

⁴ "Woe to those who lie upon beds of
ivory,
and stretch themselves upon their
couches,

and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the midst of the
stall;

⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the
harp,
and like David invent for themselves
instruments of music;

⁶ who drink wine in bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest
oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of
Joseph!

⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first
of those to go into exile,
and the revelry of those who stretch
themselves shall pass away."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Timothy 6:6-16*

There is great gain in godliness with
contentment; ⁷ for we brought
nothing into the world, and we cannot
take anything out of the world; ⁸ but if
we have food and clothing, with these
we shall be content. ⁹ But those who de-
sire to be rich fall into temptation, into a
snare, into many senseless and hurtful
desires that plunge men into ruin and
destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is
the root of all evils; it is through this
craving that some have wandered away
from the faith and pierced their hearts
with many pangs.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all
this; aim at righteousness, godliness,
faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.
¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take
hold of the eternal life to which you
were called when you made the good
confession in the presence of many
witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God who
gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus
who in his testimony before Pontius
Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ I
charge you to keep the commandment
unstained and free from reproach until
the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ;
¹⁵ and this will be made manifest at the
proper time by the blessed and only Sov-
ereign, the King of kings and Lord of
lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality and
dwells in unapproachable light, whom
no man has ever seen or can see. To him
be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 16:19-31*

Jesus said to them, ¹⁹ “There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you in

your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.’ ”

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Habakkuk 1:1-3; 2:1-4*

The oracle of God which Habakkuk the prophet saw.

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,

and thou wilt not hear?
Or cry to thee “Violence!”
and thou wilt not save?

³ Why dost thou make me see wrongs
and look upon trouble?

Destruction and violence are before
me;
strife and contention arise. . . .

¹ I will take my stand to watch,
and station myself on the tower,
and look forth to see what he will say to
me,
and what I will answer concerning
my complaint.

² And the LORD answered me:

“Write the vision;
make it plain upon tablets,
so he may run who reads it.

³ For still the vision awaits its time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seem slow, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴ Behold, he whose soul is not upright
in him shall fail,
but the righteous shall live by his
faith.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Timothy 1:3-14*

I thank God whom I serve with a clear conscience, as did my fathers, when I remember you constantly in my prayers. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long

night and day to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you. ⁶ Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.

⁸ Do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, ¹⁰ and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹² and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. ¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; ¹⁴ guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 17:1-10*

He (*Jesus*) said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come; but woe to him by whom they come! ² It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. ³ Take heed to yourselves; if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him; ⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, and says, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ And the Lord said, “If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, ‘Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “Will any one of you, who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down at table’?

⁸ Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and gird yourself and serve me, till I eat and drink; and afterward you shall eat and drink’?

⁹ Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ruth 1:1-19a*

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the

name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons.

⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of

the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years; ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was bereft of her two sons and her husband.

⁶ Then she started with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she was, with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find a home, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me." ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your peo-

ple shall be my people, and your God my God; ¹⁷ where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if even death parts me from you." ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem.

SECOND LESSON

■ 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we shall also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

GOSPEL

■ Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem he (*Jesus*) was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samar-

itan. ¹⁷ Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?" ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to

God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 32:22-30*

The same night he (*Jacob*) arose and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and Jacob's thigh was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then he said, "Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Tell me, I pray, your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Timothy 3:14-4:5*

As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ

Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

¹ I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 18:1-8a*

He (*Jesus*) told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; ³ and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Vindicate me against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And

will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay

long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily.”

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Deuteronomy 10:12-22*

Moses said to all Israel, ¹² “Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I command you this day for your good? ¹⁴ Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it; ¹⁵ yet the LORD set his heart in love upon your fathers and chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as at this day. ¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve him and cleave to him, and by his name you shall swear. ²¹ He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and terrible things which your eyes have seen. ²² Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons; and now the LORD your God has made you as the stars of heaven for multitude.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18*

I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure

has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. . . .

