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## **READINGS SELECTION**

The First Reading from the Old Testament

Section "A"

Dn 12, 1-3

## A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

“At that time there shall arise  
Michael, the great prince,  
guardian of your people;  
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress  
since nations began until that time.  
At that time your people shall escape,  
everyone who is found written in the book.  
Many of those who sleep  
in the dust of the earth shall awake;  
Some shall live forever,  
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.  
But the wise shall shine brightly  
like the splendor of the firmament,  
And those who lead the many to justice  
shall be like the stars forever.”

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
But they are in peace.  
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.  
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.  
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;  
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the Lord shall be their King forever.  
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Is 25, 6. 7-9

## A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts  
will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,  
The web that is woven over all nations;  
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!  
this is the Lord for whom we looked;  
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

1 Kings 2:1

## A reading from the first book of Kings

As the time of King David's death approached, he gave this charge to his son Solomon:

"I am going where every man on earth must some day go. I am counting on you to be a strong and worthy successor.

Obey the laws of God and follow all his ways; keep each of his commands written in the law of Moses so that you will prosper in everything you do, wherever you turn.

If you do this, then the Lord will fulfill the promise he gave me, that if my children and their descendants watch their step and are faithful to God, one of them shall always be the king of Israel – my dynasty will never end."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every affair under the heavens;  
A time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to tear down, and a time to build.  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.  
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;  
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from  
embraces.  
A time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.  
A time to rend, and a time to sew;  
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.  
A time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time of war, and a time of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven:

A time for giving birth,  
a time for dying;  
a time for planting,  
a time for uprooting what has been planted.

A time for killing,  
a time for healing;  
a time for knocking down,  
a time for building.

A time for tears,  
a time for laughter;  
a time for mourning,  
a time for dancing.

A time for throwing stones away,  
a time for gathering them up;  
a time for embracing,  
a time to refrain from embracing.

A time for searching,  
a time for losing;  
a time for keeping,  
a time for throwing away.

A time for tearing,  
a time for sewing;  
a time for keeping silent,  
a time for speaking.

A time for loving,  
a time for hating;  
a time for war,  
a time for peace.

What does a man gain for the efforts that he makes? I contemplate the task that God gives mankind to labor at. All that he does is apt for its time; but though he has permitted man to consider time in its wholeness, man cannot comprehend the work of God from beginning to end. I know there is no happiness for man except in pleasure and enjoyment while he lives. And when man eats and drinks and finds happiness in his work, this is a gift from God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

The Lord sets a father in honor over his children;  
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.  
He who honors his father atones for sins;  
he stores up riches who reveres his mother.  
He who honors his father is gladdened by children;  
and when he prays he is heard.  
He who reveres his father will live a long life;  
he obeys the Lord who brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old;  
grieve him not as long as he lives.  
Even if his mind fails, be considerate with him;  
revile him not in the fullness of your strength.  
For kindness to a father will not be forgotten,  
it will serve as a sin offering – it will take lasting root.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sirach 26:1-4, 16-21

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

Happy the husband of a really good wife;  
the number of his days will be doubled.

A perfect wife is the joy of the husband,  
he will live out the years of his life in peace.

A good wife is the best of portions,  
reserved for those who fear the Lord;  
rich or poor, they will be glad of heart,  
cheerful of face, whatever the season.

The grace of a wife will charm her husband,  
her accomplishments will make him the stronger.

A silent wife is a gift from the Lord,  
no price can be put on a well-trained character.

A modest wife is a boon twice over,  
a chaste character cannot be weighted on scales.

Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord  
is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

The word of the LORD came to me thus:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I dedicated you,  
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

“Ah, Lord God!” I said,  
“I know not how to speak; I am too young.”

But the LORD answered me,

Say not, “I am too young.”

To whomever I send you, you shall go;  
whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Have no fear before them,  
because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Then the LORD extended his hand and  
touched my mouth, saying,

See I place my words in your mouth!  
This day I set you  
over nations and over kingdoms.

To root up and to tear down,  
to destroy and to demolish,  
to build and to plant.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,

and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him,

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## READINGS SELECTION

The Psalm  
(Sung or Read)

Section "B"

Ps 27, 1.4.7.8.9. 13-14

*The Responsorial Psalm is:*

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?

The Lord is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?

**R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

One thing I ask of the Lord;  
this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord  
and contemplate his temple.

**R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;  
have pity on me, and answer me.

Your presence, O Lord, I seek.  
hide not your face from me.

**R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

**R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

*The Responsorial Psalm is:*

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

**R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

**R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
for years to come.

**R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Ps. 145:8-9, 10 and 15, 17-18

*The Responsorial Psalm is:*

The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

**R/. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.

**R/. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.**

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,  
and let your faithful ones bless you.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you  
and you give them their food in due season.

**R/. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.**

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and holy in all his works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.

**R/. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.**

*The Responsorial Psalm is:*

Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.

**R/. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.**

Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;

Serve the Lord with gladness;

Come before him with joyful song.

**R/. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.**

Know that the Lord is God;

He made us, his we are;

His people, the flock he tends.

