

Sunday Scriptures for Reading Aloud

encouraging more confident participation in the public reading of scripture by more readers encouraging a greater appreciation of the public reading of scripture by more hearers

offering all three readings, to establish familiarity with more than 400 key passages of scripture across a three-year cycle, for an investment of just five minutes of the Sunday gathering each week

compatible with thousands of lectionary-based resources in print and online

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by Robert Morgan, Linacre College Oxford

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Sunday Scriptures for Reading Aloud The Complete Three-Year Lectionary

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Preface

SSRA addresses what is surely a central issue in the Sunday worship of all denominations: how much of the lectionary readings is understood by most of the congregations. The gospel readings will be largely familiar and intelligible, and many Old Testament narratives require little beyond the contextualization that some supply and others would find helpful. But the impact of lections from the Old Testament prophets is sometimes limited to their impressive rhetoric at the expense of their religious substance, and the New Testament epistles tend to be heard more for their moral exhortation than their religious message and theological depth.

This new resource aims to reduce the loss, not only by a format on the page which will help readers at church services to deliver the message more clearly, but also by the clarity of a new translation. The short lines on the page will encourage readers to slow down (and speak up, where no electronic help is provided) and hearers to absorb what is being read. The language of the new translation is dignified and recognizably within the familiar linguistic tradition of translations for use in liturgy. An element of paraphrase and rearrangement can clarify without changing the meanings. The editor's consulting different translations and commentaries, and his study of the original texts, ensures that this version is sufficiently accurate, and that nothing of substance is lost. I would want to use it myself and so am happy to recommend its wider use in church, but also at home in preparation for worship. Here too, different English versions of a text enable us to identify ambiguities, and can encourage us to hold different meanings in mind, enriching our reception of a text. In a generation where biblical literacy is in decline, this contribution towards rebuilding deserves to be used. Its producer would agree where the proof of the pudding is to be found, and would echo Isaiah 55: 'Come, all who are thirsty, come to the water ... listen now to the word of the Lord that you may live, says the Lord. Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call on him while he is near. So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth. It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. And you shall go out with joy...'

Robert Morgan Linacre College Oxford February 2025

For ordinary churches on ordinary Sundays

A hush descends. People are on the edge of their seats in anticipation. The public reading of scripture is about to begin. It should be a highlight of the Sunday gathering: the scriptures, read aloud.

The reader should feel confident, focussed on delivering the message, not worrying about long words or complex syntax. The congregation should be eager to hear, not resigned to assuming that the text will be incomprehensible.

And this is where SSRA begins, with a focus always on this one specific context, of ordinary churches, on ordinary Sundays, reaching for the divine.

SSRA aims to encourage more confident participation in the public reading of scripture by more readers, and to encourage a greater appreciation of the public reading of scripture by more hearers.

Each reading will take about 90 seconds, on average. It doesn't ask a lot – and it delivers so much.

The scriptures are right at the heart of the life of the church. And when the church gathers each Sunday morning, the public reading of the scriptures from the lectern can be a highlight of the hour. As each reading is about to begin, the reader should be feeling confident – rather than nervous or inadequate – and people should be on the edge of their seats in anticipation. All of this should be possible in ordinary churches on ordinary Sundays. The scriptures have the content. It just needs a readable text, in a good translation, well laid out on the page. Ideally the text will have been notified – and accessible – in advance. SSRA is a package, in print and online, to help make this possible – in ordinary churches, on ordinary Sundays.

The benefits of a lectionary are many. The selection of texts and verses is not there to limit the use of scripture, but to expand it. A preacher or service-leader can include any text or passage of scripture they wish, but the lectionary helps establish and maintain familiarity with more than 400 key passages of scripture – something that few other approaches to scripture can offer; and all for the investment of just five minutes of the Sunday gathering each week.

Over the last fifty years, churches have tried one, two and four year cycles of readings, but this three-year cycle has now been adopted by virtually every major denomination, with its simple pattern, in each year of the cycle, of a main programme for the year, pausing for the fifteen Sundays of the Easter series, kept in real time from Lent 1 to Trinity Sunday, plus a Christmas series from Advent 1 to the Epiphany. Three readings is not too many – because in the Easter series and the Christmas series, the three work together to develop a theme; and through the main programme for the year, the gospel and epistle readings are continuous from week to week, and the Old Testament reading each Sunday helps illustrate the gospel reading for the day.

This widespread adoption of the three-year lectionary across the world has produced a flourishing ecosystem of thousands of lectionary-based resources over the last fifty years, in print and now online, many published weekly, others with huge archives, others in print and worth using year after year, for sermons, prayers, children's work and more – all assembled around the scriptures for the day, resourcing busy clergy and lay-led congregations, in ordinary local churches on ordinary Sundays, in union with the church throughout the world.

And for busy clergy, and lay-led congregations, SSRA takes all the hard work out of finding, choosing, printing and distributing the Sunday morning scripture readings. A congregation, parish, or benefice that adopts SSRA can refer everyone who needs to know the readings to the ssra.uk website, where they can see the readings for the day, and browse through the readings for the year. The website works on any device with a web browser, including laptops, smartphones, desktops, and tablets. Individual pages can be printed directly from the website as required. Or anyone can have their own copy of the complete lectionary at home in a paperback edition.

SSRA longs to refresh the use of the lectionary where it continues, revive it where it has been lost, and perhaps even introduce it where it has never been known – in ordinary churches, on ordinary Sundays.

Revd Michael Hampson February 2025

The three-year programme of readings

SSRA is based on the same three-year programme of readings as *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL), *Common Worship Principal Service Lectionary* (CW), and *Lectionary for Mass* (LFM), giving access to a vast range of lectionary-based resources, both in print and online, for sermons, prayers, children's work, and more

The main programme of readings runs from 7 January to 26 November

reading through one gospel and a series of epistles each year on a three-year cycle

_	Year A	Gospel Year B	Year C		Year A	Epistle Year B	Year C
1				1	Titus	Ephesians	Hebrews
		John		1 Corinthians	1 Corinthians	1 Corinthians	
		Mark			Romans	2 Corinthians	Galatians
	Matthew		Luke			Ephesians	Colossians
		John					Hebrews
		Mark					Philemon
						James	1 Timothy
					Philippians		2 Timothy
						Hebrews	-
					1 Thessalonians		2 Thessalonians
34		John		34	Ephesians	Revelation	Colossians

Events or parables appearing in more than one gospel may appear only once in the three year cycle

An Old Testament reading each Sunday helps illustrate the gospel reading for the day

Names and numbers for the 34 Sundays of the main programme

SSRA gives the Sundays of the main programme the numbers 1 to 34, with the name 'Ordinary Time', as in LFM This serves to highlight the systematic reading of the gospel and epistles for the year across these 34 Sundays Some lectionaries have different naming and numbering systems for the same 34 Sundays, variously calling them 'Propers', 'after Epiphany', 'before Lent', 'after Trinity', 'before Advent', and 'of the Kingdom' – sometimes with different definitions of Ordinary Time – but despite the different names, with very few exceptions, they are the same Sundays, with the same readings

The main programme pauses for an Easter series, kept each year in real time

from the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (one week before Easter Day) to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (seven weeks after Easter Day) plus five weeks of readings in preparation (called Sundays of Lent) and Trinity Sunday to reflect on it all - a total of fifteen Sundays

The primary theme of Lent is the joyful anticipation of the triumph of Easter and this is reflected in the readings for the season; any penitential theme is secondary

	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel		
Lent 1	Year A fall, Year B floo	d, Year C salvation	Temptations of Jesus in the wilderness		
Lent 2	The faith of	Abraham	The Transfiguration		
Lent 3	Readings from	Salvation in Christ -			
Lent 4	the history of Israel	readings from Saint	Readings from John (and Luke in Year C)		
Lent 5	and the prophets	Paul and Hebrews	,		
Palm Sunday	The Passion of the Lord				
Easter Day		The R	Resurrection		
Easter 2	The Acts		Resurrection appearances including Year A road		
Easter 3	of the Apostles Year A: the early days		to Emmaus, Year B Jerusalem, Year C lakeside		
Easter 4	in Jerusalem	Year A: 1 Peter Year B: 1 John	Good Shepherd Sunday – readings from John 10		
Easter 5	Year B: the emerging inclusion of the gentiles	Vear C: Pevelation	Preparing for Pentecost with Jesus' teachings		
Easter 6	Year C: the ministry		and prayers for the future church – different		
Easter 7	of Saint Paul		sections each year from John 13-17		
Pentecost	Т	he day of Pentecost a	and the gift of the Holy Spirit		
Trinity Sunday	God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit				

Finally a Christmas series runs from 27 November through to 6 January

to include the four Sundays of Advent, the twelve days of Christmas, and the visit of the Magi on 6 January, the Epiphany

The year letter changes on the First Sunday of Advent

the traditional start of the new church year

Weekday readings

Readings are also provided for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day

Working with other lectionary resources

As more and more denominations have adopted what is essentially the same lectionary, each has enriched the range of available material by adding its own variations and additional options. As a result, the various editions of what is essentially the same lectionary are not always 100% compatible.

In selecting from the options and variations on offer, SSRA consistently prioritises the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum.

There is more about compatibility, options and variations on pages 8 and 9.

The SSRA translation

The SSRA translation is unique in having been prepared specifically for reading aloud from the lectern: to be easy on the eye, and on the voice, for the reader, so that the reader can read with confidence; and to be easy on the ear, for the hearer, who should be able to follow the reading, without needing a printed text, even on first hearing.

Verses are occasionally rearranged to make a passage easier to follow when read aloud.

A preacher may wish to refer to a more literal study translation (or indeed the original Greek or Hebrew) when making a word-by-word or line-by-line analysis of the text.

There is more about the SSRA translation on pages 10 and 11.

Compatibility – variations and additional options

As more and more denominations have adopted what is essentially the same lectionary, each has enriched the range of available material by adding its own variations and additional options. As a result, the various editions of the lectionary, and various lectionary resources, can end up being not quite 100% compatible.

As noted on page 7, when selecting from the options and variations on offer, SSRA consistently prioritises the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum.

Gospel readings in Ordinary Time

This is the programme followed by SSRA for the Gospel readings in Ordinary Time

	Year A	Year B	Year C
1	Matthew 3 ¹³⁻¹⁷	<u>John 1²⁹⁻³⁴</u>	Luke 2 ²²⁻⁴⁰
2	Matthew 4 ¹²⁻¹⁷	John 1 ³⁵⁻⁴²	<u>Luke 241-52</u>
3	Matthew 4 ¹⁸⁻²⁵	John 2 ¹⁻¹¹	Luke 4 ¹⁴⁻²¹
4	Matthew 5 ¹⁻¹²	Mark 1 ¹⁴⁻²⁸	Luke 4 ²¹⁻³⁰
5	Matthew 5 ¹³⁻²⁰	Mark 1 ²⁹⁻³⁹	Luke 5 ¹⁻¹¹
6	Matthew 5 ²⁰⁻³⁷	Mark 1 ⁴⁰⁻⁴⁵	Luke 6 ¹⁷⁻²⁶
7	Matthew 5 ³⁸⁻⁴⁸	Mark 2 ¹⁻¹²	Luke 6 ²⁷⁻³⁸
8	Matthew 6 ²⁴⁻³³	Mark 2 ¹⁸⁻²²	Luke 6 ³⁹⁻⁴⁹
9	Matthew 7 ²¹⁻²⁹	Mark 2 ²³ -3 ⁶	Luke 7 ²⁻¹⁰
10	Matthew 99-13	Mark 3 ²⁰⁻³⁵	Luke 7 ¹¹⁻¹⁷
11	Matthew 9 ³⁵ -10 ⁸	Mark 4 ²⁶⁻³⁴	Luke 7 ³⁶⁻⁵⁰
12	Matthew 10 ²⁸⁻³¹	Mark 4 ³⁵⁻⁴¹	<u>Luke 8^{1-3,26-39}</u>
13	Matthew 10 ³⁴⁻⁴²	Mark 5 ²¹⁻⁴³	Luke 9 ⁵¹⁻⁶²
14	Matthew 11 ^{18-19,25-30}	Mark 6 ¹⁻⁶	Luke 10 ^{1-11,17-20,23-24}
15	Matthew 13 ^{1-8,18-23}	Mark 6 ⁷⁻¹³	Luke 10 ²⁵⁻³⁷
16	Matthew 13 ²⁴⁻³⁰	Mark 6 ³⁰⁻³⁴	Luke 10 ³⁸⁻⁴²
17	Matthew 13 ^{31-33,44-46}	John 6 ¹⁻²¹	Luke 11 ¹⁻¹³
18	Matthew 14 ¹³⁻²¹	John 6 ²²⁻³⁵	Luke 12 ¹³⁻²¹
19	Matthew 14 ²²⁻³³	John 6 ⁴¹⁻⁵¹	Luke 12 ²²⁻³⁶
20	Matthew 15 ²¹⁻²⁸	John 6 ⁵¹⁻⁵⁸	Luke 12 ⁴⁹⁻⁵⁶
21	Matthew 16 ¹³⁻²⁰	John 6 ⁶⁰⁻⁶⁹	Luke 13 ¹⁰⁻¹⁷
22	Matthew 16 ²¹⁻²⁶	Mark 7 ^{1-8, 14-15, 21-23}	Luke 14 ^{1,7-14}
23	Matthew 18 ¹⁵⁻²⁰	Mark 7 ²⁴⁻³⁷	Luke 14 ²⁵⁻³³
24	Matthew 18 ²¹⁻³⁵	Mark 8 ²⁷⁻³⁶	Luke 15 ¹⁻¹⁰
25	Matthew 20 ¹⁻¹⁶	Mark 9 ³⁰⁻³⁷	Luke 16 ¹⁻¹³
26	Matthew 21 ²³⁻³²	Mark 9 ³⁸⁻⁵⁰	Luke 16 ^{13b-15,19-31}
27	Matthew 21 ^{33-41,43}	Mark 10 ¹³⁻¹⁶	Luke 17 ⁵⁻¹⁰
28	Matthew 22 ¹⁻¹⁴	Mark 10 ¹⁷⁻³¹	Luke 17 ¹¹⁻¹⁹
29	Matthew 22 ¹⁵⁻²²	Mark 10 ³⁵⁻⁴⁵	Luke 18 ^{1-8a}
30	Matthew 22 ³⁵⁻⁴⁰	Mark 10 ^{46b-52}	Luke 18 ⁹⁻¹⁴
31	Matthew 23 ²⁻¹²	Mark 12 ^{28-34a}	Luke 19 ¹⁻¹⁰
32	Matthew 25 ¹⁻¹³	Mark 12 ³⁸⁻⁴⁴	Luke 19 ⁴¹⁻⁴⁸
33	Matthew 25 ¹⁴⁻²⁹	Mark 13 ¹⁻¹³	Luke 21 ⁵⁻¹⁹
34	Matthew 25 ³¹⁻⁴⁶	John 18 ^{33b-37}	Luke 23 ³³⁻⁴³

The <u>underlinings</u> indicate those few occasions where the gospel reading for the day may be found to vary between different lectionaries and lectionary resources.

Where there is no underlining, Revised Common Lectionary (RCL),

Common Worship Principal Service Lectionary (CW), Lectionary for Mass (LFM), and SSRA, all have the same gospel reading.

SSRA consistently prioritises the systematic reading of the gospel for the year.

This includes keeping the <u>Second Sunday before Lent</u> and the <u>Last Sunday before Lent</u> as Sundays in Ordinary Time, each complete with the gospel for the day, rather than displacing them to make way for a Creation or Transfiguration theme. SSRA observes the Transfiguration on the Second Sunday of Lent, as in LFM and RCL.

Gospel readings in the Easter series

The Gospel readings for the fifteen Sundays of the Easter series are consistent across all lectionaries, except for the question of the Transfiguration reading on the <u>Second Sunday of Lent</u>, and different options for <u>Pentecost</u> and <u>Trinity Sunday</u>.

Gospel readings in the Christmas series

The Gospel readings in the Christmas series are consistent across all lectionaries through Advent, and on Christmas Day, with variations limited to the two weeks between 26 December and 8 January. SSRA handles the practical lull experienced in most churches between Christmas and the Epiphany by celebrating Saint John the Evangelist on the first Sunday after Christmas (providing a different set of readings for each year), and moving the Holy Family readings from Saint Luke (including The Presentation) into January of Year C (see the table opposite). The Epiphany is then kept on any Sunday falling between 2 and 6 January - with different Old Testament and Epistle readings provided for each year. The main programme for the year then begins resolutely on 7 January.

Old Testament readings and Epistles

Old Testament readings and Epistles have less impact on the compatibility of lectionary-based resources, as the gospel is usually taken as the lead reading for the day; but Old Testament readings do occasionally vary, and epistle readings are occasionally out of sync – although the same epistles are always being read at the same time (with the one exception of a CW excursion into Revelation for three Sundays early in Year B). The diagram on page 6 gives the shape of each year.

The Acts of the Apostles

The Acts of the Apostles is read in all lectionaries during Eastertide, but there is wide variation in the selection and arrangement of the readings. SSRA arranges readings from Acts across three annual themes: Year A highlights the early days in Jerusalem, Year B the emerging inclusion of the Gentiles, and Year C the ministry of Saint Paul. It is worth referring regularly to the diagram on page 7 for the themes of all the readings throughout the Lent and Easter seasons.

January readings from Saint John

January readings from Saint John, which other lectionaries spread across all three years on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, are here gathered together instead on the first three Sundays in Ordinary Time in Year B (see table opposite). This allows Matthew 4.12-25 to expand across two Sundays in Year A, and also allows the two Holy Family readings from Luke chapter 2 to be given appropriate prominence, in the correct sequence, at the beginning of Year C. It places the wedding at Cana, John 2.1-11, on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year B, which is one of the three options in CW.

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is an option in CW for the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (the Fourth Sunday before Advent / the Sunday between 30 October and 5 November). SSRA has readings on that date, in all three years, suitable for an observation of All Saints / All Souls Sunday, without interrupting the sequential reading of the gospels and epistles for the year.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is kept in the UK on the second Sunday in November, which is either the Thirty-second or the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (the Third or Second Sunday before Advent) each year. SSRA has readings on both these Sundays, in all three years, suitable for an observation of Remembrance Sunday, without interrupting the sequential reading of the gospels and epistles for the year.

Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Ascension Day

For Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Ascension Day (and also for The Epiphany), SSRA provides different readings for each year of the three year cycle. The Maundy Thursday readings are themed: in Year A, the Lamb of God; in Year B, service to others (the washing of the disciples' feet); and in Year C, the Bread of Life.

Additional themed Sundays

Finally, some lectionaries offer readings for a Mothering Sunday theme on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, a Bible Sunday theme on the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (CW 'Last after Trinity'), plus Saints Days and other Festivals. In these cases, as elsewhere, SSRA prioritises the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum. Special themes, prayers and readings can always be added to a service whenever appropriate, without interrupting or omitting the ongoing lectionary programme.

Overview – RCL, LFM and CW compared

The three-year cycle of Sunday readings was first published as LFM in 1969. LFM churches universally use all three readings. RCL (1992) lengthened many of the Old Testament and Epistle readings. CW (1997) was based on RCL. Because of the longer readings, almost all RCL and CW churches omit one of the first two readings, and most find the remaining reading discouragingly lengthy and complex. To encourage the use of all three readings, SSRA returns to the original concept of one *pericope* (or single clear point) per reading, then selects verses, and arranges continuous passages across consecutive weeks, to ensure consistency in the total combined length of the three readings each Sunday.

The SSRA translation

Where other translations are offered primarily as study texts, or to be read alone at home, the SSRA translation is offered specifically for reading aloud: to be easy on the eye, and on the voice, for the reader, so that the reader can read with confidence; and to be easy on the ear, for the hearer, who should be able to follow the reading – and indeed be drawn in by the reading – without needing a printed text, even on first hearing. The text carefully avoids unnecessary stumbling blocks, for the reader; and for the hearer, aims to deliver the full meaning of each passage in language which is clear, timeless, dignified, and, where appropriate, even poetic.

To assist the reader, the layout on the page is in short lines, with key words given special prominence. But other features of the translation also make the Old Testament and Epistle readings, in particular, more accessible for the specific context of reading aloud.

Some Old Testament readings are straightforward narratives – but many others are complex poetry, full of unfamiliar imagery, and switching repeatedly between past, present and future tenses, and with God as 'God' in the last verse, 'you' in this verse, and 'l' in the next. These may have been well-recognised and well-understood poetic techniques in Hebrew culture, but they do not translate effectively word-for-word into texts that are easy to follow when read aloud in modern English. SSRA untangles these 'changes of person', and changes of tense, into texts that are faithful to the original meaning, that capture the poetry of the original, and that work for both reader and hearer when read aloud in modern English.

In the original Greek, the Epistles of Saint Paul often have exceptionally long sentences, where a single sentence can run for several verses, or even an entire reading. Again, these do not translate effectively word-for-word into a text that is easy to follow when read aloud in modern English. SSRA breaks these down into clauses and sentences which are easier to follow for reader and hearer alike, without loss of meaning or nuance.

The aim is to have Old Testament poetry, and New Testament Epistle readings, which are just as engaging as narratives: which draw the hearer in, and communicate the full meaning of each passage, in language which is clear, timeless, dignified, and even poetic.

More generally, in both Old and New Testament, repetition is sometimes added for clarity, or sometimes removed where it is unnecessary, distracting, or intrusive. Verses are occasionally rearranged within a reading; Saint Paul, in particular, often announces his conclusion first, and then sets out his argument, whereas it is more natural, to the modern western ear – and more memorable – to hear the conclusion at the end. Tongue-twisters, long lists, rhetorical questions, and archaic language are all avoided. Specifically, SSRA avoids the long-lost archaic use of the English word 'hope' as a translation of the Greek *elpis* or the Hebrew *tiqvah*, *miqveh* or *tocheleth*, all of which are better expressed as confident, joyful trust.

A distinctive feature of SSRA specifically for the sake of the hearer is its avoidance of potential distractions. There may be details in the original Greek or Hebrew which would not have been distractions at the time, but which would be distractions today. If they are present as part of a metaphor, it could be a legitimate translation of the metaphor to render the metaphor in an equivalent but less distracting form – so 'not worthy to lace his sandals' translates legitimately as 'not worthy to be his servant', and the jackals and ostriches of Isaiah 43.20 (Year B, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time) become mere 'wild animals', lest they distract from the actual message, which is that God lavishes infinite grace upon us, despite all our failings and rebellion.

And a distinctive feature of SSRA specifically for the sake of the reader is its handling of challenging proper nouns. Zarephath is replaced by its modern name Sarepta. Zechariah is anglicised with a K to look more instantly readable as Zekariah. Ananias is more instantly readable as Anan-ias. Bethlehem is simply Bethlehem, with no mention of Ephratha. David visits Saul's camp with his nephew, with no need to specify that the nephew is called Abishai. When Moses names a place Massah and Meribah, the point is that those words mean Quarrel and Testing, so in SSRA, Moses names the place 'Quarrel' and 'Testing'. And the list of place names in the Pentecost reading from Acts chapter 2 is translated here as "Asia and Arabia, Egypt and North Africa, Judea, Turkey, Syria, Greece and the Balkans, Crete, and Rome."

As already noted on page 7 – and it is the case with any modern translation – a preacher may wish to refer to a more literal study translation, or indeed the original Hebrew or Greek, when making a word-by-word or line-by-line analysis of the text, perhaps with phrases like "in the full text, it says", or "in the RSV, it says", or "in the original Greek, it says".

Inclusive language

SSRA uses inclusive language in relation to gender, both for humankind in general, and for anonymous individuals, including anonymous characters in most parables. SSRA also avoids using gendered pronouns for God, Lord, the Holy Spirit, the eternal Christ, and the eternal Word. As part of the aim is a text that sounds timeless, modern alternative pronouns are not used; instead, sentences and paragraphs are constructed using 'you', or 'l', or 'they' (used as a plural), or avoiding pronouns altogether. The result is generally imperceptible, unless specifically pointed out. What is avoided is the negative effect of the default use of the male pronoun, which is alien to an increasingly large proportion of the population. Jesus, including the risen Jesus, takes he/him pronouns. The Father-Son metaphor within the Trinity is also retained; it carries centuries of inter-cultural meaning and rich nuance, and it is still the case that female or genderless alternatives (parent, mother, child, daughter) bring very different nuances; that conversation is left for the pulpit and the bible study, rather than the lectern.

Two specific gospel texts from Year A have been given special attention, because misogynistic nuances, not present in the original Greek, have become attached to their traditional English-language translations. These are Matthew 15.21-28 (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), and Matthew 25.1-13 (Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time / Third Sunday before Advent). In the latter, to prevent distraction, the gender of the lamp-bearers in the parable is not specified, but the translation deserves this footnote: that in the original Greek, the extra point is being made that women have independence and agency, just as much as men, in the question of working and preparing for the coming of the kingdom.

In common with many modern translations, SSRA seeks to avoid using language that has become tainted by association with antisemitism. Where practical, SSRA also attempts to reduce unnecessarily repetitive use of language that has been adopted by partisan actors in the twentieth and twenty-first century conflicts in the middle east, including in Israel-Palestine, using alternative language which is accurate, but avoids, where practical, terms that are in repeated daily use in current conflict news reporting, and have therefore for many acquired a largely different principle meaning. As always, with reference to all the above, a preacher may wish to refer to a more literal study translation, or indeed the original Hebrew or Greek, when making a word-by-word or line-by-line analysis of the text.

Notes

Palm Sunday and Good Friday

The long Passion reading, for Palm Sunday, is here set out to be read by a single voice. A Palm Procession gospel reading is provided, for use with a Palm Procession, or a blessing of the palms, before the main liturgy.

The long Passion reading for Good Friday is set out to be read in three sections, perhaps each by a different voice, allowing for the possibility of silence, music, or a hymn, between each section. Reflecting the austere nature of the day, the Good Friday readings are stripped bare even of introduction and conclusion.

This is the word of the Lord

'This is the word of the Lord' and 'This is the Gospel of the Lord' continue to be in almost universal use in Church of England churches. They have been included in this edition of SSRA as part of SSRA's general mission to make everything as straightforward as possible in ordinary churches on ordinary Sundays. If there is sufficient demand for a print-run with a different (or no) conclusion to the reading, this can be organised: do make contact.

Using all three readings

Churches which have been using RCL or CW with only two readings will find that using all three readings from SSRA takes no more time; there is no need to insert a hymn, or any other item, between the readings.

Midweek services

Many parishes have a single midweek communion service.

A good programme of readings to follow at the midweek service is 'previous Sunday, previous year'; so, for example:

- on the Wednesday following Lent 4 in Year B, you would use the readings for Lent 4 in Year A;
- and on Wednesday 21 July in Year A, you would use the readings for Sunday 17-to-23 July in Year C;
- but note that on Wednesday 25 July, you would also use the readings for Sunday 17-to-23 July, as the previous Sunday would have been Sunday 22 July. Doing it this way keeps everything in sync for when Advent comes around. If the parish or benefice has two midweek services, the other one could use 'previous Sunday, following year'.

Liturgical colours

The four main liturgical colours are Green, White, Purple and Red.

Green is for Ordinary Time.

White is for celebration - Christmas and Easter.

Purple is for preparation - Advent and Lent.

Red is used for Pentecost and for Palm Sunday - red for 'blood' and 'fire'.

Liturgical 'white' fabrics are usually more of a cream colour, decorated with gold - 'white and gold' - represented here by yellow.

The Maundy Thursday service traditionally begins in White, as a celebration of the institution of the Last Supper, and may be followed by the removal of all fabrics in preparation for Good Friday, when no traditional church fabric sets are used. Good Friday is marked here in brown, representing the bare wood that will be exposed in many churches.

To this traditional sequence, CW adds The Season of the Kingdom, on the four Sundays before Advent, the last four Sundays of Ordinary Time, from All Saints Sunday (the Fourth Sunday before Advent) to Christ the King (the Last Sunday before Advent), with a suggestion that all four Sundays are kept in Red. One suspects a generous desire to let local churches give their Red fabrics a rare extra outing, perhaps not least to match the poppies, which will be prominent on Remembrance Sunday, which will fall on either the Second or Third Sunday before Advent - the Second or Third Sunday of the Kingdom - each year.

SSRA provides readings suitable for the All Saints, Remembrance, and Christ the King themes - without interrupting the sequential reading of the gospels and epistles for the year (see page 9) - and suggests that the appropriate colour is actually White for the Festivals of both All Saints and Christ the King, but is indeed Red for Remembrance Sunday and its routinely-adjacent Sunday, making a sequence for these four Sundays each year, from All Saints Sunday to Christ the King, of White-Red-Red-White - for All Saints, Remembrance, Remembrance, Christ the King.