¹⁶ At my first defense no one took my part; all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the message fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 18:9-14*

He (*Jesus*) also told this parable to those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 34:5-9*

The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him (*Moses*) there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸ And Moses made haste to bow his head toward the earth, and worshiped. ⁹ And he said, "If now I have found favor in thy sight, O Lord, let the Lord, I pray thee, go in the midst of us, although it is a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thy inheritance."

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren, as is fitting, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast of you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions which you are enduring.

⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be made worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. . . . ¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfil every good resolve and work of faith by his power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 19:1-10*

He (*Jesus*) entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. ³ And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Chronicles 29:10-13*

Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed art thou, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. ¹¹ Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from thee, and thou rulest over all. In thy hand are power and might; and in thy hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³ And now we thank thee, our God, and praise thy glorious name."

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5*

We are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

¹ Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed on and

triumph, as it did among you, ² and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men; for not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from evil. ⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things which we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 20:27-38*

There came to him (*Jesus*) some Sadducees, those who say that there is no resurrection, ²⁸ and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the wife and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and died without children; ³⁰ and the second ³¹ and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. ³² Afterward the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife."

³⁴ And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵ but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶ for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷ But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to him."

 Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Malachi 4:1-2a*

Behold, the day comes, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings."

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Thessalonians 3:6-13*

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ we did not eat any one's bread without paying, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ It was not because we have not that right, but to give you in our conduct an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: If any one will not work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work in quietness and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brethren, do not be weary in well-doing.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 21:5-19*

As some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he (*Jesus*) said, ⁶ "As for these things which you see, the days will come when there shall not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." ⁷ And they asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign when this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Take heed that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. ⁹ And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified; for this must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. ¹³ This will be a time for you to bear testimony. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some of you they will put to death; ¹⁷ you will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives."

 Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 52:1-6*

Awake, awake,
 put on your strength, O Zion;
 put on your beautiful garments,
 O Jerusalem, the holy city;
 for there shall no more come into
 you
 the uncircumcised and the unclean.
² Shake yourself from the dust, arise,
 O captive Jerusalem;
 loose the bonds from your neck,
 O captive daughter of Zion.

³ For thus says the LORD: "You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money. ⁴ For thus says the Lord GOD: My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing. ⁵ Now therefore what have I here, says the LORD, seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail, says the LORD, and continually all the day my name is despised. ⁶ Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 15:54-58*

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "O death, where is thy victory?"

O death, where is thy sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing

that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 19:11-27*

As they heard these things, he (*Jesus*) proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. ¹² He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive a kingdom and then return. ¹³ Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten pounds, and said to them, 'Trade with these till I come.' ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent an embassy after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' ¹⁵ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by trading. ¹⁶ The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made ten pounds more.' ¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸ And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made five pounds.' ¹⁹ And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' ²⁰ Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your pound, which I kept laid away in a napkin; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man; you take up what you did not lay down, and reap what you did not sow.' ²² He said to him, 'I will condemn you out of your own mouth, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow?' ²³ Why then did you not put my money into the bank, and at my coming

I should have collected it with interest?’
²⁴ And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the pound from him, and give it to him who has the ten pounds.’²⁵ (And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten pounds!’)²⁶ ‘I tell you, that to every one

who has will more be given; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.’²⁷ But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them before me.’”

Christ the King

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 23:2-6*

Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.
³ Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.
⁴ I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Colossians 1:13-20*

He (*the Father*) has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God,

the first-born of all creation;¹⁶ for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.¹⁹ For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 23:35-43*

The people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him (*Jesus*), saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar,³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”

⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me

when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Lesser Festivals

St. Andrew, Apostle

NOVEMBER 30

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 3:16-21*

At the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁷ “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ¹⁸ If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. ¹⁹ But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you will have saved your life. ²⁰ Again, if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you have not warned him, he shall die for his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. ²¹ Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man not to sin, and he does

not sin, he shall surely live, because he took warning; and you will have saved your life.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 10:10-18*

Man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. ¹³ For, “every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how can man preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷ So faith

comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.

¹⁸ But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for

“Their voice has gone out to all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world.”