**R/. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.**

Enter his gates with Thanksgiving;

His courts with praise;

Give thanks to him; bless his name, for he is good:

The Lord, whose kindness endures forever,

And his faithfulness, to all generations.

**R/. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.**

Ps. 33:12 and 18, 20-21, 22

*The Responsorial Psalm is:*

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

**R/. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

But see, the eyes of the Lord are upon

those who fear him,

upon those who hope for his kindness.

**R/. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

Our soul waits for the Lord,  
who is our help and our shield,

For in him our hearts rejoice;

in his holy name we trust.

**R/. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us  
who have put our hope in you.

**R/. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

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## READINGS SELECTION

The Second Reading from the New Testament

Section "C"

## A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO TIMOTHY

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching. The time is sure to come when, far from being content with sound teaching, people will be avid for the latest novelty and collect themselves a whole series of teachers according to their own tastes; and then, instead of listening to the truth, they will turn to myths. Be careful always to choose the right course; be brave under trials; make the preaching of the Good News your life's work, in thoroughgoing service.

As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE PHILLIPPIANS

So then, my dear friends, continue to do as I tell you, as you always have; not only as you did when I was there with you, but even more now that I am no longer there; and work for your salvation ‘in fear and trembling’. It is God, for his own loving purpose, who puts both the will and the action into you. Do all that has to be done without complaining or arguing and then you will be innocent and genuine, *perfect children of God among a deceitful and underhanded brood*, and you will shine in the world like bright stars because you are offering it the word of life. This would give me something to be proud of for the Day of Christ and would mean that I had not run in the race and exhausted myself for nothing. And then, if my blood has to be shed as part of your own sacrifice and offering – which is your faith – I shall still be happy and rejoice with all of you, and you must be just as happy and rejoice with me.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

2 Cor 5, 1. 6-10

## A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

We know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling in the heavens, not made by hands but to last forever.

Therefore, we continue to be confident. We know that while we dwell in the body we are away from the Lord. We walk by faith, not by sight. I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. This being so, we make it our aim to please him whether we are with him or away from him. The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad, according to his life in the body.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Phil 3, 20-21

## A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE PHILLIPPIANS

We have our citizenship in heaven; it is from there that we eagerly await the coming of our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body, by his power to subject everything to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Romans 13:4

## A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behavior of the world around you, but let your behavior change, modeled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

In the light of the grace I have received I want to urge each one among you not to exaggerate his real importance. Each of you must judge himself soberly by the standard of the faith God has given him. Just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part has a separate function, so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body, and as parts of it we belong to each other. Our gifts differ according to the grace given us. If your gift is prophecy, then use it as your faith suggests; if administration, then use it for administration; if teaching, then use it for teaching. Let the preachers deliver sermons, the almsgivers give freely, the officials be diligent, and those who do works of mercy do them cheerfully.

Do not let your love be a pretense, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care.

Bless those who persecute you: never curse them, bless them. Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow. Treat everyone with equal kindness; never be condescending but make real friends with the poor. Do not allow yourself to become self-satisfied. Never repay evil with evil but let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone. Never try to get revenge; leave that, my friends, to God's anger. As scripture says: *Vengeance is mine – I will pay them back*, the Lord promises. But there is more: *If your enemy is hungry, you would give him food, and if he is thirsty, let him drink. Thus you heap re-hot coals on his head.* Resist evil and conquer it with good.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE ROMANS  
(LONGER FORM)

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection. This we know: our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A man who is dead has been freed from sin. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over him.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE ROMANS  
(SHORTER FORM)

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over him.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Rom 14, 7-9. 10-12

## A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE ROMANS

None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master. While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die we die as his servants. Both in life and in death we are the Lord's. That is why Christ died and came to life again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. We shall all have to appear before the judgment seat of God. It is written, "As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me and every tongue shall give praise to God."

Every one of us will have to give an account of himself before God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE PHILLIPPIANS

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Col 3: 12-17

## A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

You are God's chosen race, his saints: he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.

And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Now that we have been justified by faith,  
we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have gained access by faith  
to the grace in which we now stand,  
and we boast of our hope for the glory of God.

But not only that – we even boast of our afflictions!  
We know that affliction makes for endurance,  
and endurance for tested virtue,  
and tested virtue for hope.

And this hope will not leave us disappointed,  
because the love of God has been poured out  
in our hearts through the Holy Spirit  
who has been given to us.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, is not pompous,

it is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interest,

it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not  
rejoice over wrongdoing

but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF SAINT JOHN

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.

But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, therefore I spoke,” we too believe and therefore speak, knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Cor 15: 51-57*

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

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.  
Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## READINGS SELECTION

The Gospel

Section "D"

✝ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

**(He built his house on rock.)**

Jesus said to his disciples: “None of those who cry out, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of God but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.”

“Anyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like the wise man who built his house on rock. When the rainy season set in, the torrents came and the winds blew and buffeted his house. It did not collapse; it had been solidly set on rock. Anyone who hears my words but does not put them into practice is like the foolish man who built his house on sandy ground. The rains fell, the torrents came, the winds blew and lashed against his house. It collapsed under all this and was completely ruined.”