From 30 November 2025 to 22 November 2026

2026 is Year A

Ash Wednesday 18 February

Lent 1 22 February

Lent 2 1 March

Lent 3 8 March

Lent 4 15 March

Lent 5 22 March

Palm Sunday 29 March

Maundy Thursday 2 April

Good Friday 3 April

Easter Day 5 April

Easter 2 12 April

Easter 3 19 April

Easter 4 26 April

Easter 5 3 May

Easter 6 10 May

Ascension Day 14 May

Easter 7 17 May

Pentecost 24 May

Trinity Sunday 31 May

From **29 November 2026** to **21 November 2027**

2027 is Year B

Ash Wednesday 10 February

Lent 1 14 February

Lent 2 21 February

Lent 3 28 February

Lent 4 7 March

Lent 5 14 March

Palm Sunday 21 March

Maundy Thursday 25 March

Good Friday 26 March

Easter Day 28 March

Easter 2 4 April

Easter 3 11 April

Easter 4 18 April

Easter 5 25 April Easter 6 2 May

Ascension Day 6 May

Easter 7 9 May

Pentecost 16 May

Trinity Sunday 23 May

From 28 November 2027 to 26 November 2028

2028 is Year C

Ash Wednesday 1 March

Lent 1 5 March

Lent 2 12 March

Lent 3 19 March

Lent 4 26 March

Lent 5 2 April

Palm Sunday 9 April

Maundy Thursday 13 April

Good Friday 14 April

Easter Day 16 April Easter 2 23 April

Easter 2 20 April

Easter 3 30 April

Easter 4 7 May

Easter 5 14 May

Easter 6 21 May Ascension Day 25 May

Easter 7 28 May

Pentecost 4 June

Trinity Sunday 11 June

From 3 December 2028 to 25 November 2029

2029 SYear A

Ash Wednesday 14 February

Lent 1 18 February

Lent 2 25 February

Lent 3 4 March

Lent 4 11 March

Lent 5 18 March

Palm Sunday 25 March

Maundy Thursday 29 March

Good Friday 30 March

Easter Day 1 April

Easter 2 8 April

Easter 3 15 April

Easter 4 22 April

Easter 5 29 April

Easter 6 6 May

Ascension Day 10 May

Easter 7 13 May

Pentecost 20 May

Trinity Sunday 27 May

From 2 December 2029 to 24 November 2030

2030 is Year B

Ash Wednesday 6 March

Lent 1 10 March

Lent 2 17 March

Lent 3 24 March

Lent 4 31 March

Lent 5 7 April

Palm Sunday 14 April

Maundy Thursday 18 April

Good Friday 19 April

Easter Day 21 April

Easter 2 28 April

Easter 3 5 May

Easter 4 12 May

Easter 5 19 May

Easter 6 26 May

Ascension Day 30 May

Easter 7 2 June

Pentecost 9 June

Trinity Sunday 16 June

From 1 December 2030 to 23 November 2031

2031 is Year C

Ash Wednesday 26 February

Lent 1 2 March

Lent 2 9 March

Lent 3 16 March

Lent 4 23 March

Lent 5 30 March Palm Sunday 6 April

Maundy Thursday 10 April

Good Friday 11 April Easter Day 13 April

Easter 2 20 April

Easter 3 27 April

Easter 4 4 May

Easter 5 11 May

Easter 6 18 May Ascension Day 22 May

Easter 7 25 May

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Pentecost 1 June

Trinity Sunday 8 June

From 30 November 2031 to 21 November 2032

2032 is Year A

Ash Wednesday 11 February

Lent 1 15 February

Lent 2 22 February

Lent 3 29 February Lent 4 7 March

Lent 5 14 March

Palm Sunday 21 March

Maundy Thursday 25 March

Good Friday 26 March

Easter Day 28 March

Easter 2 4 April Easter 3 11 April

Easter 4 18 April

Easter 5 25 April

Easter 6 2 May

Ascension Day 6 May

Easter 7 9 May

Pentecost 16 May Trinity Sunday 23 May

From 28 November 2032 to 20 November 2033

2033 is Year B

Ash Wednesday 2 March

Lent 1 6 March

Lent 2 13 March

Lent 3 20 March

Lent 4 27 March

Lent 5 3 April

Palm Sunday 10 April Maundy Thursday 14 April

Good Friday 15 April

Easter Day 17 April

Easter 2 24 April

Easter 3 1 May

Easter 4 8 May

Easter 5 15 May Easter 6 22 May

Ascension Day 26 May

Easter 7 29 May

Pentecost 5 June Trinity Sunday 12 June

From 27 November 2033 to 26 November 2034

2034 S Year C

Ash Wednesday 22 February

Lent 1 26 February

Lent 2 5 March

Lent 3 12 March

Lent 4 19 March Lent 5 26 March

Palm Sunday 2 April

Maundy Thursday 6 April Good Friday 7 April

Easter Day 9 April

Easter 2 16 April Easter 3 23 April

Easter 4 30 April

Easter 5 7 May Easter 6 14 May

Ascension Day 18 May

Easter 7 21 May Pentecost 28 May

Trinity Sunday 4 June

From 3 December 2034 to 25 November 2035

2035 Year A

Ash Wednesday 7 February

Lent 1 11 February

Lent 2 18 February

Lent 3 25 February

Lent 4 4 March

Lent 5 11 March

Palm Sunday 18 March

Maundy Thursday 22 March

Good Friday 23 March

Easter Day 25 March

Easter 2 1 April

Easter 3 8 April

Easter 4 15 April

Easter 5 22 April

Easter 6 29 April

Ascension Day 3 May

Easter 7 6 May

Pentecost 13 May

Trinity Sunday 20 May

From 2 December 2035 to 23 November 2036

2036 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 27 February

Lent 1 2 March

Lent 2 9 March

Lent 3 16 March

Lent 4 23 March

Lent 5 30 March

Palm Sunday 6 April

Maundy Thursday 10 April

Good Friday 11 April

Easter Day 13 April

Easter 2 20 April

Easter 3 27 April

Easter 4 4 May

Easter 5 11 May

Easter 6 18 May

Ascension Day 22 May

Easter 7 25 May

Pentecost 1 June

Trinity Sunday 8 June

From 30 November 2036 to 22 November 2037

2037 is Year C

Ash Wednesday 18 February

Lent 1 22 February

Lent 2 1 March

Lent 3 8 March

Lent 4 15 March

Lent 5 22 March

Palm Sunday 29 March

Maundy Thursday 2 April Good Friday 3 April

Easter Day 5 April

Easter 2 12 April

Easter 3 19 April

Easter 4 26 April

Easter 5 3 May Easter 6 10 May

Ascension Day 14 May

Easter 7 17 May

Pentecost 24 May Trinity Sunday 31 May From 29 November 2037 to 21 November 2038

2038 SYear A

Ash Wednesday 10 March

Lent 1 14 March

Lent 2 21 March

Lent 3 28 March

Lent 4 4 April

Lent 5 11 April

Palm Sunday 18 April

Maundy Thursday 22 April

Good Friday 23 April

Easter Day 25 April

Easter 2 2 May

Easter 3 9 May

Easter 4 16 May

Easter 5 23 May

Easter 6 30 May

Ascension Day 3 June

Easter 7 6 June

Pentecost 13 June

Trinity Sunday 20 June

From 28 November 2038 to 20 November 2039

2039 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 23 February

Lent 1 27 February

Lent 2 6 March

Lent 3 13 March

Lent 4 20 March

Lent 5 27 March

Palm Sunday 3 April

Maundy Thursday 7 April

Good Friday 8 April

Easter Day 10 April

Easter 2 17 April

Easter 3 24 April

Easter 4 1 May

Easter 5 8 May

Easter 6 15 May

Ascension Day 19 May

Easter 7 22 May

Pentecost 29 May

Trinity Sunday 5 June

From 27 November 2039 to 25 November 2040

2040 ₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 15 February

Lent 1 19 February Lent 2 26 February

Lent 3 4 March

Lent 4 11 March Lent 5 18 March

Palm Sunday 25 March

Maundy Thursday 29 March

Good Friday 30 March

Easter Day 1 April

Easter 2 8 April

Easter 3 15 April

Easter 4 22 April

Easter 5 29 April Easter 6 6 May

Ascension Day 10 May

Easter 7 13 May

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Pentecost 20 May

Trinity Sunday 27 May

From 2 December 2040 to 24 November 2041

2041 SYear A

Ash Wednesday 6 March

Lent 1 10 March

Lent 2 17 March

Lent 3 24 March

Lent 4 31 March

Lent 5 7 April Palm Sunday 14 April

Maundy Thursday 18 April

Good Friday 19 April

Easter Day 21 April

Easter 2 28 April

Easter 3 5 May

Easter 4 12 May

Easter 5 19 May

Easter 6 26 May

Ascension Day 30 May Easter 7 2 June

Pentecost 9 June

Trinity Sunday 16 June

From 1 December 2041 to 23 November 2042

2042 is Year B

Ash Wednesday 19 February

Lent 1 23 February

Lent 2 2 March

Lent 3 9 March

Lent 4 16 March Lent 5 23 March

Palm Sunday 30 March

Maundy Thursday 3 April

Good Friday 4 April

Easter Day 6 April

Easter 2 13 April

Easter 3 20 April

Easter 4 27 April

Easter 5 4 May Easter 6 11 May

Ascension Day 15 May

Easter 7 18 May

Pentecost 25 May

Trinity Sunday 1 June From 30 November 2042

to 22 November 2043

2043₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 11 February

Lent 1 15 February

Lent 2 22 February

Lent 3 1 March

Lent 4 8 March Lent 5 15 March

Palm Sunday 22 March

Maundy Thursday 26 March Good Friday 27 March

Easter Day 29 March

Easter 2 5 April

Easter 3 12 April Easter 4 19 April

Easter 5 26 April

Easter 6 3 May Ascension Day 7 May

Easter 7 10 May Pentecost 17 May

Trinity Sunday 24 May

From 29 November 2043 to 20 November 2044

2044 SYear A

Ash Wednesday 2 March

Lent 1 6 March

Lent 2 13 March

Lent 3 20 March

Lent 4 27 March

Lent 5 3 April

Palm Sunday 10 April

Maundy Thursday 14 April

Good Friday 15 April

Easter Day 17 April

Easter 2 24 April

Easter 3 1 May

Easter 4 8 May

Easter 5 15 May

Easter 6 22 May

Ascension Day 26 May

Easter 7 29 May

Pentecost 5 June

Trinity Sunday 12 June

From 27 November 2044 to 26 November 2045

2045 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 22 February

Lent 1 26 February

Lent 2 5 March

Lent 3 12 March

Lent 4 19 March

Lent 5 26 March

Palm Sunday 2 April

Maundy Thursday 6 April

Good Friday 7 April

Easter Day 9 April

Easter 2 16 April

Easter 3 23 April

Easter 4 30 April

Easter 5 7 May

Easter 6 14 May

Ascension Day 18 May

Easter 7 21 May Pentecost 28 May

Trinity Sunday 4 June

From 3 December 2045 to 25 November 2046

2046 is Year C

Ash Wednesday 7 February

Lent 1 11 February

Lent 2 18 February

Lent 3 25 February

Lent 4 4 March

Lent 5 11 March

Palm Sunday 18 March

Maundy Thursday 22 March

Good Friday 23 March

Easter Day 25 March

Easter 2 1 April

Easter 3 8 April

Easter 4 15 April

Easter 5 22 April

Easter 6 29 April Ascension Day 3 May

Easter 7 6 May

Pentecost 13 May Trinity Sunday 20 May From 2 December 2046 to 24 November 2047

2047 S Year A

Ash Wednesday 27 February

Lent 1 3 March

Lent 2 10 March

Lent 3 17 March

Lent 4 24 March

Lent 5 31 March

Palm Sunday 7 April

Maundy Thursday 11 April

Good Friday 12 April

Easter Day 14 April

Easter 2 21 April

Easter 3 28 April

Easter 4 5 May

Easter 5 12 May

Easter 6 19 May

Ascension Day 23 May

Easter 7 26 May

Pentecost 2 June

Trinity Sunday 9 June

From 1 December 2047 to 22 November 2048

2048 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 19 February

Lent 1 23 February

Lent 2 1 March

Lent 3 8 March

Lent 4 15 March

Lent 5 22 March

Palm Sunday 29 March

Maundy Thursday 2 April

Good Friday 3 April

Easter Day 5 April

Easter 2 12 April

Easter 3 19 April

Easter 4 26 April

Easter 5 3 May

Easter 6 10 May

Ascension Day 14 May

Easter 7 17 May Pentecost 24 May

Trinity Sunday 31 May

From 29 November 2048 to 21 November 2049

2049 ₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 3 March

Lent 1 7 March

Lent 2 14 March

Lent 3 21 March

Lent 4 28 March Lent 5 4 April

Palm Sunday 11 April

Maundy Thursday 15 April

Good Friday 16 April Easter Day 18 April

Easter 2 25 April

Easter 3 2 May

Easter 4 9 May

Easter 5 16 May Easter 6 23 May

Ascension Day 27 May

Easter 7 30 May Pentecost 6 June

Trinity Sunday 13 June

From 28 November 2049 to 20 November 2050

2050 is Year A

Ash Wednesday 23 February

Lent 1 27 February

Lent 2 6 March

Lent 3 13 March

Lent 4 20 March Lent 5 27 March

Palm Sunday 3 April

Maundy Thursday 7 April

Good Friday 8 April

Easter Day 10 April Easter 2 17 April

Easter 3 24 April

Easter 4 1 May

Easter 5 8 May

Easter 6 15 May

Ascension Day 19 May

Easter 7 22 May

Pentecost 29 May

Trinity Sunday 5 June From 27 November 2050

to 26 November 2051

2051 ₅ Year B

Ash Wednesday 15 February

Lent 1 19 February

Lent 2 26 February

Lent 3 5 March

Lent 4 12 March

Lent 5 19 March Palm Sunday 26 March

Maundy Thursday 30 March

Good Friday 31 March

Easter Day 2 April

Easter 2 9 April

Easter 3 16 April

Easter 4 23 April

Easter 5 30 April Easter 6 7 May

Ascension Day 11 May

Easter 7 14 May

Pentecost 21 May

Trinity Sunday 28 May From 3 December 2051

to 24 November 2052 2052₅Year C

Ash Wednesday 6 March

Lent 1 10 March

Lent 2 17 March

Lent 3 24 March Lent 4 31 March

Lent 5 7 April

Palm Sunday 14 April Maundy Thursday 18 April

Good Friday 19 April

Easter Day 21 April

Easter 2 28 April Easter 3 5 May

Easter 4 12 May

Easter 5 19 May Easter 6 26 May

Ascension Day 30 May

Easter 7 2 June Pentecost 9 June

Trinity Sunday 16 June

From 1 December 2052 to 23 November 2053

2053 S Year A

Ash Wednesday 19 February

Lent 1 23 February

Lent 2 2 March

Lent 3 9 March

Lent 4 16 March

Lent 5 23 March

Palm Sunday 30 March

Maundy Thursday 3 April

Good Friday 4 April

Easter Day 6 April

Easter 2 13 April

Easter 3 20 April

Easter 4 27 April

Easter 5 4 May

Easter 6 11 May

Ascension Day 15 May

Easter 7 18 May

Pentecost 25 May

Trinity Sunday 1 June

From 30 November 2053 to 22 November 2054

2054 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 11 February

Lent 1 15 February

Lent 2 22 February

Lent 3 1 March

Lent 4 8 March

Lent 5 15 March

Palm Sunday 22 March

Maundy Thursday 26 March

Good Friday 27 March

Easter Day 29 March

Easter 2 5 April

Easter 3 12 April

Easter 4 19 April

Easter 5 26 April

Easter 6 3 May

Ascension Day 7 May

Easter 7 10 May

Pentecost 17 May

Trinity Sunday 24 May

From 29 November 2054 to 21 November 2055

2055 **a** Year C

Ash Wednesday 3 March

Lent 1 7 March

Lent 2 14 March

Lent 3 21 March

Lent 4 28 March

Lent 5 4 April

Palm Sunday 11 April

Maundy Thursday 15 April

Good Friday 16 April

Easter Day 18 April

Easter 2 25 April

Easter 3 2 May

Easter 4 9 May

Easter 5 16 May

Easter 6 23 May

Ascension Day 27 May

Easter 7 30 May Pentecost 6 June

Trinity Sunday 13 June

From 28 November 2055 to 26 November 2056

2056 Year A

Ash Wednesday 16 February

Lent 1 20 February

Lent 2 27 February

Lent 3 5 March

Lent 4 12 March

Lent 5 19 March

Palm Sunday 26 March

Maundy Thursday 30 March

Good Friday 31 March

Easter Day 2 April

Easter 2 9 April

Easter 3 16 April

Easter 4 23 April

Easter 5 30 April

Easter 6 7 May

Ascension Day 11 May

Easter 7 14 May

Pentecost 21 May

Trinity Sunday 28 May

From 3 December 2056 to 25 November 2057

2057 ₅ Year B

Ash Wednesday 7 March

Lent 1 11 March

Lent 2 18 March

Lent 3 25 March

Lent 4 1 April

Lent 5 8 April

Palm Sunday 15 April

Maundy Thursday 19 April

Good Friday 20 April

Easter Day 22 April

Easter 2 29 April Easter 3 6 May

Easter 4 13 May

Easter 5 20 May

Easter 6 27 May

Ascension Day 31 May Easter 7 3 June

Pentecost 10 June

Trinity Sunday 17 June

From 2 December 2057 to 24 November 2058

2058 is Year C

Ash Wednesday 27 February

Lent 1 3 March

Lent 2 10 March

Lent 3 17 March

Lent 4 24 March Lent 5 31 March

Palm Sunday 7 April

Maundy Thursday 11 April

Good Friday 12 April

Easter Day 14 April

Easter 2 21 April Easter 3 28 April

Easter 4 5 May

Easter 5 12 May

Easter 6 19 May

Ascension Day 23 May

Easter 7 26 May

Pentecost 2 June Trinity Sunday 9 June

From 1 December 2058 to 23 November 2059

2059 S Year A

Ash Wednesday 12 February

Lent 1 16 February

Lent 2 23 February

Lent 3 2 March

Lent 4 9 March

Lent 5 16 March

Palm Sunday 23 March

Maundy Thursday 27 March

Good Friday 28 March Easter Day 30 March

Easter 2 6 April

Easter 3 13 April

Easter 4 20 April

Easter 5 27 April

Easter 6 4 May

Ascension Day 8 May

Easter 7 11 May

Pentecost 18 May

Trinity Sunday 25 May

From 30 November 2059 to 21 November 2060

2060 ₅ Year B

Ash Wednesday 3 March

Lent 1 7 March

Lent 2 14 March

Lent 3 21 March

Lent 4 28 March

Lent 5 4 April Palm Sunday 11 April

Maundy Thursday 15 April

Good Friday 16 April

Easter Day 18 April

Easter 2 25 April Easter 3 2 May

Easter 4 9 May

Easter 5 16 May

Easter 6 23 May

Ascension Day 27 May

Easter 7 30 May

Pentecost 6 June **Trinity Sunday** 13 June

From 28 November 2060 to 20 November 2061

2061₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 23 February

Lent 1 27 February Lent 2 6 March

Lent 3 13 March

Lent 4 20 March

Lent 5 27 March

Palm Sunday 3 April Maundy Thursday 7 April

Good Friday 8 April Easter Day 10 April

Easter 2 17 April

Easter 3 24 April Easter 4 1 May

Easter 5 8 May

Easter 6 15 May **Ascension Day** 19 May

Easter 7 22 May Pentecost 29 May

Trinity Sunday 5 June

15

From 27 November 2061 to 26 November 2062

2062 S Year A

Ash Wednesday 8 February

Lent 1 12 February

Lent 2 19 February

Lent 3 26 February

Lent 4 5 March

Lent 5 12 March

Palm Sunday 19 March

Maundy Thursday 23 March

Good Friday 24 March

Easter Day 26 March

Easter 2 2 April

Easter 3 9 April

Easter 4 16 April

Easter 5 23 April

Easter 6 30 April

Ascension Day 4 May

Easter 7 7 May

Pentecost 14 May

Trinity Sunday 21 May

From 3 December 2062 to 25 November 2063

2063 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 28 February

Lent 1 4 March

Lent 2 11 March

Lent 3 18 March

Lent 4 25 March

Lent 5 1 April

Palm Sunday 8 April

Maundy Thursday 12 April

Good Friday 13 April

Easter Day 15 April

Easter 2 22 April

Easter 3 29 April

Easter 4 6 May

Easter 5 13 May

Easter 6 20 May

Ascension Day 24 May

Easter 7 27 May

Pentecost 3 June

Trinity Sunday 10 June

From 2 December 2063 to 23 November 2064

2064 is Year C

Ash Wednesday 20 February

Lent 1 24 February

Lent 2 2 March

Lent 3 9 March

Lent 4 16 March

Lent 5 23 March

Palm Sunday 30 March

Maundy Thursday 3 April

Good Friday 4 April

Easter Day 6 April

Easter 2 13 April

Easter 3 20 April

Easter 4 27 April

Easter 5 4 May

Easter 6 11 May

Ascension Day 15 May

Easter 7 18 May

Pentecost 25 May

Trinity Sunday 1 June

From 30 November 2064 to 22 November 2065

2065 Year A

Ash Wednesday 11 February

Lent 1 15 February

Lent 2 22 February

Lent 3 1 March

Lent 4 8 March

Lent 5 15 March

Palm Sunday 22 March

Maundy Thursday 26 March

Good Friday 27 March

Easter Day 29 March

Easter 2 5 April

Easter 3 12 April

Easter 4 19 April

Easter 5 26 April

Easter 6 3 May

Ascension Day 7 May

Easter 7 10 May

Pentecost 17 May

Trinity Sunday 24 May

From 29 November 2065 to 21 November 2066

2066 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 24 February

Lent 1 28 February

Lent 2 7 March

Lent 3 14 March

Lent 4 21 March

Lent 5 28 March

Palm Sunday 4 April

Maundy Thursday 8 April

Good Friday 9 April

Easter Day 11 April

Easter 2 18 April

Easter 3 25 April

Easter 4 2 May

Easter 5 9 May

Easter 6 16 May

Ascension Day 20 May

Easter 7 23 May

Pentecost 30 May

Trinity Sunday 6 June

From 28 November 2066 to 20 November 2067

2067 ₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 16 February

Lent 1 20 February Lent 2 27 February

Lent 3 6 March

Lent 4 13 March Lent 5 20 March

Palm Sunday 27 March

Maundy Thursday 31 March

Good Friday 1 April

Easter Day 3 April

Easter 2 10 April

Easter 3 17 April

Easter 4 24 April

Easter 5 1 May Easter 6 8 May

Ascension Day 12 May

Easter 7 15 May

Pentecost 22 May

Trinity Sunday 29 May

From 27 November 2067 to 25 November 2068

2068 SYear A

Ash Wednesday 7 March

Lent 1 11 March

Lent 2 18 March

Lent 3 25 March

Lent 4 1 April

Lent 5 8 April

Palm Sunday 15 April

Maundy Thursday 19 April

Good Friday 20 April

Easter Day 22 April

Easter 2 29 April

Easter 3 6 May Easter 4 13 May

Easter 5 20 May Easter 6 27 May

Ascension Day 31 May

Easter 7 3 June

Pentecost 10 June

Trinity Sunday 17 June From 2 December 2068

to 24 November 2069

2069 ₅ Year B

Ash Wednesday 27 February

Lent 1 3 March

Lent 2 10 March

Lent 3 17 March

Lent 4 24 March

Lent 5 31 March Palm Sunday 7 April

Maundy Thursday 11 April

Good Friday 12 April

Easter Day 14 April Easter 2 21 April

Easter 3 28 April

Easter 4 5 May

Easter 5 12 May

Easter 6 19 May

Ascension Day 23 May

Easter 7 26 May Pentecost 2 June

Trinity Sunday 9 June

From 1 December 2069

to 23 November 2070 2070 ₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 12 February

Lent 1 16 February

Lent 2 23 February

Lent 3 2 March Lent 4 9 March

Lent 5 16 March

Palm Sunday 23 March

Maundy Thursday 27 March

Good Friday 28 March

Easter Day 30 March Easter 2 6 April

Easter 3 13 April

Easter 4 20 April Easter 5 27 April

Easter 6 4 May

Ascension Day 8 May

Easter 7 11 May Pentecost 18 May

Trinity Sunday 25 May

From 30 November 2070 to 22 November 2071

2071 SYear A

Ash Wednesday 4 March

Lent 1 8 March

Lent 2 15 March

Lent 3 22 March

Lent 4 29 March

Lent 5 5 April

Palm Sunday 12 April

Maundy Thursday 16 April

Good Friday 17 April

Easter Day 19 April

Easter 2 26 April

Easter 3 3 May

Easter 4 10 May

Easter 5 17 May

Easter 6 24 May

Ascension Day 28 May

Easter 7 31 May

Pentecost 7 June

Trinity Sunday 14 June

From 29 November 2071 to 20 November 2072

2072 is Year B

Ash Wednesday 24 February

Lent 1 28 February

Lent 2 6 March

Lent 3 13 March

Lent 4 20 March

Lent 5 27 March

Palm Sunday 3 April

Maundy Thursday 7 April

Good Friday 8 April

Easter Day 10 April

Easter 2 17 April

Easter 3 24 April

Easter 4 1 May

Easter 5 8 May

Easter 6 15 May

Ascension Day 19 May

Easter 7 22 May

Pentecost 29 May

Trinity Sunday 5 June

From 27 November 2072 to **26 November 2073**

2073 S Year C

Ash Wednesday 8 February

Lent 1 12 February

Lent 2 19 February

Lent 3 26 February

Lent 4 5 March

Lent 5 12 March

Palm Sunday 19 March

Maundy Thursday 23 March

Good Friday 24 March

Easter Day 26 March

Easter 2 2 April

Easter 3 9 April

Easter 4 16 April

Easter 5 23 April

Easter 6 30 April Ascension Day 4 May

Easter 7 7 May

Pentecost 14 May

Trinity Sunday 21 May

From 3 December 2073 to 25 November 2074

2074 S Year A

Ash Wednesday 28 February

Lent 1 4 March

Lent 2 11 March

Lent 3 18 March

Lent 4 25 March

Lent 5 1 April

Palm Sunday 8 April

Maundy Thursday 12 April

Good Friday 13 April

Easter Day 15 April

Easter 2 22 April

Easter 3 29 April

Easter 4 6 May

Easter 5 13 May

Easter 6 20 May

Ascension Day 24 May

Easter 7 27 May

Pentecost 3 June

Trinity Sunday 10 June

From 2 December 2074 to 24 November 2075

2075 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 20 February

Lent 1 24 February

Lent 2 3 March

Lent 3 10 March

Lent 4 17 March

Lent 5 24 March

Palm Sunday 31 March

Maundy Thursday 4 April

Good Friday 5 April

Easter Day 7 April

Easter 2 14 April

Easter 3 21 April

Easter 4 28 April

Easter 5 5 May

Easter 6 12 May

Ascension Day 16 May

Easter 7 19 May

Pentecost 26 May

Trinity Sunday 2 June

From 1 December 2075 to 22 November 2076

2076₅Year C

Ash Wednesday 4 March

Lent 1 8 March

Lent 2 15 March

Lent 3 22 March

Lent 4 29 March

Lent 5 5 April

Palm Sunday 12 April

Maundy Thursday 16 April

Good Friday 17 April

Easter Day 19 April Easter 2 26 April

Easter 3 3 May

Easter 4 10 May

Easter 5 17 May

Easter 6 24 May Ascension Day 28 May

Easter 7 31 May Pentecost 7 June

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Trinity Sunday 14 June

From 29 November 2076 to 21 November 2077

2077 S Year A

Ash Wednesday 24 February

Lent 1 28 February

Lent 2 7 March

Lent 3 14 March

Lent 4 21 March

Lent 5 28 March

Palm Sunday 4 April

Maundy Thursday 8 April

Good Friday 9 April

Easter Day 11 April Easter 2 18 April

Easter 3 25 April

Easter 4 2 May

Easter 5 9 May

Easter 6 16 May

Ascension Day 20 May

Easter 7 23 May

Pentecost 30 May

Trinity Sunday 6 June

From 28 November 2077

to 20 November 2078 2078 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 16 February