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:35-42*

The next day again John (*the Baptist*) was standing with two of his disciples; ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say

this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, “What do you seek?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, “So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

St. Thomas, Apostle

DECEMBER 21

FIRST LESSON

■ *Judges 6:36-40*

Then Gideon said to God, “If thou wilt deliver Israel by my hand, as thou hast said, ³⁷ behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that thou wilt deliver Israel by my hand, as thou hast said.” ³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, “Let not thy anger burn against me, let me speak but this once; pray, let me make trial only this once with the fleece; pray, let it be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew.” ⁴⁰ And God did so that night; for it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 4:11-16*

His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily

growth and upbuilds itself in love.

GOSPEL

■ *John 14:1-7*

Jesus said to them, ¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come

again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him."

St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

DECEMBER 26

FIRST LESSON

■ *2 Chronicles 24:17-22*

Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and did obeisance to the king; then the king hearkened to them. ¹⁸ And they forsook the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their guilt. ¹⁹ Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD; these testified against them, but they would not give heed.

²⁰ Then the Spirit of God took possession of Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'" ²¹ But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD. ²² Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60*

And Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹ Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹² And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, ¹³ and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." ¹⁵ And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

¹ And the high priest said, "Is this so?"

² And Stephen said: . . .

⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶ and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And he knelt down

and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 23:34-39*

Jesus said to them, ³⁴ “Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, ³⁵ that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶ Truly, I say to you, all this will come upon this generation.

³⁷ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁸ Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

DECEMBER 27

FIRST LESSON

■ *Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called

Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. . . .

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful

and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 John 1:1—2:2*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we

have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹ My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL

■ *John 21:20-25*

Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, who had lain close to his breast at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” ²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” ²² Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!” ²³ The saying spread abroad among the brethren that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”

²⁴ This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

DECEMBER 28

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 31:15-17*

Thus says the LORD:
 “A voice is heard in Ramah,
 lamentation and bitter weeping.
 Rachel is weeping for her children;
 she refuses to be comforted for her
 children,
 because they are not.”

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD:

“Keep your voice from weeping,
 and your eyes from tears;
 for your work shall be rewarded, says
 the LORD,
 and they shall come back from the
 land of the enemy.

¹⁷ There is hope for your future, says
 the LORD,
 and your children shall come back to
 their own country.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Peter 4:12-19*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the
 fiery ordeal which comes upon you
 to prove you, as though something
 strange were happening to you. ¹³ But
 rejoice in so far as you share Christ’s
 sufferings, that you may also rejoice
 and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If
 you are reproached for the name of
 Christ, you are blessed, because the
 spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a mur-
 derer, or a thief, or a wrong-doer, or a
 mischief-maker; ¹⁶ yet if one suffers as a
 Christian, let him not be ashamed, but
 under that name let him glorify God.
¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment to
 begin with the household of God; and if

it begins with us, what will be the end of
 those who do not obey the gospel of
 God? ¹⁸ And

“If the righteous man is scarcely
 saved,
 where will the impious and sinner
 appear?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer accord-
 ing to God’s will do right and entrust
 their souls to a faithful Creator.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 2:13-18*

Now when they (*the Wise Men*) had
 departed, behold, an angel of the
 Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and
 said, “Rise, take the child and his
 mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain
 there till I tell you; for Herod is about to
 search for the child, to destroy him.”
¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his
 mother by night, and departed to Egypt,
¹⁵ and remained there until the death of
 Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord
 had spoken by the prophet, “Out of
 Egypt have I called my son.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he
 had been tricked by the wise men, was
 in a furious rage, and he sent and killed
 all the male children in Bethlehem and
 in all that region who were two years old
 or under, according to the time which he
 had ascertained from the wise men.
¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by
 the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
 wailing and loud lamentation,
 Rachel weeping for her children;
 she refused to be consoled,
 because they were no more.”