Jesus finished this discourse and left the crowds spellbound at his teaching. The reason was that he taught with authority and not like the scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

(Jesus walks on the water.)

Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it.

Between three and six o'clock in the morning Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said and screamed with fear.

Jesus spoke to them at once. "Courage!" he said. "It is I. Don't be afraid!"

Then Peter spoke up. "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you."

"Come!" answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. "Save me, Lord!" he cried.

At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, "What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?"

They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. "Truly you are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

*(Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.)*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside. After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them:

“How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.

Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness;  
they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are the single-hearted, for they shall see God.

Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God.

Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.

Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Mt 5, 13-16*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

*(You are the light of the world.)*

Jesus said to his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt goes flat? How can you restore its flavor? Then it is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Men do not light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket. They set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Mt 25, 31-46*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

*(Come, you whom my Father has blessed.)*

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will separate them into two groups, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The sheep he will place on his right hand, the goats on his left. The king will say to those on his right: 'Come. You have my Father's blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. 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, naked and you clothed me. I was ill, and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the just will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we welcome you away from home or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?' The king will answer them: 'I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus told his disciples:

“The hour has come  
for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I solemnly assure you,  
unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies,  
it remains just a grain of wheat.

But if it dies,  
it produces much fruit.

The man who loves his life  
loses it,  
while the man who hates his life in this world  
preserves it to life eternal.

If anyone would serve me,  
let him follow me;  
where I am,  
there will my servant be.

Anyone who serves me,  
the Father will honor.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

*(There are many rooms in my Father's house.)*

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Have faith in God

and faith in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places;

otherwise, how could I have told you

that I was going to prepare a place for you?

I am indeed going to prepare a place for you,

and then I shall come back to take you with me,

that where I am you also may be.

You know the way that leads where I go.”

“Lord,” said Thomas, “we do not know where you are going.  
How can we know the way?”

Jesus told him: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no  
one comes to the Father but through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jn 15, 9-17

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

(You are my friends if you do what I command you.)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Live on in my love. You will live in my love if you keep my commandments, even as I have kept my Father’s commandments and live in his love. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

There is no greater love than this:

to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer speak of you as slaves,

for a slave does not know what his master is about.

Instead, I call you friends, since I have made known to you all that I heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me,

it was I who chose you to go forth and to bear fruit.

Your fruit must endure so that all you ask the Father in my name he will give you.

The command I give you is this, that you love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

(Be like men waiting for the arrival of their master.)

Jesus told his disciples: “Let your belts be fastened around your waists and your lamps be burning ready. Be like men awaiting their master’s return from a wedding, so that when he arrives and knocks, you will open for him without delay. It will go well with those servants whom the master finds wide-awake on his return. I tell you, he will put on an apron, seat them at table, and proceed to wait on them. Should he happen to come at midnight or before sunrise and find them prepared, it will go well with them. You know as well as I that if the head of the house knew when the thief was coming he would not let him break into his house. Be on guard, therefore. The Son of Man will come when you least expect him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jn 16: 17

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

*(The disciples' grief will turn to joy.)*

Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more and then after a little while you will see me' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by a little while?" "We don't understand what he is saying."

Jesus saw that his disciples wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them:

"Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more and then after a little while you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you; Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke

**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

(Love for enemies.)

You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your friends, hate your enemies.’ But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! You must be perfect – just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

(Teaching about charity.)

“Make certain you do not perform your religious duties in public so that people will see what you do. If you do these things publicly, you will not have any reward from your Father in heaven.”

“So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.”

(Teaching about prayer.)

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites! They love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. But when you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.”

“When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long. Do not be like them. Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray.

The Gospel of the Lord. **R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

(The healing of a Centurion's servant.)

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth." And Jesus said to the centurion, "You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you." And at that very hour his servant was healed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jn 11, 21-27

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

(I am the resurrection and the life.)

When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. The village was not far from Jerusalem – just under two miles – and many Jewish people had come out to console Martha and Mary over their brother. When Mary heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him, while Martha sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would never have died. Even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” “Your brother will rise again,” Jesus assured her. “I know he will rise again,” Martha replied, “in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus told her:

“I am the resurrection and the life:  
whoever believes in me,  
though he should die, will come to life;  
and whoever is alive and believes in me  
will never die.

Do you believe this?” “Yes Lord,” she replied. “I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God: he who is to come into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." [Jesus] said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.

Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Mk 10, 13-16*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Mark  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

*(Jesus loves children)*

People were bringing their little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples were scolding them for this. Jesus became indignant when he noticed it and said to them: “Let the children come to me and do not hinder them. It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I assure you that whoever does not accept the kingdom of God as a little child shall not enter into it.” Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

*(The Parable of the Weeds among the Wheat.)*

He proposed another parable to them. “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

**(Come to me...and I will give you rest.)**

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Lk 12, 22-34*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke  
**R/. Glory to you, Lord.**

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds! Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your lifespan? If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why are you anxious about the rest? Notice how the flowers grow. They do not toil or spin. But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass in the field that grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? As for you, do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry anymore. All the nations of the world seek for these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides. Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**