Lent 1 20 February

Lent 2 27 February

Lent 3 6 March

Lent 4 13 March

Lent 5 20 March Palm Sunday 27 March

Maundy Thursday 31 March

Good Friday 1 April

Easter Day 3 April

Easter 2 10 April

Easter 3 17 April Easter 4 24 April

Easter 5 1 May

Easter 6 8 May

Ascension Day 12 May

Easter 7 15 May

Pentecost 22 May **Trinity Sunday** 29 May

From 27 November 2078 to 26 November 2079

2079 is Year C

Ash Wednesday 8 March Lent 1 12 March

Lent 2 19 March

Lent 3 26 March

Lent 4 2 April Lent 5 9 April

Palm Sunday 16 April

Maundy Thursday 20 April Good Friday 21 April

Easter Day 23 April

Easter 2 30 April

Easter 3 7 May Easter 4 14 May

Easter 5 21 May

Easter 6 28 May Ascension Day 1 June

Easter 7 4 June Pentecost 11 June

Trinity Sunday 18 June

From 3 December 2079 to 24 November 2080

2080 s Year A

Ash Wednesday 21 February

Lent 1 25 February

Lent 2 3 March

Lent 3 10 March

Lent 4 17 March

Lent 5 24 March

Palm Sunday 31 March

Maundy Thursday 4 April

Good Friday 5 April

Easter Day 7 April

Easter 2 14 April

Easter 3 21 April

Easter 4 28 April Easter 5 5 May

Easter 6 12 May

Ascension Day 16 May

Easter 7 19 May

Pentecost 26 May

Trinity Sunday 2 June

From 1 December 2080 to 23 November 2081

2081 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 12 February

Lent 1 16 February

Lent 2 23 February

Lent 3 2 March

Lent 4 9 March

Lent 5 16 March

Palm Sunday 23 March

Maundy Thursday 27 March

Good Friday 28 March

Easter Day 30 March

Easter 2 6 April

Easter 3 13 April

Easter 4 20 April

Easter 5 27 April

Easter 6 4 May

Ascension Day 8 May

Easter 7 11 May

Pentecost 18 May

Trinity Sunday 25 May

From 30 November 2081 to 22 November 2082

2082 S Year C

Ash Wednesday 4 March

Lent 1 8 March

Lent 2 15 March

Lent 3 22 March

Lent 4 29 March

Lent 5 5 April

Palm Sunday 12 April

Maundy Thursday 16 April

Good Friday 17 April

Easter Day 19 April

Easter 2 26 April Easter 3 3 May

Easter 4 10 May

Easter 5 17 May

Easter 6 24 May

Ascension Day 28 May

Easter 7 31 May Pentecost 7 June

Trinity Sunday 14 June

From 29 November 2082 to 21 November 2083

2083 s Year A

Ash Wednesday 17 February

Lent 1 21 February

Lent 2 28 February

Lent 3 7 March

Lent 4 14 March

Lent 5 21 March

Palm Sunday 28 March

Maundy Thursday 1 April

Good Friday 2 April

Easter Day 4 April

Easter 2 11 April

Easter 3 18 April

Easter 4 25 April

Easter 5 2 May

Easter 6 9 May

Ascension Day 13 May

Easter 7 16 May

Pentecost 23 May

Trinity Sunday 30 May

From 28 November 2083 to 26 November 2084

2084 S Year B

Ash Wednesday 9 February

Lent 1 13 February

Lent 2 20 February

Lent 3 27 February

Lent 4 5 March

Lent 5 12 March

Palm Sunday 19 March

Maundy Thursday 23 March

Good Friday 24 March

Easter Day 26 March

Easter 2 2 April

Easter 3 9 April

Easter 4 16 April

Easter 5 23 April

Easter 6 30 April

Ascension Day 4 May

Easter 7 7 May

Pentecost 14 May

Trinity Sunday 21 May

From 3 December 2084 to 25 November 2085

2085₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 28 February

Lent 1 4 March

Lent 2 11 March

Lent 3 18 March

Lent 4 25 March Lent 5 1 April

Palm Sunday 8 April

Maundy Thursday 12 April

Good Friday 13 April

Easter Day 15 April

Easter 2 22 April Easter 3 29 April

Easter 4 6 May

Easter 5 13 May

Easter 6 20 May

Ascension Day 24 May

Easter 7 27 May Pentecost 3 June

From Sunday Scriptures for Reading Aloud: The Complete Three-Year Lectionary - SSRA.uk

Trinity Sunday 10 June

From 2 December 2085 to 24 November 2086

2086 s Year A

Ash Wednesday 13 February

Lent 1 17 February

Lent 2 24 February

Lent 3 3 March

Lent 4 10 March

Lent 5 17 March

Palm Sunday 24 March

Maundy Thursday 28 March

Good Friday 29 March

Easter Day 31 March

Easter 2 7 April Easter 3 14 April

Easter 4 21 April

Easter 5 28 April

Easter 6 5 May

Ascension Day 9 May

Easter 7 12 May

Pentecost 19 May **Trinity Sunday** 26 May

From 1 December 2086 to 23 November 2087

2087 is Year B

Ash Wednesday 5 March

Lent 1 9 March

Lent 2 16 March

Lent 3 23 March

Lent 4 30 March Lent 5 6 April

Palm Sunday 13 April Maundy Thursday 17 April

Good Friday 18 April

Easter Day 20 April

Easter 2 27 April Easter 3 4 May

Easter 4 11 May

Easter 5 18 May

Easter 6 25 May

Ascension Day 29 May

Easter 7 1 June

Pentecost 8 June Trinity Sunday 15 June

From 30 November 2087

to 21 November 2088 2088₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 25 February

Lent 1 29 February

Lent 2 7 March

Lent 3 14 March

Lent 4 21 March Lent 5 28 March

Palm Sunday 4 April

Maundy Thursday 8 April

Good Friday 9 April Easter Day 11 April

Easter 2 18 April

Easter 3 25 April Easter 4 2 May

Easter 5 9 May

Easter 6 16 May **Ascension Day** 20 May

Easter 7 23 May

Pentecost 30 May

Trinity Sunday 6 June

From 28 November 2088 to 20 November 2089

2089 S Year A

Ash Wednesday 16 February

Lent 1 20 February

Lent 2 27 February

Lent 3 6 March

Lent 4 13 March

Lent 5 20 March

Palm Sunday 27 March

Maundy Thursday 31 March

Good Friday 1 April

Easter Day 3 April

Easter 2 10 April

Easter 3 17 April

Easter 4 24 April

Easter 5 1 May

Easter 6 8 May

Ascension Day 12 May

Easter 7 15 May

Pentecost 22 May

Trinity Sunday 29 May

From 27 November 2089 to 26 November 2090

2090 is Year B

Ash Wednesday 1 March

Lent 1 5 March

Lent 2 12 March

Lent 3 19 March

Lent 4 26 March

Lent 5 2 April

Palm Sunday 9 April

Maundy Thursday 13 April

Good Friday 14 April

Easter Day 16 April

Easter 2 23 April

Easter 3 30 April

Easter 4 7 May

Easter 5 14 May

Easter 6 21 May

Ascension Day 25 May

Easter 7 28 May

Pentecost 4 June

Trinity Sunday 11 June

From 3 December 2090 to 25 November 2091

2091 is Year C

Ash Wednesday 21 February

Lent 1 25 February

Lent 2 4 March

Lent 3 11 March

Lent 4 18 March

Lent 5 25 March

Palm Sunday 1 April

Maundy Thursday 5 April

Good Friday 6 April Easter Day 8 April

Easter 2 15 April

Easter 3 22 April

Easter 4 29 April

Easter 5 6 May Easter 6 13 May

Ascension Day 17 May

Easter 7 20 May

Pentecost 27 May

Trinity Sunday 3 June

From 2 December 2091 to 23 November 2092

2092 is Year A

Ash Wednesday 13 February

Lent 1 17 February

Lent 2 24 February

Lent 3 2 March

Lent 4 9 March

Lent 5 16 March

Palm Sunday 23 March

Maundy Thursday 27 March

Good Friday 28 March

Easter Day 30 March

Easter 2 6 April

Easter 3 13 April

Easter 4 20 April

Easter 5 27 April

Easter 6 4 May

Ascension Day 8 May

Easter 7 11 May

Pentecost 18 May

Trinity Sunday 25 May

From 30 November 2092 to 22 November 2093

2093 is Year B

Ash Wednesday 25 February

Lent 1 1 March

Lent 2 8 March

Lent 3 15 March

Lent 4 22 March

Lent 5 29 March

Palm Sunday 5 April

Maundy Thursday 9 April

Good Friday 10 April

Easter Day 12 April

Easter 2 19 April Easter 3 26 April

Easter 4 3 May

Easter 5 10 May

Easter 6 17 May Ascension Day 21 May

Easter 7 24 May

Pentecost 31 May

Trinity Sunday 7 June

From 29 November 2093 to 21 November 2094

2094₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 17 February

Lent 1 21 February Lent 2 28 February

Lent 3 7 March

Lent 4 14 March Lent 5 21 March

Palm Sunday 28 March

Maundy Thursday 1 April

Good Friday 2 April

Easter Day 4 April

Easter 2 11 April

Easter 3 18 April

Easter 4 25 April

Easter 5 2 May Easter 6 9 May

Ascension Day 13 May

Easter 7 16 May Pentecost 23 May

Trinity Sunday 30 May

From 28 November 2094 to 20 November 2095

2095 SYear A

Ash Wednesday 9 March

Lent 1 13 March

Lent 2 20 March

Lent 3 27 March

Lent 4 3 April

Lent 5 10 April

Palm Sunday 17 April

Maundy Thursday 21 April

Good Friday 22 April

Easter Day 24 April

Easter 2 1 May

Easter 3 8 May

Easter 4 15 May

Easter 5 22 May

Easter 6 29 May

Ascension Day 2 June

Easter 7 5 June

Pentecost 12 June Trinity Sunday 19 June

From 27 November 2095 to 25 November 2096

2096 ₅ Year B

Ash Wednesday 29 February

Lent 1 4 March

Lent 2 11 March

Lent 3 18 March Lent 4 25 March

Lent 5 1 April

Palm Sunday 8 April

Maundy Thursday 12 April

Good Friday 13 April Easter Day 15 April

Easter 2 22 April

Easter 3 29 April

Easter 4 6 May

Easter 5 13 May

Easter 6 20 May

Ascension Day 24 May

Easter 7 27 May

Pentecost 3 June **Trinity Sunday** 10 June

From 2 December 2096 to 24 November 2097

2097 ₅ Year C

Ash Wednesday 13 February

Lent 1 17 February Lent 2 24 February

Lent 3 3 March

Lent 4 10 March

Lent 5 17 March

Palm Sunday 24 March Maundy Thursday 28 March

Good Friday 29 March

Easter Day 31 March Easter 2 7 April

Easter 3 14 April

Easter 4 21 April Easter 5 28 April

Easter 6 5 May

Ascension Day 9 May Easter 7 12 May

Pentecost 19 May **Trinity Sunday** 26 May

Complete table of readings including Psalms Year A

There are many different resources available for presenting the Psalms, including different translations, and responsorial, poetic, metrical and musical settings. Psalms (and occasional biblical canticles) are suggested below, for use where needed. Exact selections of verses can be adjusted locally, depending on the resources to be used.

Christmas Sequei		D 400	D 40.44.44	
Advent 1	ls 2.2-5	Ps 122	Rom 13.11-14	Mt 24.36-44
Advent 2	ls 11.1-5,10a	Ps 72.1-7,18-19	Rom 15.4-9a	Mt 3.1-12
Advent 3	ls 35.1-6	Ps 146.5-10	Jam 5.7-10	Mt 11.2-11
Advent 4	ls 7.10-14	Lk 1.47-55	Rom 1.1-7	Mt 1.18-23
Midnight Mass	Is 9.2,6-7a	Ps 96	Phil 4.4-8,9b	Lk 2.1,3-20
Christmas Day	ls 52.7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1.1-4	Jn 1.1-12,14
Saint John	Is 6.1-8	Ps 138	1 Jn 1.6-9	Jn 15.1-17
The Epiphany	Is 60.1-3,5b-6	Ps 72.1-4,10-15	Eph 2.11-14,17	Mt 2.1-12
Easter Sequence				
Ash Wednesday	Is 1.11-18	Ps 32.1-7	2 Cor 5.14-15,17	Mt 6.1-6,16-21
Lent 1	Gen 3.1-6	Ps 51.1-14	Rom 5.12-19	Mt 4.1-11
Lent 2	Gen 12.1-4a	Ps 121	2 Tim 1.8-10	Mt 17.1-9
Lent 3	Ex 17.1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5.1-2,5-8	Jn 4.5-14
Lent 4	1 Sam 16.1b,4-7,10-13a	Ps 23	Eph 5.8-11	Jn 9.1-7,14,16-17,33-39
Lent 5	Ezekiel 37.11-14	Ps 130	Rom 8.6-11	Jn 11.20-41,43-45
Palm Procession				Mt 21.4-11
Palm Sunday	Is 50.4-9a	Ps 31.9-16	Phil 2.5-11	Mt 26.14 - 27.61
Maundy Thursday	Ex 12.1-3,5a,6-8,11-14		Rev 5.5a,6a,7-14	Jn 1.23,26b-27,29
Good Friday	Is 53.3-5	Ps 22	Heb 4.14-16;5.7-10a	Jn 18-19
Easter Day	Acts 2.22-32	Ps 118.1-2,14-24	•	Jn 20.1-18
Easter 2	Acts 2.32,36-41	Ps 116.1-2,12-17		Jn 20.19-31
Easter 3	Acts 2.42-47	Ps 150	1 Peter 1.17-23	Lk 24.13-35
Easter 4	Acts 3.1-19	Ps 23	1 Peter 2.20-25	Jn 10.1-10
Easter 5	Acts 4.1-12	Ps 118.1-2,14-24		Jn 14.1-14
Easter 6	Acts 7.52-60	Ps 31.1-5	1 Peter 3.15-18a	Jn 14.15-21
Ascension Day	Acts 1.3-11	Ps 47	Heb 7.23-28	Mt 28.16-20
Easter 7	Acts 1.3-9,12-14	Ps 68.1-10,32-35		Jn 17.1-11
Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21	Ps 104.1-2,29-36		Jn 7.37-39
Trinity Sunday	Is 40.28-31	Ps 8	2 Cor 13.11-13	Mt 28.16-20
Trinity Canady	10.10.20 01		2 001 10.11 10	WK 26. 16 26
Ordinary Time				
Sunday 1	ls 42.1-4,6-7	Ps 29	Titus 3.4-7	Mt 3.13-17
Sunday 2	ls 9.1-4	Ps 27	1 Cor 1.1-9	Mt 4.12-17
Sunday 3	ls 49.5-6	Ps 40.1-11	1 Cor 1.10-13,17-18	Mt 4.18-25
Sunday 4	Micah 6.6-8	Ps 15	1 Cor 1.21-27	Mt 5.1-12
Sunday 5	ls 58.1b,3b-9a	Ps 112.1-9	1 Cor 2.1-7,9-10a,13a	Mt 5.13-20
Sunday 6	Ex 20.2-17	Ps 119.1-8	1 Cor 3.3-6,10-11,16-17	Mt 5.20-22a,27-28,33-34a,37a
Sunday 7	Lev 19.2b-4,9-12,17-18	Ps 119.33-40	1 Cor 3.18-22	Mt 5.38-48
Sunday 8	ls 49.9-10,14-15	Ps 131	1 Cor 4.1-5	Mt 6.24-33
Sunday 9	Deut 11.18-20,26-28	Ps 31.1-5,19-24	Rom 1.1-7	Mt 7.21-29
Sunday 10	Hos 6.3b-6	Ps 50.7-15	Rom 2.13-16	Mt 9.9-13
Sunday 11	Ex 19.1-6	Ps 100	Rom 3.21-24	Mt 9.35 - 10.8
Sunday 12	Jer 20.9-11a	Ps 69.13-18	Rom 6.3-11	Mt 10.16,28-31
Sunday 13	Jer 28.1-9,14a	Ps 89.1-4,15-18	Rom 6.13-16,23	Mt 10.34-42
Sunday 14	Zech 9.9-10	Ps 145.8-15	Rom 8.1-4	Mt 11.18-19,25-30
Sunday 15	ls 55.10-13	Ps 65.3-13	Rom 8.5-13	Mt 13.1-8,18-23
Sunday 16	ls 44.6-8	Ps 86.11-17	Rom 8.14-17	Mt 13.24-30
Sunday 17	1 K 3.5-13	Ps 119.129-136	Rom 8.18-26	Mt 13.31-33,44-46
Sunday 18	ls 55.1-3	Ps 145.8-9,14-21	Rom 8.28-30	Mt 14.13-21
Sunday 19	1 K 19.9a,11-13a	Ps 85.8-13	Rom 8.31-39	Mt 14.22-33
Sunday 20	ls 56.6-7	Ps 67	Rom 12.1-2	Mt 15.21-28
Sunday 21	ls 51.1-4	Ps 138	Rom 12.4-8	Mt 16.13-20
Sunday 22	Jer 15.16-21	Ps 26.1-8	Rom 12.9-18	Mt 16.21-26
Sunday 23	Ezekiel 33.7-9	Ps 119.33-40	Rom 12.19-21	Mt 18.15-20
Sunday 24	Gen 50.15-21	Ps 103.1-13	Rom 13.8-10	Mt 18.21-35
Sunday 25	ls 55.6-9	Ps 145.1-8	Phil 1.20b-27	Mt 20.1-16
Sunday 26	Ezekiel 18.21-25	Ps 25.1-9	Phil 2.1-11	Mt 21.23-32
Sunday 27	ls 5.1-7	Ps 80.7-15	Phil 3.4-12	Mt 21.33-41,43
Sunday 28	ls 25.6-9	Ps 23	Phil 4.4-9	Mt 22.1-14
Sunday 29	ls 44.28 - 45.1,4,13a	Ps 126	1 Thes 1.1-9	Mt 21.45,22.15-22
Sunday 30	Lev 19.2b,15-18	Ps 1	1 Thes 2.1,7b,12-13	Mt 22.35-40
Sunday 31	Pov / U 120 1/h 17	DC 3/L1 1()	1 Thes 4.14-18	Mt 23.2-12
	Rev 7.9-13a,14b-17	Ps 34.1-10		
Sunday 32	Micah 3.5-12	Ps 43	1 Thes 5.1-9	Mt 25.1-4,8-13
Sunday 32 Sunday 33 Sunday 34				

Complete table of readings including Psalms Year B

There are many different resources available for presenting the Psalms, including different translations, and responsorial, poetic, metrical and musical settings. Psalms (and occasional biblical canticles) are suggested below, for use where needed. Exact selections of verses can be adjusted locally, depending on the resources to be used.