The Name of Jesus

JANUARY 1

FIRST LESSON

■ *Numbers 6:22-27*

The LORD said to Moses, ²³ “Say to Aaron and his sons, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you:

²⁵ The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:

²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

²⁷ “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

among all the nations, ⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;

⁷ To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Or Philippians 2:9-13

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 2:21*

At the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 1:1-7*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name

The Confession of St. Peter

JANUARY 18

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 4:8-13*

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed

done to a cripple, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This

**Optional Second Lesson follows.*

is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the head of the corner. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 10:1-5*

I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same supernatural food ⁴ and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless with most of them God was not

pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 16:13-19*

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

The Conversion of St. Paul

JANUARY 25

FIRST LESSON

■ *Acts 9:1-22*

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. ⁴ And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom

you are persecuting; ⁶ but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul arose from the ground; and when his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called

Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying,¹² and he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to thy saints at Jerusalem;¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon thy name.”¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized,¹⁹ and took food and was strengthened.

For several days he was with the disciples at Damascus.²⁰ And in the synagogues immediately he proclaimed Jesus, saying, “He is the Son of God.”²¹ And all who heard him were amazed, and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called on this name? And he has come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests.”²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Galatians 1:11-24*

I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man’s gospel.¹² For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it,

but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it;¹⁴ and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.¹⁵ But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace,¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood,¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days.¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother.²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.²² And I was still not known by sight to the churches of Christ in Judea;²³ they only heard it said, “He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.”²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 21:10-19*

Then he (*Jesus*) said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;¹¹ there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake.¹³ This will be a time for you to bear testimony.¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer;¹⁵ for I will

give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some

of you they will put to death; ¹⁷ you will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives."

The Presentation of Our Lord

FEBRUARY 2

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Samuel 1:21-28*

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. ²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and abide there for ever." ²³ Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. ²⁴ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine; and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slew the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me my petition which I made to him. ²⁸ Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD."

And they worshiped the LORD there.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Hebrews 2:14-18*

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he (*Jesus*) himself

likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. ¹⁶ For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 2:22-40*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they (*Mary and Joseph*) brought him (*Jesus*) up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And in-

spired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;
³⁰ for mine eyes have seen thy salvation
³¹ which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to thy people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; ³⁴ and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

"Behold, this child is set for the fall
and rising of many in Israel,
and for a sign that is spoken against
³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your

own soul also),
that thoughts out of many hearts
may be revealed."

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanu-el, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, ³⁷ and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

St. Matthias, Apostle

FEBRUARY 24

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 66:1-2*

Thus says the LORD:
"Heaven is my throne and the
earth is my footstool;
what is the house which you would
build for me,
and what is the place of my rest?
² All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things are mine, says
the LORD.
But this is the man to whom I will look,
he that is humble and contrite in
spirit,
and trembles at my word."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 1:15-26*

In those days Peter stood up among the brethren (the company of persons

was in all about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ "Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David, concerning Judas who was guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us, and was allotted his share in this ministry. ¹⁸ (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'Let his habitation become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it';
and

‘His office let another take.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two thou hast chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and

he was enrolled with the eleven apostles.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 6:12-16*

In these days he (*Jesus*) went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. ¹³ And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles; ¹⁴ Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵ and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

The Annunciation of Our Lord

MARCH 25

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10c*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel;” . . . for God is with us.

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Timothy 3:16*

Great indeed, we confess, is the
mystery of our religion;
He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated in the Spirit,
seen by angels,
preached among the nations,

believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him

the throne of his father David,
³³ and he will reign over the house of
 Jacob for ever;
 and of his kingdom there will be no
 end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How
 shall this be, since I have no husband?”

³⁵ And the angel said to her,
 “The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
 and the power of the Most High will
 overshadow you;

therefore the child to be born will be
 called holy,
 the Son of God.

³⁶ And behold, your kinswoman
 Elizabeth in her old age has also con-
 ceived a son; and this is the sixth month
 with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For
 with God nothing will be impossible.”

³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the
 handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me
 according to your word.” And the an-
 gel departed from her.

St. Mark, Evangelist

APRIL 25

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of him who brings
 good tidings,
 who publishes peace, who brings good
 tidings of good,
 who publishes salvation,
 who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸ Hark, your watchmen lift up their
 voice,

together they sing for joy;
 for eye to eye they see
 the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth together into singing,
 you waste places of Jerusalem;
 for the LORD has comforted his
 people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations;
 and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Timothy 4:6-11, 18*

I am already on the point of being
 sacrificed; the time of my departure
 has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight,
 I have finished the race, I have kept the

faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for
 me the crown of righteousness, which
 the Lord, the righteous judge, will
 award to me on that Day, and not only to
 me but also to all who have loved his
 appearing.

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon.

¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present
 world, has deserted me and gone to
 Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Ga-
 latia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is
 with me. Get Mark and bring him with
 you; for he is very useful in serving
 me. . . . ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from
 every evil and save me for his heavenly
 kingdom. To him be the glory for ever
 and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 1:1-15*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus
 Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the
 prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before
 thy face,

who shall prepare thy way;

³ the voice of one crying in the
 wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight—”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ In those days Jesus came from

Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; ¹¹ and a voice came from heaven, “Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased.”

¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.”

St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

MAY 1

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 30:18-21*

Therefore the LORD waits to be
gracious to you;
therefore he exalts himself to show
mercy to you.

For the LORD is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for
him.

¹⁹ Yea, O people in Zion who dwell at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. ²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹ And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Corinthians 4:1-6*

Therefore, having this ministry by the
mercy of God, we do not lose heart.

² We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing.

⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God. ⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of

the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

GOSPEL

■ *John 14:8-14*

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, “Show us the Father”?¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me?”

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.

¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father.¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; ¹⁴ if you ask anything in my name, I will do it.”

The Visitation

MAY 31

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 11:1-5*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 12:9-16*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;¹⁰ love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.¹¹ Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord.¹² Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 1:39-47*

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah,⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit⁴² and she exclaimed

with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"⁴³ And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?⁴⁴ For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ And

blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."⁴⁶ And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

St. Barnabas, Apostle

JUNE 11

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 42:5-12*

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and
stretched them out,
who spread forth the earth and what
comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ "I am the LORD, I have called you in
righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and
kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the
people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the
dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in
darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to graven images.

⁹ Behold, the former things have come
to pass,

and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them."

¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the end of the earth!
Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the coastlands and their inhabitants.

¹¹ Let the desert and its cities lift up
their voice,
the villages that Kedar inhabits;
let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy,
let them shout from the top of the
mountains.

¹² Let them give glory to the LORD,
and declare his praise in the
coastlands.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3*

Now those who were scattered be-
cause of the persecution that arose
over Stephen traveled as far as
Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch,
speaking the word to none except Jews.

²⁰ But there were some of them, men of
Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to
Antioch spoke to the Greeks also,
preaching the Lord Jesus.

²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a
great number that believed turned to
the Lord. ²² News of this came to the ears
of the church in Jerusalem, and they
sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he
came and saw the grace of God, he was
glad; and he exhorted them all to remain
faithful to the Lord with steadfast pur-
pose; ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the
Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large
company was added to the Lord. ²⁵ So

Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul;

²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians.

²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. ²⁹ And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea; ³⁰ and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul. . . .

‘Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 10:7-16*

Jesus said to them, ⁷ “Preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay. ⁹ Take no gold, nor silver, nor copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor a staff; for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it, and stay with him until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, salute it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And if any one will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

¹⁶ “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

JUNE 24

FIRST LESSON

■ *Malachi 3:1-4*

Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

“For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the

sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 13:13-26*

Now Paul and his company set sail from Paphos, and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem; ¹⁴ but they passed on from Perga and came to Antioch of

Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

¹⁵ After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it." ¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

"Men of Israel, and you that fear God, listen. ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸ And for about forty years he bore with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance, for about four hundred and fifty years. ²⁰ And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.

²¹ Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king; of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'

²³ Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴ Before his coming John had preached a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

²⁶ "Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation."