Christmas Seque	Christmas Seguence							
Advent 1	Is 63.18 - 64.9	Ps 80.1-7,17-19	1 Cor 1.4-9	Mk 13.24-37				
Advent 2	Is 40.1-5a	Ps 85.1-2,8-13	2 Peter 3.8-15a	Mk 1.1-8				
Advent 3	Is 61.1-2,10-11	Ps 126	1 Thes 5.16-23	Jn 1.6-8,19-28				
Advent 4	2 Sam 7.1-11,16	Lk 1.47-55	Rom 16.25-27	Lk 1.26-38				
Midnight Mass	Is 9.2,6-7a	Ps 96	Phil 4.4-8,9b	Lk 2.1,3-20				
Christmas Day	ls 52.7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1.1-4	Jn 1.1-12,14				
Saint John	Ex 33.7-11a	Ps 117	1 Jn 3.1-2	Jn 21.19b-25				
The Epiphany	ls 49.5-7	Ps 72.1-4,10-15	Gal 3.26-29	Mt 2.1-12				
Footor Common								
Easter Sequence Ash Wednesday	Is 58.1b,3b-9a	Ps 32.1-7	1 Tim 6.6-12a	Mt 23.37-39				
Lent 1	Gen 9.8-15	Ps 25.1-10	1 Peter 3.20-21	Mk 1.9-15				
Lent 2	Gen 15.1,5-6	Ps 27	Rom 4.3,13,16	Mk 9.2-9				
Lent 3	Ex 20.2-17	Ps 19	1 Cor 1.21-25	Jn 2.13-22				
Lent 4	2 Chron 36.14-23	Ps 137.1-6	Eph 2.1-10	Jn 3.16-21				
Lent 5	Jer 31.31-34	Ps 119.9-16	Heb 5.7-10a	Jn 12.23-28a,31-32				
Palm Procession				Mk 11.1-2,7-10				
Palm Sunday	Is 50.4-9a	Ps 31.9-16	Phil 2.5-11	Mk 14.1 - 15.47				
Maundy Thursday	Micah 6.6-8	Ps 15	Rom 12.1-2,9-20a,21	Jn 13.4-9,12-16a,34-35				
Good Friday	ls 53.3-5	Ps 22	Heb 4.14-16;5.7-10a	Jn 18-19				
Easter Day	ls 25.6-9	Ps 118.1-2,14-24	1 Cor 15.1-10a	Jn 20.1-18				
Easter 2	Acts 8.26-38	Ps 33	1 Jn 1.1-5	Jn 20.19-31				
Easter 3	Acts 10.9-23	Ps 148	1 Jn 1.6-9	Lk 24.36-48				
Easter 4	Acts 10.24-29a,34b-48a	Ps 23	1 Jn 3.1-2	Jn 10.11-18				
Easter 5	Acts 11.1-4,15-18	Ps 98	1 Jn 3.16-24a	Jn 15.1-8				
Easter 6	Acts 15.1-2,4-6,8-11	Ps 67	1 Jn 4.7-10	Jn 15.9-17				
Ascension Day	Acts 1.3-11	Ps 47	Rev 5.5a,6a,7-14	Mk 16.15-16a,19-20				
Easter 7	Acts 15.12-20,29 Acts 2.1-21	Ps 150 Ps 104.1-2,29-36	1 Jn 4.11-12,16b,18-21 Rom 8.22-26	Jn 17.6-19				
Pentecost Trinity Sunday	Is 6.1-8	Ps 104.1-2,29-30 Ps 29	Rom 8.14-17	Jn 15.26,16.12-15 Jn 3.1-16				
Tillity Sullday	13 0.1-0	1329	10111 0.14-17	311 3.1-10				
Ordinary Time								
Sunday 1	ls 55.1-3,6-7	Ps 29	Eph 1.9-14	Jn 1.29-34				
Sunday 2	1 Sam 3.1-10	Ps 139.1-5,13-18	1 Cor 6.12,19-20	Jn 1.35-42				
Sunday 3	Is 62.1-4	Ps 36.5-10	1 Cor 9.19-23	Jn 2.1-11				
Sunday 4	Jonah 3.1-10	Ps 25.4-10	1 Cor 9.24-27	Mk 1.14-28				
Sunday 5	Is 40.27-31	Ps 147.1-11	1 Cor 10.32 - 11.1	Mk 1.29-39				
Sunday 6	Lev 13.2-3,45-46;14.2-4,8a,10		2 Cor 3.1b-6	Mk 1.40-45				
Sunday 7 Sunday 8	Is 43.18-25,44.3 Hos 2.14-15a,19-23	Ps 41 Ps 103.1-13,22	2 Cor 3.7-9 2 Cor 4.5-7	Mk 2.1-12 Mk 2.18-22				
Sunday 9	Deut 5.12-15	Ps 81.1-10	2 Cor 4.8-12	Mk 2.23 - 3.6				
Sunday 10	Gen 3.8-15	Ps 130	2 Cor 4.13-15	Mk 3.20-35				
Sunday 11	Ezekiel 17.22-24	Ps 92.1-4,12-15	2 Cor 4.16 - 5.1	Mk 4.26-34				
Sunday 12	Job 38.1-13	Ps 107.1-3,23-32	2 Cor 5.6-10	Mk 4.35-41				
Sunday 13	Lam 3.22-33	Ps 30	2 Cor 5.14-15,17	Mk 5.21-43				
Sunday 14	Ezekiel 1.28b - 2.5	Ps 123	2 Cor 12.2-10	Mk 6.1-6				
Sunday 15	Amos 7.7-15	Ps 85.8-13	Eph 1.3-8a	Mk 6.7-13				
Sunday 16	Jer 23.1-6	Ps 23	Eph 2.11-22	Mk 6.30-34				
Sunday 17	2 K 4.42-44	Ps 145.10-18	Eph 3.14-21	Jn 6.1-21				
Sunday 18	Ex 16.2-3,9-15	Ps 78.23-29	Eph 4.1-6	Jn 6.22-35				
Sunday 19	1 K 19.4-8	Ps 34.1-8	Eph 4.11-16	Jn 6.41-51				
Sunday 20	Proverbs 9.1-6	Ps 34.9-14	Eph 4.25 - 5.2	Jn 6.51-58				
Sunday 21	Josh 24.1a,14-18	Ps 34.15-22	Eph 6.10-20	Jn 6.60-69				
Sunday 22	Deut 4.1a,6-8	Ps 15	Jam 1.19-27	Mk 7.1-8,14-15,21-23				
Sunday 23	Is 35.4-7	Ps 146	Jam 2.1-9,14-17	Mk 7.31-37				
Sunday 24	ls 50.4-9a	Ps 116.1-9	Jam 3.2-5,7-11 Jam 3.13 - 4.3,7b-8a,10	Mk 8.27-35				
Sunday 25 Sunday 26	Jer 11.18-20 Num 11.14,16,25-29	Ps 54 Ps 19.7-14	Jam 5.13-16	Mk 9.30-37 Mk 9.38-48				
Sunday 27	Gen 2.7-8,15,18-24	Ps 8	Heb 2.6-11	Mk 10.13-16				
Sunday 28	Amos 5.6-7,10-15	Ps 90.12-17	Heb 4.12-16	Mk 10.17-31				
Sunday 29	Is 53.4-6	Ps 91.9-16	Heb 5.1-6	Mk 10.35-45				
Sunday 30	Jer 31.7-9	Ps 126	Heb 7.23-28	Mk 10.46b-52				
Sunday 31	Deut 6.1-9	Ps 119.1-8	Heb 9.11-14	Mk 12.28-34a				
Sunday 32	1 K 17.8-16	Ps 146	Heb 9.24-28	Mk 12.38-44				
Sunday 33	Daniel 12.1-3	Ps 16	Heb 10.11-14,19-24	Mk 13.1-13				
Sunday 34	Daniel 7.9-10,13-14	Ps 93	Rev 1.4-8	Jn 18.33b-37				

Complete table of readings including Psalms Year C

There are many different resources available for presenting the Psalms, including different translations, and responsorial, poetic, metrical and musical settings. Psalms (and occasional biblical canticles) are suggested below, for use where needed. Exact selections of verses can be adjusted locally, depending on the resources to be used.

Christmas Seque	Christman Saguence						
Advent 1	Jer 33.14-16	Ps 25.1-10	1 Thes 3.6-13	Lk 21.25-28,34-36			
Advent 2	Mal 3.1-4	Lk 1.68-79	Phil 1.3-6,8-11	Lk 3.1-6			
Advent 3	Zeph 3.14-20	ls 12.2-6	Phil 4.4-7	Lk 3.7-18			
Advent 4	Micah 5.2-5a	Lk 1.47-55	Heb 10.1,4-7,10	Lk 1.39-55			
Midnight Mass	ls 9.2,6-7a	Ps 96	Phil 2.5-11	Lk 2.1,3-20			
Christmas Day	ls 52.7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1.1-4	Jn 1.1-12,14			
Saint John	1 K 19.9a,11-13a	Ps 85.8-13	1 Jn 4.9-12,16b	Jn 1.1-12,14,16-18			
The Epiphany	Micah 4.1-3	Ps 72.1-4,10-15	Eph 3.2-3a,5-6	Mt 2.1-12			
Easter Sequence							
Ash Wednesday	Daniel 9.3-6,17-19	Ps 32.1-7	Phil 2.12-15	Jn 8.2-11			
Lent 1	Deut 26.4-10	Ps 91.1-2,9-16	Rom 10.8-13	Lk 4.1-13a			
Lent 2	Gen 15.12-14,18	Ps 27	Phil 3.18 - 4.1	Lk 9.28-36			
Lent 3	ls 55.6-7	Ps 103	1 Cor 10.1-6,9-13	Lk 13.1-9			
Lent 4	Josh 5.9-12	Ps 34.1-8	2 Cor 5.17-20	Lk 15.1-3,11-32			
Lent 5	ls 43.15-21	Ps 126	Phil 3.4-12	Jn 12.1-8			
Palm Procession	lo 50 4 0o	Do 21 0 16	Phil 2.5-11	Lk 19.35-40			
Palm Sunday Maundy Thursday	Is 50.4-9a Gen 14.18-20a	Ps 31.9-16 Ps 116.10-17	1 Cor 11.23-26	Lk 22.14 - 23.56 Jn 6.22-35			
Good Friday	Is 53.3-5	Ps 22	Heb 4.14-16;5.7-10a	Jn 18-19			
Easter Day	Is 65.17-19	Ps 118.1-2,14-24		Jn 20.1-18			
Easter 2	Acts 9.1-11a,15,17-19a	Ps 30	Rev 1.9-13,17-19	Jn 20.19-31			
Easter 3	Acts 9.19b-20,23,25-28	Ps 86.1-10	Rev 5.11-14	Jn 21.1-19			
Easter 4	Acts 11.19b-23,25-26	Ps 23	Rev 7.9-13a,14b-17	Jn 10.22-30			
Easter 5	Acts 16.9-15a	Ps 67	Rev 21.1-7	Jn 13.31a,33-35			
Easter 6	Acts 16.16-34	Ps 97	Rev 21.10,22-27;22.1-2	Jn 14.23-27			
Ascension Day	Acts 1.3-11	Ps 47	Eph 1.17-23	Lk 24.44-53			
Easter 7	Acts 17.16-34	Ps 66.8-20	Rev 22.12-14,16-17,20-21				
Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21	Ps 104.1-2,29-36 Ps 8	Rom 8.14-17 Rom 5.1-5	Jn 14.8-17			
Trinity Sunday	Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31	F5 0	R0III 5. 1-5	Jn 16.12-15			
Ordinary Time							
Sunday 1	ls 43.1b-3a,4a,5-7	Ps 29	Heb 2.14-15,17-18	Lk 2.22-40			
Sunday 2	Jer 1.4-10	Ps 48	1 Cor 12.4-11	Lk 2.41-52			
Sunday 3	Nehemiah 8.1-4a,7-10	Ps 19	1 Cor 12.12-20,27-31	Lk 4.14-21			
Sunday 4	Jer 1.17-19	Ps 71.1-6	1 Cor 12.31b-13.13	Lk 4.21-30			
Sunday 5 Sunday 6	ls 6.1-8 Jer 17.5-8	Ps 138 Ps 1	1 Cor 15.1-10a 1 Cor 15.12-20	Lk 5.1-11 Lk 6.17-26			
Sunday 7	1 Sam 26.7-13,22-24	Ps 37.1-7	1 Cor 15.35-37a,42-44,49				
Sunday 8	Is 55.10-13	Ps 92.1-4,12-15	1 Cor 15.51b-57	Lk 6.39-49			
Sunday 9	1 K 8.41-43	Ps 96.1-9	Gal 1.1-5	Lk 7.2-10			
Sunday 10	1 K 17.17-24	Ps 30	Gal 1.11-16,18,22-24	Lk 7.11-17			
Sunday 11	2 Sam 12.1-5,7-9,13a	Ps 32	Gal 2.16,19-21	Lk 7.36-50			
Sunday 12	Is 65.2-5,8	Ps 63	Gal 3.21-29	Lk 8.1-3,26-39			
Sunday 13	1 K 19.15a,16b,19-21	Ps 16	Gal 5.17-25	Lk 9.51-62			
Sunday 14	Is 66.10-14a	Ps 66.1-9	Col 1.3-4,9-14	Lk 10.1-11,17-20,23-24			
Sunday 15 Sunday 16	Deut 30.10-14 Gen 18.1-10a	Ps 25.1-10 Ps 15	Col 1.15-20 Col 2.12-14,3.1-2	Lk 10.25-37 Lk 10.38-42			
Sunday 17	Gen 18.23-32	Ps 138	Col 3.12-17	Lk 11.1-13			
Sunday 18	Ecc 1.12-14;2.18-26a	Ps 49.1-12	Heb 10.32-36	Lk 12.13-21			
Sunday 19	Gen 12.1-7	Ps 33.13-22	Heb 11.1,8-10	Lk 12.22-34			
Sunday 20	Jer 23.25-29	Ps 82	Heb 12.1-3	Lk 12.49-56			
Sunday 21	ls 58.9-14	Ps 103.1-8	Heb 12.22-24,28-29	Lk 13.10-17			
Sunday 22	Deut 16.9-12	Ps 119.33-40	Heb 13.1-9a,15-16	Lk 14.1,7-14			
Sunday 23	Deut 30.15-20	Ps 1	Philemon 10,12-17	Lk 14.25-33			
Sunday 24	Ex 32.7-8,10-11,13-14	Ps 51.1-10	1 Tim 1.12-17	Lk 15.1-10			
Sunday 25 Sunday 26	Amos 8.4-7 Amos 6.1.4-7	Ps 113 Ps 146	1 Tim 2.1-7 1 Tim 6.6-12a,17-19	Lk 16.1-13			
Sunday 26 Sunday 27	Amos 6.1,4-7 Habakkuk 1.2-4;2.2-4	Ps 146 Ps 37.1-9	2 Tim 1.1-14	Lk 16.13b-15,19-31 Lk 17.5-10			
Sunday 28	2 K 5.1-3,5,9-15b	Ps 111	2 Tim 3.11b-17	Lk 17.11-19			
Sunday 29	Gen 32.22-30	Ps 121	2 Tim 4.2-5	Lk 18.1-8a			
Sunday 30	Jer 14.7-8a,9b,21,22b	Ps 84.1-7	2 Tim 4.6-8,17-18	Lk 18.9-14			
Sunday 31	ls 25.6-9	Ps 24.1-6	2 Thes 1.1-4,11-12	Lk 19.1-10			
Sunday 32	Job 19.23-27a	Ps 17.1-9	2 Thes 2.16 – 3.5	Lk 19.41-48			
Sunday 33	Mal 4.1-2a	Ps 98	2 Thes 3.7-13	Lk 21.5-19			
Sunday 34	2 Sam 5.1-3	Ps 122	Col 1.12-20	Lk 23.33-43			