GOSPEL

■ Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]

Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and kinsfolk

heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, [*saying,*

⁶⁸ "*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people,*

⁶⁹ *and has raised up a horn of salvation for us*

⁷⁰ *in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,*

⁷¹ *that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us;*

⁷² *to perform the mercy promised to our fathers,*

⁷³ *and to remember his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to our father Abraham,* ⁷⁴ *to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,*

⁷⁵ *might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.*

⁷⁶ *And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,*
⁷⁷ *to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,*
⁷⁸ *through the tender mercy of our God, when the day shall dawn upon us*

from on high
⁷⁹ *to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”*

⁸⁰ *And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.]*

St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

JUNE 29

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 34:11-16*

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the fountains, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and upon the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on fat pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 3:16-23*

Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If any one destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and that temple you are.

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If any one among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” ²¹ So let no one boast of men. For all things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours; ²³ and you are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 8:27-35*

Jesus went on with his disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that I am?” ²⁸ And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say,

Elijah; and others one of the prophets.”
²⁹ And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.”³⁰ And he charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter, and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men.”

³⁴ And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

St. Mary Magdalene

JULY 22

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ruth 1:6-18*°

Then she (*Naomi*) started with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food.⁷ So she set out from the place where she was, with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.⁹ The LORD grant that you may find a home, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.¹⁰ And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.”¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons,¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown?

Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me.”¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God;¹⁷ where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if even death parts me from you.”¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Or Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and took to wife a daughter of Levi.² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.³ And when she could hide him no longer she took for him a basket made of

°Optional First Lesson follows.

bulrushes, and daubed it with bitumen and pitch; and she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds at the river's brink.⁴ And his sister stood at a distance, to know what would be done to him.⁵ Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, and her maidens walked beside the river; she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to fetch it.⁶ When she opened it she saw the child; and lo, the babe was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother.⁹ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away, and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son; and she named him Moses, for she said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 13:26-33a*

Paul spoke,²⁶ "Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning him.²⁸ Though they could charge him with nothing deserving death, yet they asked Pilate to have him killed.²⁹ And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb.³⁰ But God raised him from the dead;³¹ and for many days he appeared to

those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.³² And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus."

GOSPEL

■ *John 20:1-2, 11-18*

Now on the first day of the week Mary, Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.² So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." . . .

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb;¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."¹⁴ Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" 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."¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rab-boni!" (which means Teacher).¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

St. James the Elder, Apostle

JULY 25

FIRST LESSON

■ *1 Kings 19:9-18*

There he (*Elijah*) came to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"¹⁰ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."¹¹ And he said, "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"¹⁴ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria;¹⁶ and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.¹⁷ And him who escapes from the sword

of Hazael shall Jehu slay; and him who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay."¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Acts 11:27-12:3a*

Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius.²⁹ And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea;³⁰ and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

¹ About that time Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church.² He killed James the brother of John with the sword;³ and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

GOSPEL

■ *Mark 10:35-45*

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him (*Jesus*), and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."³⁶ And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?"³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"³⁹ And they said

to him, "We are able." And 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;⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John.⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them,

"You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.⁴³ But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant,⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.⁴⁵ For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

AUGUST 15

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 61:7-11*

Instead of your shame you shall have a double portion,
instead of dishonor you shall rejoice
in your lot;
therefore in your land you shall possess
a double portion;
yours shall be everlasting joy.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their
recompense,
and I will make an everlasting
covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known
among the nations,
and their offspring in the midst of
the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
them,
that they are a people whom the
LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my soul 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.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its
shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown
in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause
righteousness and praise
to spring forth before all the nations.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Galatians 4:4-7*

When the time had fully come, God
sent forth his Son, born of woman,
born under the law,⁵ to redeem those
who were under the law, so that we
might receive adoption as sons.⁶ And
because you are sons, God has sent the
Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
"Abba! Father!"⁷ So through God you
are no longer a slave but a son, and if a
son then an heir.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 1:46-55*

Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has regarded the low estate of
his handmaiden.
For behold, henceforth all
generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,
⁵² he has put down the mighty from

their thrones,
and exalted those of low degree;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

AUGUST 24

FIRST LESSON

■ *Exodus 19:1-6*

On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² And when they set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain. ³ And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 12:27-31a*

You are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers,

then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

GOSPEL

■ *John 1:43-51*

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the

fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.”⁵¹ And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you,

you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

Holy Cross Day

SEPTEMBER 14

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 45:21-25*

Declare and present your case;
let them take counsel together!

Who told this long ago?

Who declared it of old?

Was it not I, the LORD?

And there is no other god besides
me,

a righteous God and a Savior;
there is none besides me.

²²“Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!

For I am God, and there is no other.

²³ By myself I have sworn,
from my mouth has gone forth in
righteousness

a word that shall not return:

‘To me every knee shall bow, every
tongue shall swear.’

²⁴ “Only in the LORD, it shall be said
of me,

are righteousness and strength;
to him shall come and be ashamed,
all who were incensed against him.

²⁵ In the LORD all the offspring of
Israel shall triumph and glory.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 Corinthians 1:18-24*

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

GOSPEL

■ *John 12:20-33*

Among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip and they told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save me from

this hour? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify thy name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; ³² and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." ³³ He said this to show by what death he was to die.

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

SEPTEMBER 21

FIRST LESSON

■ *Ezekiel 2:8—3:11*

The Lord God said, "But you, son of man, hear what I say to you; be not rebellious like that rebellious house: open your mouth, and eat what I give you." ⁹ And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and, lo, a written scroll was in it; ¹⁰ and he spread it before me; and it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe. ¹ And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it: and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

⁴ And he said to me, "Son of man, go, get you to the house of Israel, and speak with my words to them. ⁵ For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel—⁶ not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. ⁷ But the house of Israel will not listen to you; for they are not willing to listen to me; because all the house of Israel are of a hard forehead and of a stubborn

heart. ⁸ Behold, I have made your face hard against their faces, and your forehead hard against their foreheads. ⁹ Like adamant harder than flint have I made your forehead; fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house." ¹⁰ Moreover he said to me, "Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. ¹¹ And go, get you to the exiles, to your people, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God'; whether they hear or refuse to hear."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Ephesians 2:4-10*

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷ that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—⁹ not because of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 9:9-13*

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his

disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

St. Michael and All Angels

SEPTEMBER 29

FIRST LESSON

■ *Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3*

Behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ And he (*the angel*) said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, give heed to the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling. ¹² Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. ¹³ The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, so I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia ¹⁴ and came to make you understand what is to befall your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come." . . .

¹ "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. ² And many of those

who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."

SECOND LESSON

■ *Revelation 12:7-12*

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto

death.¹² Rejoice then, O heaven and you that dwell therein! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 10:17-20*

The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are

subject to us in your name!”¹⁸ And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you.²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

St. Luke, Evangelist

OCTOBER 18

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 43:8-13*^o

Bring forth the people who are blind,
yet have eyes,
who are deaf, yet have ears!

⁹ Let all the nations gather together,
and let the peoples assemble.
Who among them can declare this,
and show us the former things?
Let them bring their witnesses to
justify them,
and let them hear and say, It is true.

¹⁰ “You are my witnesses,” says the
LORD,
“and my servant whom I have
chosen,
that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am He.
Before me no god was formed, nor
shall there be any after me.

¹¹ I, I am the LORD, and besides me
there is no savior.

¹² I declared and saved and
proclaimed,
when there was no strange god
among you;
and you are my witnesses,” says the
LORD.

¹³ “I am God, and also henceforth I am
He;

there is none who can deliver from
my hand;
I work and who can hinder it?”

Or Isaiah 35:5-8

Then the eyes of the blind shall be
opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a
hart,
and the tongue of the dumb sing for
joy.

For waters shall break forth in the
wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of
water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a
swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and
rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not pass over it,
and fools shall not err therein.

SECOND LESSON

■ *2 Timothy 4:5-11*

As for you, always be steady, endure
suffering, do the work of an evangelist,
fulfil your ministry.

^oOptional First Lesson follows.

⁶ For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you; for he is very useful in serving me.