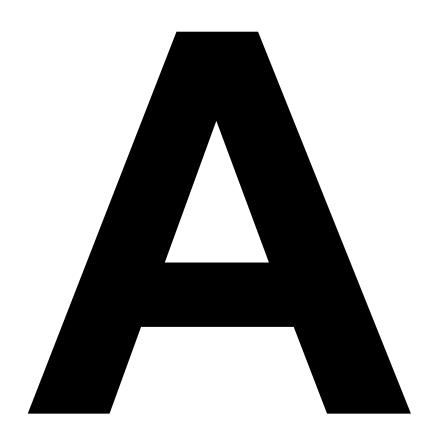
			N. I		
Reverse lectio	narv		Nehemiah Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 7-10	Year C	Sunday 3
Where to find specifi	_	as	Nenemian 6.1-4a, 7-10	Teal C	Sulluay 3
Where to find opeoin	o readin	95	Job		
Genesis			Job 19.23-27a	Year C	Sunday 32
Gen 2.7-8,15,18-24	Year B	Sunday 27	Job 38.1-13	Year B	Sunday 12
Gen 3.1-6	Year A	Lent 1			
Gen 3.8-15	Year B	Sunday 10	Proverbs	Voor C	Trinity Cunday
Gen 9.8-15 Gen 12.1-7	Year B Year C	Lent 1	Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31 Proverbs 9.1-6	Year C Year B	Trinity Sunday Sunday 20
Gen 14.18-20a	Year C	Sunday 19 Maundy Thursday	1 10verbs 9.1-0	Teal D	Sulluay 20
Gen 15.1,5-6	Year B	Lent 2	Ecclesiastes		
Gen 15.12-14,18	Year C	Lent 2	Ecc 1.12-14 & 2.18-26a	Year C	Sunday 18
Gen 18.1-10a	Year C	Sunday 16			
Gen 18.23-32	Year C	Sunday 17	Isaiah	.,	
Gen 32.22-30	Year C	Sunday 29	ls 1.11-18	Year A	Ash Wednesday
Gen 50.15-21	Year A	Sunday 24	ls 2.2-5 ls 5.1-7	Year A Year A	Advent 1 Sunday 27
Exodus			Is 6.1-8	Year C	Sunday 5
Ex 12.1-3,5a, 6-8,11-14	Year A	Maundy Thursday	ls 7.10-14	Year A	Advent 4
Ex 16.2-3, 9-15	Year B	Sunday 18	Is 9.1-4	Year A	Sunday 2
Ex 17.1-7	Year A	Lent 3	Is 9.2,6-7a	Year A	Midnight Mass
Ex 19.1-6	Year A	Sunday 11	ls 11.1-5,10a	Year A	Advent 2
Ex 20.2-17	Year A	Sunday 6	ls 25.6-9	Year A	Sunday 28
Ex 32.7-8,10-11,13-14	Year C	Sunday 24	Is 35.1-6	Year A	Advent 3
Ex 33.7-11a	Year B	Saint John	ls 35.4-7	Year B	Sunday 23
Lavitiana			Is 40.1-5a Is 40.27-31	Year B Year B	Advent 2 Sunday 5
Leviticus	Voor D	Cundov 6	Is 40.27-31 Is 42.1-4, 6-7	Year A	Sunday 1
Lev 13.2-3,45-46 Lev 14.2-4,8a,10	Year B Year B	Sunday 6 Sunday 6	ls 43.1b-3a,4a,5-7	Year C	Sunday 1
Lev 14.2-4,0a,10 Lev 19.2b-4,9-12,17-18	Year A	Sunday 7	Is 43.15-21	Year C	Lent 5
Lev 19.2b, 15-18	Year A	Sunday 30	ls 43.18-25, 44.3	Year B	Sunday 7
			Is 44.6-8	Year A	Sunday 16
Numbers			Is 44.28 - 45.1,4,13a	Year A	Sunday 29
Num 11.14,16,25-29	Year B	Sunday 26	Is 49.5-7	Year B	The Epiphany
			Is 49.9-10,14-15	Year A	Sunday 8
Deuteronomy			ls 50.4-9a	Year A	Palm Sunday
Deut 4.1a,6-8	Year B	Sunday 22	ls 51.1-4	Year A	Sunday 21
Deut 5.12-15	Year B	Sunday 9 Sunday 31	Is 52.7-10 Is 53.3-5	Year A Year A	Christmas Day Good Friday
Deut 6.1-9 Deut 11.18-20,26-28	Year B Year A	Sunday 9	Is 53.4-6	Year B	Sunday 29
Deut 16.9-12	Year C	Sunday 22	ls 55.1-3	Year A	Sunday 18
Deut 26.4-10	Year C	Lent 1	Is 55.6-9	Year A	Sunday 25
Deut 30.10-14	Year C	Sunday 15	ls 55.10-13	Year A	Sunday 15
Deut 30.15-20	Year C	Sunday 23	Is 56.6-7	Year A	Sunday 20
			ls 58.1b,3b-9a	Year A	Sunday 5
Joshua	., .		ls 58.9-14	Year C	Sunday 21
Josh 5.9-12	Year C	Lent 4	ls 60.1-3,5b-6	Year A	The Epiphany
Josh 24.1a, 14-18	Year B	Sunday 21	Is 61.1-2,10-11 Is 62.1-4	Year B Year B	Advent 3 Sunday 3
1 Samuel			Is 63.18 - 64.9	Year B	Advent 1
1 Sam 3.1-10	Year B	Sunday 2	Is 65.2-5,8	Year C	Sunday 12
1 Sam 16.1b,4-7, 10-13a	Year A	Lent 4	Is 65.17-19	Year C	Easter Day
1 Sam 26.7-13,22-24	Year C	Sunday 7	Is 66.10-14a	Year C	Sunday 14
		•			•
2 Samuel	• •		Jeremiah	V/	0
2 Sam 5.1-3	Year C	Sunday 34	Jer 1.4-10	Year C	Sunday 2
2 Sam 7.1-11,16	Year B	Advent 4	Jer 1.17-19 Jer 11.18-20	Year C Year B	Sunday 4 Sunday 25
2 Sam 12.1-5,7-9,13a	Year C	Sunday 11	Jer 11.16-20 Jer 14.7-8a,9b,21,22b	Year C	Sunday 30
1 Kings			Jer 15.16-21	Year A	Sunday 22
1 K 3.5-13	Year A	Sunday 17	Jer 17.5-8	Year C	Sunday 6
1 K 8.41-43	Year C	Sunday 9	Jer 20.9-11a	Year A	Sunday 12
1 K 17.17-24	Year C	Sunday 10	Jer 23.1-6	Year B	Sunday 16
1 K 17.8-16	Year B	Sunday 32	Jer 23.25-29	Year C	Sunday 20
1 K 19.4-8	Year B	Sunday 19	Jer 28.1-9,14a	Year A	Sunday 13
1 K 19.9a,11-13a	Year A	Sunday 19	Jer 31.7-9	Year B	Sunday 30
1 K 19.15a,16b,19-21	Year C	Sunday 13	Jer 31.31-34 Jer 33.14-16	Year B Year C	Lent 5 Advent 1
2 Kings			JCI JJ. 14-10	real C	Auveill I
2 Kings 2 K 4.42-44	Year B	Sunday 17	Lamentations		
2 K 5.1-3,5,9-15b	Year C	Sunday 17 Sunday 28	Lam 3.22-33	Year B	Sunday 13
,0,0 100	. 501 0	54 45			- ,
2 Chronicles			Ezekiel		
2 Chron 36.14-23	Year B	Lent 4	Ezekiel 1.28b - 2.5	Year B	Sunday 14

			Matthau (agatimus d		
Reverse lection	nary		Matthew (continued	Year A	Sunday 19
Where to find specific	_	ae	Mt 14.22-33 Mt 15.21-28	Year A	Sunday 19 Sunday 20
where to find specific	o readiii	ys	Mt 16.13-20	Year A	Sunday 21
E-okiel (continued)			Mt 16.13-20 Mt 16.21-26	Year A	Sunday 22
Ezekiel (continued)	Voor D	Cundov 11	Mt 17.1-9	Year A	Lent 2
Ezekiel 17.22-24	Year B	Sunday 11	Mt 18.15-20	Year A	Sunday 23
Ezekiel 18.21-25	Year A	Sunday 26	Mt 18.21-35	Year A	Sunday 24
Ezekiel 33.7-9	Year A Year A	Sunday 23	Mt 10.21-33 Mt 20.1-16	Year A	Sunday 25
Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24 Ezekiel 37.11-14	Year A	Sunday 34 Lent 5	Mt 21.4-11	Year A	Palm Procession
EZERIEI 37.11-14	i cai A	Lent 5	Mt 21.23-32	Year A	Sunday 26
Daniel			Mt 21.33-41,43	Year A	Sunday 27
Daniel 12.1-3	Year B	Sunday 33	Mt 21.45,22.15-22	Year A	Sunday 29
Daniel 7.9-10,13-14	Year B	Sunday 34	Mt 22.1-14	Year A	Sunday 28
Daniel 9.3-6,17-19	Year C	Ash Wednesday	Mt 22.35-40	Year A	Sunday 30
Daniel 5.5 6, 17 15	icai o	71311 Wednesday	Mt 23.2-12	Year A	Sunday 31
Hosea			Mt 23.37-39	Year B	Ash Wednesday
Hos 2.14-15a,19-23	Year B	Sunday 8	Mt 24.36-44	Year A	Advent 1
Hos 6.3b-6	Year A	Sunday 10	Mt 25.1-4,8-13	Year A	Sunday 32
			Mt 25.14-29	Year A	Sunday 33
Amos			Mt 25.31-46	Year A	Sunday 34
Amos 5.6-7,10-15	Year B	Sunday 28	Mt 26.14 - 27.61	Year A	Palm Sunday
Amos 6.1,4-7	Year C	Sunday 26	Mt 28.16-20	Year A	Trinity Sunday
Amos 7.7-15	Year B	Sunday 15			
Amos 8.4-7	Year C	Sunday 25	Mark		
			Mk 1.1-8	Year B	Advent 2
Jonah			Mk 1.9-15	Year B	Lent 1
Jonah 3.1-10	Year B	Sunday 4	Mk 1.14-28	Year B	Sunday 4
		•	Mk 1.29-39	Year B	Sunday 5
Micah			Mk 1.40-45	Year B	Sunday 6
Micah 3.5-12	Year A	Sunday 32	Mk 2.1-12	Year B	Sunday 7
Micah 4.1-3	Year C	The Epiphany	Mk 2.18-22	Year B	Sunday 8
Micah 5.2-5a	Year C	Advent 4	Mk 2.23 - 3.6	Year B	Sunday 9
Micah 6.6-8	Year A	Sunday 4	Mk 3.20-35	Year B	Sunday 10
			Mk 4.26-34	Year B	Sunday 11
Habakkuk			Mk 4.35-41	Year B	Sunday 12
Habakkuk 1.2-4; 2.2-4	Year C	Sunday 27	Mk 5.21-43	Year B	Sunday 13
			Mk 6.1-6	Year B	Sunday 14
Zephaniah			Mk 6.7-13	Year B	Sunday 15
Zeph 1.7a,12-16,18	Year A	Sunday 33	Mk 6.30-34	Year B	Sunday 16
Zeph 3.14-20	Year C	Advent 3	Mk 7.1-8,14-15,21-23	Year B	Sunday 22
			Mk 7.31-37	Year B	Sunday 23
Zechariah			Mk 8.27-35	Year B	Sunday 24
Zech 9.9-10	Year A	Sunday 14	Mk 9.2-9	Year B	Lent 2
			Mk 9.30-37	Year B	Sunday 25
Malachi			Mk 9.38-48	Year B	Sunday 26
Mal 3.1-4	Year C	Advent 2	Mk 10.13-16	Year B	Sunday 27
Mal 4.1-2a	Year C	Sunday 33	Mk 10.17-31	Year B	Sunday 28
84-441			Mk 10.35-45	Year B	Sunday 29
Matthew	\/A	A .1 1 .4	Mk 10.46b-52	Year B Year B	Sunday 30 Palm Procession
Mt 1.18-23	Year A	Advent 4	Mk 11.1-2,7-10	Year B	
Mt 2.1-12	Year A	The Epiphany Advent 2	Mk 12.28-34a Mk 12.38-44	Year B	Sunday 31 Sunday 32
Mt 3.1-12 Mt 3.13-17	Year A		Mk 13.1-13	Year B	Sunday 33
Mt 4.1-11	Year A Year A	Sunday 1 Lent 1	Mk 13.24-37	Year B	Advent 1
Mt 4.12-17	Year A	Sunday 2	Mk 14.1 - 15.47	Year B	Palm Sunday
Mt 4.18-25	Year A	Sunday 3	Mk 16.15-16a,19-20	Year B	Ascension Day
Mt 5.1-12	Year A	Sunday 4	Wilk 10.10 100,10 20	.00. 5	, locoriolori Bay
Mt 5.13-20	Year A	Sunday 5	Luke		
Mt 5.20-22a,27-28	Year A	Sunday 6	Lk 1.26-38	Year B	Advent 4
Mt 5.33-34a,37a	Year A	Sunday 6	Lk 1.39-55	Year C	Advent 4
Mt 5.38-48	Year A	Sunday 7	Lk 2.1,3-20	Year A	Midnight Mass
Mt 6.1-6,16-21	Year A	Ash Wednesday	Lk 2.22-40	Year C	Sunday 1
Mt 6.24-33	Year A	Sunday 8	Lk 2.41-52	Year C	Sunday 2
Mt 7.21-29	Year A	Sunday 9	Lk 3.1-6	Year C	Advent 2
Mt 9.9-13	Year A	Sunday 10	Lk 3.7-18	Year C	Advent 3
Mt 9.35 - 10.8	Year A	Sunday 11	Lk 4.1-13a	Year C	Lent 1
Mt 10.16,28-31	Year A	Sunday 12	Lk 4.14-21	Year C	Sunday 3
Mt 10.34-42	Year A	Sunday 13	Lk 4.21-30	Year C	Sunday 4
Mt 11.2-11	Year A	Advent 3	Lk 5.1-11	Year C	Sunday 5
Mt 11.18-19, 25-30	Year A	Sunday 14	Lk 6.17-26	Year C	Sunday 6
Mt 13.1-8,18-23	Year A	Sunday 15	Lk 6.27-38	Year C	Sunday 7
Mt 13.24-30	Year A	Sunday 16	Lk 6.39-49	Year C	Sunday 8
Mt 13.31-33, 44-46	Year A	Sunday 17	Lk 7.2-10	Year C	Sunday 9
Mt 14.13-21	Year A	Sunday 18	Lk 7.11-17	Year C	Sunday 10