GOSPEL

■ *Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53*

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, ² just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you,

most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. . . .

⁴⁴ Then he (*Jesus*) said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

OCTOBER 28

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 26:[1-6] 7-16*

In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD, ² "Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah which come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. ³ It may be they will listen, and every one

turn from his evil way, that I may repent of the evil which I intend to do to them because of their evil doings. ⁴ You shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law which I have set before you, ⁵ and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not heeded, ⁶ then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.'"]

⁷ The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. ⁸ And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die!" ⁹ Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, "This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?" And all the people gathered about Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰ When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. ¹¹ Then the priests and the prophets said to the princes and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

¹² Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³ Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will repent of the evil which he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴ But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵ Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

¹⁶ Then the princes and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not deserve the sentence of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God."

SECOND LESSON

■ *1 John 4:1-6*

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist, of which you heard that it was coming, and now it is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are of God, and have overcome them; for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world, therefore what they say is of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and he who is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

GOSPEL

■ *John 14:21-27*

Jesus said to them, ²¹ "He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I

give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Reformation Day

OCTOBER 31

FIRST LESSON

■ *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant which 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 upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘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 I will remember their sin no more.”

SECOND LESSON

■ *Romans 3:19-28*

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human being will be justified in his sight by works of the law, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, ²² the righteousness of God

through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On the principle of works? No, but on the principle of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law.

GOSPEL

■ *John 8:31-36*

Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to any one. How is it that you say, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, every one who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not continue in the house for ever; the son continues for ever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

All Saints' Day

NOVEMBER 1

FIRST LESSON

■ *Isaiah 26:1-4, 8-9, 12-13, 19-21*

In that day this song will be sung in
the land of Judah:

“We have a strong city;
he sets up salvation as walls and
bulwarks.

² Open the gates,
that the righteous nation which
keeps faith may enter in.

³ Thou dost keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee,
because he trusts in thee.

⁴ Trust in the LORD for ever,
for the LORD GOD
is an everlasting rock. . . .”

⁸ In the path of thy judgments,
O LORD, we wait for thee;
thy memorial name
is the desire of our soul.

⁹ My soul yearns for thee in the night,
my spirit within me earnestly seeks
thee.

For when thy judgments are in the
earth,
the inhabitants of the world learn
righteousness. . . .

¹² O LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for
us,
thou hast wrought for us all our
works.

¹³ O LORD our God,
other lords besides thee have ruled
over us,
but thy name alone we
acknowledge. . . .

¹⁹ Thy dead shall live, their bodies shall
rise.

O dwellers in the dust, awake and
sing for joy!

For thy dew is a dew of light,
and on the land of the shades thou
wilt let it fall.

²⁰ Come, my people, enter your
chambers,
and shut your doors behind you;
hide yourselves for a little while until
the wrath is past.

²¹ For behold, the LORD is coming
forth out of his place
to punish the inhabitants of the earth
for their iniquity,
and the earth will disclose the blood
shed upon her,
and will no more cover her slain.

SECOND LESSON

■ *Revelation 21:9-11, 22-27 [22:1-5]*

Then came one of the seven angels
who had the seven bowls full of the
seven last plagues, and spoke to me, say-
ing, “Come, I will show you the Bride,
the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ And in the
Spirit he carried me away to a great,
high mountain, and showed me the holy
city Jerusalem coming down out of
heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of
God, its radiance like a most rare jewel,
like a jasper, clear as crystal. . . .

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for
its temple is the Lord God the Almighty
and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no
need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for
the glory of God is its light, and its lamp
is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light shall the na-
tions walk; and the kings of the earth
shall bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its
gates shall never be shut by day—and
there shall be no night there; ²⁶ they shall
bring into it the glory and the honor of
the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean shall
enter it, nor any one who practices
abomination or falsehood, but only
those who are written in the Lamb’s
book of life.

[¹ Then he showed me the river of the

water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ There shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall worship him; ⁴ they shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever.]

GOSPEL

■ *Matthew 5:1-12*

Seeing the crowds, he (*Jesus*) went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him.² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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