			laba (aaatiaad)		
Reverse lection	nary		John (continued) Jn 18-19	Year A	Good Friday
Where to find specific	_	ns	Jn 18.33b-37	Year B	Sunday 34
Where to find specific	rcaum	gs	Jn 20.1-18	Year A	Easter Day
Luke (continued)			Jn 20.19-31	Year A	Easter 2
Lk 7.36-50	Year C	Sunday 11	Jn 21.1-19	Year C	Easter 3
Lk 8.1-3,26-39	Year C	Sunday 12	Jn 21.19b-25	Year B	Saint John
Lk 9.28-36	Year C	Lent 2			
Lk 9.51-62	Year C	Sunday 13	The Acts of the Apostles		
Lk 10.1-11,17-20, 23-24	Year C	Sunday 14	Acts 1.3-11	Year A	Ascension Day
Lk 10.25-37	Year C	Sunday 15	Acts 1.3-9,12-14	Year A	Easter 7
Lk 10.38-42	Year C	Sunday 16	Acts 2.1-21	Year A	Pentecost
Lk 11.1-13	Year C	Sunday 17	Acts 2.22-32	Year A	Easter Day
Lk 12.13-21	Year C	Sunday 18	Acts 2.32,36-41	Year A Year A	Easter 2 Easter 3
Lk 12.22-34	Year C	Sunday 19	Acts 2.42-47 Acts 3.1-19	Year A	Easter 4
Lk 12.49-56 Lk 13.1-9	Year C Year C	Sunday 20 Lent 3	Acts 4.1-12	Year A	Easter 5
Lk 13.10-17	Year C	Sunday 21	Acts 7.52-60	Year A	Easter 6
Lk 14.1,7-14	Year C	Sunday 22	Acts 8.26-38	Year B	Easter 2
Lk 14.25-33	Year C	Sunday 23	Acts 9.1-11a,15,17-19a	Year C	Easter 2
Lk 15.1-10	Year C	Sunday 24	Acts 9.19b-20,23,25-28	Year C	Easter 3
Lk 15.1-3,11-32	Year C	Lent 4	Acts 10.9-23	Year B	Easter 3
Lk 16.1-13	Year C	Sunday 25	Acts 10.24-29a, 34b-48a	Year B	Easter 4
Lk 16.13b-15,19-31	Year C	Sunday 26	Acts 11.1-4,15-18	Year B	Easter 5
Lk 17.5-10	Year C	Sunday 27	Acts 11.19b-23,25-26	Year C	Easter 4
Lk 17.11-19	Year C	Sunday 28	Acts 15.1-2,4-6,8-11	Year B	Easter 6
Lk 18.1-8a	Year C	Sunday 29	Acts 15.12-20,29	Year B	Easter 7
Lk 18.9-14	Year C	Sunday 30	Acts 16.9-15a	Year C	Easter 5
Lk 19.1-10	Year C	Sunday 31	Acts 16.16-34 Acts 17.16-34	Year C Year C	Easter 6 Easter 7
Lk 19.35-40	Year C	Palm Procession	ACIS 17.10-34	Teal C	Lasiei i
Lk 19.41-48 Lk 21.5-19	Year C Year C	Sunday 32 Sunday 33	Romans		
Lk 21.25-28,34-36	Year C	Advent 1	Rom 1.1-7	Year A	Sunday 9
Lk 22.14 - 23.56	Year C	Palm Sunday	Rom 2.13-16	Year A	Sunday 10
Lk 23.33-43	Year C	Sunday 34	Rom 3.21-24	Year A	Sunday 11
Lk 24.13-35	Year A	Easter 3	Rom 4.3,13,16	Year B	Lent 2
Lk 24.36-48	Year B	Easter 3	Rom 5.1-2,5-8	Year A	Lent 3
Lk 24.44-53	Year C	Ascension Day	Rom 5.1-5	Year C	Trinity Sunday
			Rom 5.12-19	Year A	Lent 1
John			Rom 6.3-11	Year A	Sunday 12
Jn 1.1-12,14	Year A	Christmas Day	Rom 6.13-16,23	Year A	Sunday 13
Jn 1.6-8, 19-28	Year B	Advent 3	Rom 8.1-4 Rom 8.5-13	Year A	Sunday 14 Sunday 15
Jn 1.29-34	Year B	Sunday 1	Rom 8.14-17	Year A Year A	Sunday 16
Jn 1.35-42	Year B	Sunday 2 Sunday 3	Rom 8.18-26	Year A	Sunday 17
Jn 2.1-11 Jn 2.13-22	Year B Year B	Lent 3	Rom 8.28-30	Year A	Sunday 18
Jn 3.1-16	Year B	Trinity Sunday	Rom 8.31-39	Year A	Sunday 19
Jn 3.16-21	Year B	Lent 4	Rom 10.8-13	Year C	Lent 1
Jn 4.5-14	Year A	Lent 3	Rom 12.1-2	Year A	Sunday 20
Jn 6.1-21	Year B	Sunday 17	Rom 12.4-8	Year A	Sunday 21
Jn 6.22-35	Year B	Sunday 18	Rom 12.9-18	Year A	Sunday 22
Jn 6.41-51	Year B	Sunday 19	Rom 12.19-21	Year A	Sunday 23
Jn 6.51-58	Year B	Sunday 20	Rom 13.8-10	Year A	Sunday 24
Jn 6.60-69	Year B	Sunday 21	Rom 13.11-14	Year A	Advent 1
Jn 7.37-39	Year A	Pentecost	Rom 15.4-9a	Year A	Advent 2
Jn 8.2-11	Year C	Ash Wednesday	Rom 16.25-27	Year B	Advent 4
Jn 9.1-7,14,16-17,33-39	Year A	Lent 4	1 Corinthians		
Jn 10.1-10 Jn 10.11-18	Year A Year B	Easter 4 Easter 4	1 Cor 1.1-9	Year A	Sunday 2
Jn 10.22-30	Year C	Easter 4	1 Cor 1.10-13,17-18	Year A	Sunday 3
Jn 11.20-41,43-45	Year A	Lent 5	1 Cor 1.21-27	Year A	Sunday 4
Jn 12.1-8	Year C	Lent 5	1 Cor 2.1-7,9-10a,13a	Year A	Sunday 5
Jn 12.23-28a,31-32	Year B	Lent 5	1 Cor 3.3-6,10-11,16-17	Year A	Sunday 6
Jn 13.4-9,12-16a,34-35	Year B	Maundy Thursday	1 Cor 3.18-22	Year A	Sunday 7
Jn 13.31a,33-35	Year C	Easter 5	1 Cor 4.1-5	Year A	Sunday 8
Jn 14.1-14	Year A	Easter 5	1 Cor 6.12,19-20	Year B	Sunday 2
Jn 14.8-17	Year C	Pentecost	1 Cor 9.19-23	Year B	Sunday 3
Jn 14.15-21	Year A	Easter 6	1 Cor 9.24-27	Year B	Sunday 4
Jn 14.23-27	Year C	Easter 6	1 Cor 10.1-6, 9-13	Year C	Lent 3
Jn 15.1-8	Year B	Easter 5	1 Cor 10.32 - 11.1	Year B	Sunday 5
Jn 15.9-17	Year B	Easter 6	1 Cor 11.23-26 1 Cor 12.12-20,27-31	Year C Year C	Maundy Thursday Sunday 3
Jn 16.12-15 Jn 17.1-11	Year C Year A	Trinity Sunday Easter 7	1 Cor 13.1-13	Year C	Sunday 4
Jn 17.6-19	Year B	Easter 7	1 Cor 12.4-13	Year A	Pentecost
Jn 17.20-26	Year C	Easter 7	1 Cor 15.1-10a	Year C	Sunday 5
					•

			4 Timothy		
Reverse lection	าary		1 Timothy 1 Tim 1.12-17	Year C	Sunday 24
Where to find specific	_	as	1 Tim 2.1-7	Year C	Sunday 25
Time to mid opcome		90	1 Tim 6.6-12a,17-19	Year C	Sunday 26
1 Corinthians (continued)			•		,
1 Cor 15.12-20	Year C	Sunday 6	2 Timothy		
1 Cor 15.20-26	Year C	Easter Day	2 Tim 1.1-14	Year C	Sunday 27
1 Cor 15.35-37a,42-44,49	Year C	Sunday 7	2 Tim 3.11b-17	Year C	Sunday 28
1 Cor 15.51b-57	Year C	Sunday 8	2 Tim 4.2-5 2 Tim 4.6-8, 17-18	Year C Year C	Sunday 29 Sunday 30
2 Corinthians			2 1111 4.0-0, 17-10	Teal C	Sullday 30
2 Cor 3.1b-6	Year B	Sunday 6	Titus		
2 Cor 3.7-9	Year B	Sunday 7	Titus 3.4-7	Year A	Sunday 1
2 Cor 4.5-7	Year B	Sunday 8			·
2 Cor 4.8-12	Year B	Sunday 9	Philemon		
2 Cor 4.13-15	Year B	Sunday 10	Philemon 10,12-17	Year C	Sunday 23
2 Cor 4.16 - 5.1	Year B	Sunday 11	Habrassa		
2 Cor 5.6-10	Year B Year B	Sunday 12	Hebrews Heb 1.1-4	Year A	Christmas Day
2 Cor 5.14-15,17 2 Cor 5.17-20	Year C	Sunday 13 Lent 4	Heb 2.6-11	Year B	Sunday 27
2 Cor 12.2-10	Year B	Sunday 14	Heb 2.14-15,17-18	Year C	Sunday 1
2 Cor 13.11-13	Year A	Trinity Sunday	Heb 4.12-16	Year B	Sunday 28
		, ,	Heb 5.1-6	Year B	Sunday 29
Galatians			Heb 5.7-10a	Year B	Lent 5
Gal 1.1-5	Year C	Sunday 9	Heb 7.23-28	Year B	Sunday 30
Gal 1.11-16,18,22-24	Year C	Sunday 10	Heb 9.11-14	Year B	Sunday 31
Gal 2.16,19-21	Year C	Sunday 11	Heb 9.24-28	Year B	Sunday 32
Gal 3.21-29	Year C	Sunday 12	Heb 10.1,4-7,10 Heb 10.11-14,19-24	Year C Year B	Advent 4 Sunday 33
Gal 5.17-25	Year C	Sunday 13	Heb 10.32-36	Year C	Sunday 18
Ephesians			Heb 11.1,8-10	Year C	Sunday 19
Eph 1.3-8a	Year B	Sunday 15	Heb 12.1-3	Year C	Sunday 20
Eph 1.9-14	Year B	Sunday 1	Heb 12.22-24,28-29	Year C	Sunday 21
Eph 1.17-23	Year A	Sunday 34	Heb 13.1-9a, 15-16	Year C	Sunday 22
Eph 2.1-10	Year B	Lent 4	_		
Eph 2.11-22	Year B	Sunday 16	James	Vaar D	Cunday 00
Eph 3.2-3a, 5-6	Year C	The Epiphany	Jam 1.19-27	Year B Year B	Sunday 22 Sunday 23
Eph 3.14-21	Year B Year B	Sunday 17 Sunday 18	Jam 2.1-9, 14-17 Jam 3.13 - 4.3,7b-8a,10	Year B	Sunday 25
Eph 4.1-6 Eph 4.11-16	Year B	Sunday 19	Jam 3.2-5,7-11	Year B	Sunday 24
Eph 4.25 - 5.2	Year B	Sunday 20	Jam 5.13-16	Year B	Sunday 26
Eph 5.8-11	Year A	Lent 4	Jam 5.7-10	Year A	Advenť 3
Eph 6.10-20	Year B	Sunday 21			
			1 Peter		
Philippians			1 Peter 1.3-9	Year A	Easter 2
Phil 1.3-6,8-11	Year C	Advent 2	1 Peter 1.17-23 1 Peter 2.20-25	Year A Year A	Easter 3 Easter 4
Phil 1.20b-27 Phil 2.1-11	Year A Year A	Sunday 25 Sunday 26	1 Peter 2.4-9	Year A	Easter 5
Phil 2.5-11	Year A	Palm Sunday	1 Peter 3.15-18a	Year A	Easter 6
Phil 2.12-15	Year C	Ash Wednesday	1 Peter 3.20-21	Year B	Lent 1
Phil 3.4-12	Year A	Sunday 27	1 Peter 5.6-11	Year A	Easter 7
Phil 3.18 - 4.1	Year C	Lent 2			
Phil 4.4-9	Year A	Sunday 28	2 Peter		
			2 Peter 3.8-15a	Year B	Advent 2
Colossians	VC	Cumpley 44	1 John		
Col 1.3-4,9-14 Col 1.15-20	Year C Year C	Sunday 14 Sunday 15	1 John 1 Jn 1.1-5	Year B	Easter 2
Col 2.12-14, 3.1-2	Year C	Sunday 16	1 Jn 1.6-9	Year B	Easter 3
Col 3.1-4	Year A	Easter Day	1 Jn 3.1-2	Year B	Easter 4
Col 3.12-17	Year C	Sunday 17	1 Jn 3.16-24a	Year B	Easter 5
		•	1 Jn 4.7-10	Year B	Easter 6
1 Thessalonians			1 Jn 4.11-12,16b,18-21	Year B	Easter 7
1 Thes 1.1-9	Year A	Sunday 29	Davidetta:		
1 Thes 2.1,7b,12-13	Year A	Sunday 30	Revelation	Voor D	Sunday 24
1 Thes 3.6-13	Year C	Advent 1	Rev 1.4-8 Rev 1.9-13,17-19	Year B Year C	Sunday 34 Easter 2
1 Thes 4.14-18 1 Thes 5.1-9	Year A Year A	Sunday 31 Sunday 32	Rev 1.9-13,17-19 Rev 5.11-14	Year C	Easter 3
1 Thes 5.1-9 1 Thes 5.12-15	Year A	Sunday 32 Sunday 33	Rev 5.11-14 Rev 5.5a,6a,7-14	Year A	Maundy Thursday
1 Thes 5.16-23	Year B	Advent 3	Rev 7.9-13a,14b-17	Year C	Easter 4
		·=· =··· *	Rev 21.1-7	Year C	Easter 5
2 Thessalonians			Rev 21.10,22-27 & 22.1-2	Year C	Easter 6
2 Thes 1.1-4, 11-12	Year C	Sunday 31	Rev 22.12-14,16-17,20-21	Year C	Easter 7
2 Thes 2.16 – 3.5	Year C	Sunday 32			
2 Thes 3.7-13	Year C	Sunday 33			

Year



Sunday between 27 November and 3 December First Sunday of Advent

First Reading - Isaiah 2.2-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The time will come

when the mountain

of the temple

of the Lord

will be established

as the greatest

of all mountains,

high above the hills.

People of all nations will say,

'The teaching of the Lord

comes from Mount Zion,

and the word of the Lord

from Jerusalem.

So let us go up

to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house

of the God of Jacob,

to learn there

how to walk

in the right path.'

Then the Lord

will bring justice and peace

to the nations.

They will take their weapons of war,

their swords and their spears,

and they will re-work them

into ploughs

and pruning-hooks.

No longer

will nation

lift up sword

against nation;

neither will they

learn war

any more.

So come, O people of Jacob;

let us walk

in the light

of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 13.11-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now is the time

to be fully awake,

for our salvation

is closer to us now

than when we first

became believers.

The night is almost over -

the day is near.

So let us throw off

the works of darkness,

and put on

the armour of light.

Let there be no

drunkenness, indecency,

quarrelling, or jealousy,

or any other

work of darkness.

But let us live honourably,

as in the day,

in the light

of our Lord

Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 24.36-44

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said:

'About that day,

and that hour.

no one knows -

not the angels in heaven,

nor even the Son,

but only the Father.

In the days of Noah,

before the flood.

they were eating and drinking,

at banquets and weddings,

right up to the day

that Noah

entered the ark.

They knew nothing

until the flood came,

and swept them away.

So it will be

at the coming

of the Son of Man.

On that day, two men

will be working in a field;

one will be taken.

and one will be left.

Two women

will be grinding flour together;

one will be taken,

and one will be left.

So stay alert,

because you do not know

on what day

the Lord is coming.

If you knew

that a thief

was coming in the night,

you would stay awake,

to protect your home.

In the same way,

be ready.

for the Son of Man

is coming

at an unexpected hour.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 10 December

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading - Isaiah 11.1-5,10a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A new son of David

will appear.

And the spirit of the Lord will be with him:

the spirit of wisdom, and understanding,

of authority, and strength,

of knowledge, and honouring the Lord.

He will not judge by appearances,

but with righteousness

he will bring justice

for the humble, the weak, and the poor.

The power of his words

will shake the earth.

and strike down the wicked.

Righteousness

and faithfulness

will be his strength,

and all the nations

will turn to him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 15.4-9a

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Everything that was written

in former times

was written

to instruct us, and

to encourage us,

so that we can trust in God

with confidence,

patience, and endurance.

So I pray

that the God who gives encouragement

and confidence

will help you to live

in harmony with one another

in Christ Jesus,

and to give glory to God,

the Father

of our Lord Jesus Christ,

with one united voice.

For you should accept and welcome

one another,

just as Christ

has accepted

and welcomed you.

Christ became a servant,

first, to the descendants of Abraham,

to fulfil the promises

God made long ago.

And Christ also became

a servant to all,

so that people of every nation

will give glory to God

for God's great mercy,

as the scriptures foretold.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 3.1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The prophet Isaiah

spoke

of the voice of one

crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord.'

In fulfilment of this word,

John the Baptist appeared,

in the wilderness of Judea,

saying, 'Repent,

for the kingdom of heaven

is near.'

John wore clothing made from camel's hair, and a leather belt around his waist.

And his food

was locusts

and wild honey.

People from Jerusalem,

and all Judea,

and all the region around the Jordan,

went out to hear John,

and they were baptised, by John,

in the river Jordan,

confessing their sins.

When John saw

that many religious leaders

were coming to him for baptism,

he said to them, 'You brood of vipers!

You think

you can flee

from the judgement

that is coming.

But you must bear fruit

that shows

your repentance!

Do not imagine

that it is enough

to have Abraham as your father.

God could raise up,

from these stones,

children to Abraham!

The axe is ready,

and any tree

that does not

bear good fruit

will be cut down

and thrown into the fire.

I baptise you with water, for repentance,

but after me

comes one who is more powerful.

I am not worthy

even to carry his shoes.

He will baptise you

with the Holy Spirit

and with fire.

And he will separate the wheat from the chaff,

gathering the wheat into his barn,

and throwing the chaff

into the fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 11 and 17 December

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading - Isaiah 35.1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The driest lands

of the wilderness

will burst into bloom,

and sing for joy,

to declare

the glory

of the Lord.

The desert

will be as green

as forest

and pasture

to proclaim

the majesty of God.

So encourage

the weak,

and all who live in fear.

Say to them,

'Do not be afraid!

For God is surely coming,

with justice,

to save you.'

On that day,

the blind will see, the deaf will hear,

the lame will run like the deer,

and the voiceless

will sing for joy!

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - James 5.7-10

A reading from the letter of James.

My brothers and sisters,

be patient,

as you wait

for the coming of the Lord.

As the farmer waits patiently

for the crops to grow,

through the spring and autumn rains,

so you also

must be patient -

trusting, with confidence,

that the coming of the Lord

is near.

As you wait,

do not complain

against one another,

for you will surely be judged yourself

when that day comes.

But follow

the example

of the prophets, who showed

great patience,

even when they suffered

for speaking

in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 11.2-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

When John the Baptist,

in prison,

heard

what Jesus the Messiah was doing,

he sent his disciples

to ask Jesus, 'Are you the one

foretold by the prophets,

or should we continue

to watch

for another?'

Jesus said to them, 'Go and tell John

what you see and hear.

The blind receive their sight,

the lame walk,

the deaf hear;

people with leprosy are cleansed,

the dead are raised,

and the poor

receive good news.

Blessed are those who find

no offence in this!'

As John's disciples

went on their way,

Jesus turned to the crowds

to speak

about John the Baptist.

Jesus said, 'You went into the wilderness,

not to see a reed.

blowing in the wind,

or someone dressed in palace robes,

but to see a prophet;

and indeed

more than a prophet,

for John is the one who fulfils

the scripture,

where it says, "I am sending

my messenger ahead of you,

to prepare your way before you."

John the Baptist

is the greatest

amongst all who have ever been born.

And I tell you, everyone

in the kingdom of heaven

will be greater still!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 18 and 24 December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading - Isaiah 7.10-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord said to Ahaz, 'Ask for a sign

from the Lord your God.

Let it be

as deep as the underworld,

or as high as heaven.'

But Ahaz replied, 'I will not

ask for a sign,

for I will not

put the Lord

to the test.'

Now hear this, you people of David.

You try the patience of mortals.

You even try

the patience of God!

And yet the Lord will indeed

give you a sign.

A young woman

will bear a son,

and name him Emmanuel,

which means.

"God is with us".

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 1.1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

From Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,

called by God

to be an apostle.

The gospel we proclaim

was promised

long ago,

through the prophets,

in the holy scriptures.

It is the gospel

of the Son of God.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the flesh,

he was descended from David.

In the Holy Spirit,

he was declared, in great power,

by his resurrection from the dead,

to be the Son of God.

Through him,

we have received God's grace,

and we have been commissioned

as apostles,

to call people of all nations

to faith,

including yourselves, who are

called to belong to Jesus Christ.

We write now

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 1.18-23

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The birth of Jesus the Messiah

took place

in this way.

Mary, his mother,

was pledged in marriage

to Joseph.

But before

they came together,

she was found

to be expecting a child

by the Holy Spirit.

Joseph, being a righteous man,

and not wishing

to expose her

to public disgrace,

planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just

as he had

resolved to do this,

an angel of the Lord

appeared to him

in a dream,

and said, 'Joseph,

son of David.

do not be afraid

to take Mary

as your wife,

for the child

conceived within her

is from the Holy Spirit.

She will bear a son,

and you are to name him

Jesus,

which means,

"the Lord is our Saviour",

for he will save his people

from their sins.'

All this took place

to fulfil

the word of the Lord

through the prophet Isaiah:

'A young woman

will bear a son,

and name him Emmanuel,

which means.

"God is with us"."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Midnight Mass

and suitable for other services after midday on 24 December

First Reading - Isaiah 9.2,6-7a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light.

On those who dwell

in the land of deep darkness -

on them, the light will shine.

For a child is born to us,

a son to rule over us,

and he will be called

Wonderful Counsellor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

and Prince of Peace.

From the throne of David.

he will extend for ever

his kingdom of righteousness,

justice, and peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 4.4-8,9b

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord - always!

I say again, rejoice!

And let your

gracious gentleness

be known to everyone.

The Lord is near,

so do not worry

about anything.

But in everything, with prayer,

and thanksgiving,

let your requests

be made known to God.

And the peace of God,

which surpasses

all understanding,

will protect

your hearts

and your minds

in Christ Jesus.

Finally.

my brothers and sisters,

set your minds

on all that is

true, and pure,

just, and honourable.

Set your minds

on all that is

pleasing, and admirable,

excellent, and worthy of praise.

And the God of peace

will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 2.1,3-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

An order went out, from the emperor,

that all the world

should be registered,

each in their own town.

Joseph, a descendant of David,

was engaged to Mary, who was expecting a child,

so they travelled together

to the city of David,

Bethlehem, in Judea.

While they were there,

the time came

for the child

to be born,

and Mary gave birth

to her firstborn, a son.

She wrapped the child in bands of cloth,

and laid him in a manger,

because there was no room for them

at the inn.

Out in the fields, there were shepherds,

keeping watch

through the night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them,

and the glory of the Lord

shone around them,

and they were afraid.

The angel said, 'Do not be afraid.

I bring good news

of great joy

for all people.

Today, in the city of David,

there is born a Saviour,

the Messiah,

the Lord.

This will be the sign for you:

you will find the child

wrapped in bands of cloth,

and lying in a manger.'

A vast choir of angels appeared, proclaiming,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Peace on earth,

and God's blessings

on all people!'

The shepherds made their way quickly

to Bethlehem.

where they found Mary and Joseph,

and the child, lying in the manger.

When the shepherds made known

the message of the angels,

all who heard it

were amazed.

And Mary treasured all these words,

and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned,

glorifying and praising God

for all

that they had

seen and heard.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Christmas Day

25 December

First Reading - Isaiah 52.7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Those who keep watch

are shouting out

with joy.

For they see, on the mountains,

the messenger

approaching,

bringing good news

of salvation, and peace;

good news

of the triumph

of our God.

Join in their song,

O ruins of Jerusalem!

For all the world

will see the Lord

returning to Zion,

with mercy and strength,

declaring

that your freedom

has been won.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 1.1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago,

God spoke to our ancestors,

in many and various ways,

by the prophets,

but in these last days,

God has spoken to us

by a Son,

appointed by God

as inheritor

of all things,

the reflection

of God's glory,

the exact imprint

of God's very being.

Present with God

at the creation of the universe,

and sustaining

all creation

by his powerful word,

he has

reconciled us to God,

and is seated now,

higher even than the angels,

at the right hand

of God's Majesty

on high.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 1.1-12,14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

In the beginning

was the Word,

and the Word

was with God,

and the Word

was God.

The Word

was in the beginning

with God.

Through the Word,

all things

came into being.

And in the Word

was life -

the life

that was the light

of all people.

That light

now shines

in the darkness.

and the darkness

has not

overcome it.

There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John.

John himself was not

the light.

but came

to bear witness to the light.

The true light,

bringing light to all,

was coming

into the world.

He was in the world -

the world that came into being through him -

and yet the world

did not

know him.

He came to his own,

and his own

did not

receive him.

But all who

did

receive him -

all who believed in his name -

he called

to become

children of God.

And the Word

became flesh,

and dwelt amongst us.

And we have seen his glory -

the glory

of the Father's only Son,

full of grace

and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 26 December and 1 January

Saint John the Evangelist

First Reading - Isaiah 6.1-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

It was in the year that King Uzziah died

that I saw the Lord,

sitting on a high throne,

in robes

that filled the temple.

Angels, around the Lord,

called out to one another,

saying: 'Holy, holy, holy

is the Lord almighty;

the whole earth is filled

with the glory of the Lord.'

Their voices shook the very foundations

of the temple,

and the temple was filled with smoke.

I said: 'I am ruined!

For I am a man of unclean lips,

and I live amongst a people

of unclean lips;

yet my eyes have seen the King,

the Lord almighty!'

Then one of the angels flew to me,

and touched my lips

with a burning coal

that had been taken from the altar,

saying, 'Now that this has touched your lips,

your guilt is removed,

and you are forgiven."

Then I heard

the voice of the Lord,

saying, 'Is there anyone I can send?'

And I said, 'Here I am;

send me.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 1.6-9

A reading from the first letter of John.

We cannot say

that we have fellowship with God

if we are walking in darkness.

But if we walk in the light,

we have fellowship with God,

and with one another.

And the sacrifice of Jesus

cleanses us

from all our transgressions.

If we say

that we have

done no wrong,

we deceive ourselves.

and the truth is far from us.

But if we confess,

God is faithful and just,

and will forgive us,

and cleanse us

from all unrighteousness.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 15.1-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father

is the keeper of the vineyard.

He removes every branch in me

that bears no fruit.

Every branch that does bear fruit,

he cleans, and prunes, to bear more fruit.

You have been cleansed

by the words that I have spoken to you.

Now remain in me,

as I remain in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit

unless it remains in the vine,

neither can you bear fruit, unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,

you are the branches.

Those who remain in me, and I in them,

will bear much fruit.

Apart from me, you can do nothing -

like a cut and withered branch.

But if you remain in me,

and my words remain in you,

whatever you ask,

it will be done for you.

There is glory for my Father in this:

that you bear much fruit

as my disciples.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;

now 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.

All this I say

so that you may be

my delight;

and your own joy

may be complete.

This is my commandment:

that you love one another, as I have loved you.

And there is no greater love than this:

that you lay down your life

for your friends.

You are my friends, if you keep my commandments.

I do not call you servants

any longer, because the servant does not know

what the master is doing;

but I have called you friends, because

I have made known to you

everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me, but I chose you,

and I appointed you to go and bear fruit,

fruit that will last,

and the Father will give you

whatever you ask in my name.

All of this, I say to you

to direct you

to love one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 2 and 6 January only

The Epiphany

First Reading - Isaiah 60.1-3,5b-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, and shine,

for your light has come;

and the glory of the Lord

has risen upon you.

A deep darkness

will cover the earth and its peoples;

but over you,

the glory of the Lord

will rise

like the sun.

Nations will come to your light,

and kings

to the brightness of your dawn.

The wealth of the nations,

and the riches of the oceans,

will come to you.

Camels, from Egypt, and Arabia,

will fill the land.

They will bring

gold and frankincense,

and they will proclaim

the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 2.11-14,17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Previously.

you did not know Christ.

You were strangers also

to the covenants

that God had made

with Abraham. Isaac and Jacob.

You were without God,

and without hope in the world.

But now, you who were once

far off

have been brought near.

For Christ is our peace.

In his own body and blood,

he has broken down

the hostility

which had been like

a dividing wall

between us.

Christ came and proclaimed peace

to you who were far off,

and peace

to those who were near.

And through him

we all now have access.

in one Spirit,

to the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 2.1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod,

after Jesus was born

(in Bethlehem of Judea),

Magi from the East

came to Jerusalem,

saying, 'We are looking for the child

who is born

to be king of the Jews.

For we observed his star, at its rising,

and we have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this,

he was troubled.

and all Jerusalem with him.

He called together

the chief priests and the scribes,

and enquired of them

where the Messiah

was to be born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea;

for it is written in the prophets:

"You, O Bethlehem,

in the land of Judah,

are not the least

amongst the ruling cities

of Judah; for out of you

will come a leader, who is

to shepherd

my people Israel."

Then Herod called secretly for the Magi,

and learned from them

the exact time

at which the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem.

saying, 'Go and search for the child;

and when you have found him,

bring me word,

so that I may also go

and pay him homage.'

So the Magi set out;

and there, ahead of them,

went the star

which they had seen

at its rising;

until it stopped

over the place

where they would find the child;

at which

they were filled with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child,

with Mary his mother,

and they knelt down, and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure-chests,

they offered him gifts of gold,

frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream

not to return to Herod,

by another road.

they left for their own country

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 7 and 13 January

First Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 42.1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

'You are my servant,

my chosen',

says the Lord.

'I uphold you,

I delight in you.

I will set my spirit upon you,

and you will bring justice

to the nations.

You will not shout out,

or lift up your voice.

You will not break

a bruised

reed,

or extinguish

a dimly

burning

flame.

I will sustain you,

in courage

and confidence,

while you establish

justice

on earth.

All the nations

will look to you.

I have called you

to this

work

of justice

and righteousness.

I will lead you

and protect you.

I have given you

as a covenant

to the people,

and as a light

to the nations,

to open

the eyes that are blind,

and to lead the captives

out of darkness

into freedom

and light.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Titus 3.4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

In the love and generosity of God,

we are saved

not by any good deeds that we have done,

but by God's mercy.

God

cleanses us,

renews us,

even re-creates us,

and pours out the Holy Spirit upon us.

And so,

by God's grace,

through our Saviour Jesus Christ,

we are reconciled with God,

and we are made inheritors

of eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 3.13-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus

came from Galilee,

to the Jordan,

to be baptised

by John.

John pleaded

that Jesus

should be

baptising John,

not

John baptising Jesus.

But Jesus said,

'Let it be so'.

As Jesus

came up

out of the water,

after being

baptised by John,

he saw the heavens opened,

and the Spirit of God

descending

like a dove,

and settling upon him.

And a voice from heaven said,

'This

is my beloved Son,

and I delight

in him.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 14 and 20 January

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 9.1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O land of Zebulun and Naftali,

on the shores of Galilee,

beyond the Jordan,

amongst the other nations:

you have suffered anguish,

affliction, and despair;

but you will be

raised to glory.

You have walked

in darkness.

but you will see

a great light.

You have lived

in a land

of deep darkness,

but on you,

the light will shine.

You will

enlarge the nation;

and there will be joy

like the joy

on the day of the harvest,

or on the day

when the enemy

is driven away.

For the bar

across your shoulders,

and the power

of your oppressor,

will be broken.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1.1-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

To the church of God in Corinth,

made holy, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

And to all those.

in every place, who call on his name.

Grace to you, and peace,

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every day

I give thanks

for all that God is doing amongst you.

For in Christ.

you have grown

in every way.

You have grown

in your confidence

in the message of Christ.

And you have grown

in every spiritual gift,

as you look

for the coming of our Lord.

God has called you

into the fellowship

of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the Son of God.

And we trust

that God will continue

to give you the strength

that will keep you in holiness

for the day of our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 4.12-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

When he heard

that John the Baptist

had been arrested,

Jesus left Nazareth,

and made his home at Capernaum,

on the north shore of Galilee,

fulfilling the words

of the prophet Isaiah:

'O land of Zebulun and Naftali,

on the shores of Galilee,

beyond the Jordan,

amongst the other nations:

you have walked

in darkness,

but you will see

a great light;

you have lived

in a land

of deep darkness,

but on you,

the light will shine.'

And there,

Jesus began to teach,

saying, 'Repent,

for the kingdom of heaven is near.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 21 and 27 January

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 49.5-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord called me.

even before I was born.

to gather Jacob and Israel

back to the Lord;

a great task,

for which the Lord God

is my strength.

And now the Lord says,

'It is too light a thing

that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob,

and to restore the survivors of Israel.

I will give you

as a light

to all

nations,

that my salvation may reach

to the ends of the earth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1.10-13,17-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I hear that there have been

quarrels

amongst you,

with some saying

they belong to Paul,

while others say

they belong to Apollos,

or to Peter,

or only to Christ.

But Christ is not divided!

Paul was not crucified for you!

And you were not baptised in the name of Paul!

Indeed Christ did not send me to baptise,

but to proclaim the gospel;

and not even with eloquent words of wisdom,

which might have distracted

from the power

of the message itself -

the message

of the cross of Christ.

For the message of the cross

is foolishness

to those who are perishing,

but to those who are

being saved,

it is the power of God.

So I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

to find agreement with one another,

so that there may be

no more divisions amongst you,

and you may be united

in mind and purpose.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 4.18-25

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

As Jesus walked

by the Sea of Galilee,

he saw two fishermen

casting a net

into the lake -

Simon, who is called Peter,

and his brother Andrew.

Jesus said to them.

'Come, follow me,

and I will

send you out

to fish for people!'

Immediately,

they left their nets

and followed him.

As Jesus went on from there,

he saw the brothers James and John,

with their father,

in their boat, mending their nets.

And he called them.

Immediately

they left the boat, and their father,

and followed him.

Jesus

began to travel

throughout Galilee,

teaching

in their synagogues,

proclaiming

the good news of the kingdom,

and curing

every disease

and every sickness

amongst the people.

His fame spread north

into Syria.

And they brought to him

all who suffered

with demons,

diseases,

or pain;

and he healed them.

And great crowds

followed him,

from Galilee.

Jerusalem, and Judea,

and from the east side of the Jordan,

and beyond.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 28 January and 3 February

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Micah 6.6-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

What shall I bring,

as an offering, to the Lord,

as I bow down

before God most high?

Shall I bring burnt-offerings,

calves a year old,

thousands of rams,

rivers of oil.

or even my firstborn,

the fruit of my body,

for the transgressions of my soul?

No, for the offering

the Lord requires of us

is this:

to do justice,

to love kindness,

and to walk humbly

with our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1.21-27

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The wisdom of the world

did not

lead people to God.

Instead.

God has used

not the wisdom of the world,

but the foolishness

of our proclamation

to save

those who believe.

Greeks

demand wisdom,

and Hebrews

demand miraculous signs,

but we proclaim

Christ crucified.

The proclamation

of Christ crucified

is foolishness

to Greeks,

and a stumbling-block

to Hebrews.

But to those who are called -

both Hebrew and Greek -

the proclamation of Christ crucified

is both the wisdom of God,

and the power of God.

For God's foolishness

is wiser

than human wisdom;

just as God's weakness

is stronger

than human strength.

When you were called,

not many of you were wise

by human standards;

not many were powerful,

or of noble birth.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 5.1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw

the great crowds

that followed him,

he went up on the mountainside,

and sat down.

His disciples gathered around him,

and he began to teach them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor, in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,

for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the humble, meek, and gentle,

for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst

for righteousness,

for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,

for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called

children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted

for righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you

when people insult you,

and persecute you,

and condemn you, falsely, on my account,

for in the same way,

they persecuted

the prophets of old.

Rejoice, and be glad,

for your reward

is great in heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 10 February (if before Ash Wednesday)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 58.1b,3b-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says

to the people of Jacob:

I see your rebellion,

and I know your transgressions.

On the day of holy fasting and prayer,

you serve your own interests,

you oppress your workers,

and you quarrel, and fight.

This is not the fasting

that will make your voice

heard on high.

If you deny yourself,

bow your head,

and lie down in sackcloth and ashes,

even this

is not the fasting

that I honour.

says the Lord.

The fast that I honour

is to remove

the bonds of injustice,

and to let the oppressed

go free.

The fast that I honour

is to share your bread with the hungry,

to bring the homeless poor into your house,

and not to hide away

from the needs

of those around you.

When this becomes your fast, then

your light and your healing will come,

your righteousness will lead you on,

and the glory of the Lord

will protect you.

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer.

You will cry for help,

and the Lord will hear.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 2.1-7,9-10a,13a

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

When I was with you, brothers and sisters,

I did not proclaim the message of God

with lofty words

of human wisdom.

I had decided to know nothing amongst you

except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

I came to you in weakness,

with fear, and trembling.

My proclamation was not

in persuasive words

of human wisdom,

but relied on the power of the Spirit,

so that your faith would rest

not on human wisdom

but on the power of God.

Yet amongst the mature, we do speak wisdom.

For while the wisdom of this age

comes to nothing,

God's eternal and glorious wisdom

is now being revealed.

The scripture says, 'No eye has seen,

no ear has heard, no human heart

has understood'

all that has been prepared

for those who love God.

These hidden things, God has now revealed to us

through the Spirit.

And we speak of them

in words

not taught by human wisdom,

but taught by the Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 5.13-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said,

'You are the salt of the earth.

But salt that loses its taste

is fit only

to be thrown out, and trampled under foot.

You are the light of the world.

When you light a lamp,

you do not put it under a barrel,

but on a lampstand,

to give light to the whole house.

Like a city on a hilltop, it will not be hidden.

In the same way,

let your light shine out,

that all may see the good that you do,

and give glory to your Father in heaven.

I have not

come to abolish

the law

or the prophets,

but to fulfil them.

While heaven and earth remain,

not one letter,

not one stroke of a letter,

will pass from the law,

until everything is fulfilled.

Indeed, whoever breaks

even the least

of these commandments,

and teaches others to do the same,

will be called the least

in the kingdom of heaven;

while whoever

both keeps them and teaches them

will be called great

in the kingdom of heaven.

I tell you, your righteousness

must be greater than that

of the scribes and the Pharisees,

if you are to enter

the kingdom of heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 11 and 17 February (if before Ash Wednesday)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Exodus 20.2-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

I am the Lord your God.

I brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself any idol,

in the form of anything

that is in the sky above,

or the earth below.

or the waters under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them,

or worship them,

for I am the Lord your God, and I grieve

at the rebellion

of those who reject me,

to the third and fourth generation;

but I show steadfast love

to a thousand generations

of those who honour me

and keep my commandments.

You shall not take

the name

of the Lord your God

in vain.

You shall remember the sabbath day,

and keep it holy.

Six days

you shall labour, and do all your work,

but the seventh day

is a sabbath to the Lord your God.

On the sabbath day, you shall do no work.

All shall rest

on the sabbath day: you,

your sons and daughters, your servants;

the foreigners living in your towns;

even your livestock;

for in six days, the Lord made

the heavens, the earth, the sea,

and all that is in them,

but rested on the seventh day;

therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day,

and made it holy.

You shall honour your father and mother,

that your days may be long

in the land

that the Lord, your God, is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness

against your neighbour.

You shall not envy

your neighbour's spouse.

You shall not envy

your neighbour's household, or home,

or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 3.3-6,10-11,16-17

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

My brothers and sisters,

let there be no jealousy or quarrelling amongst you,

with one saying 'I follow Paul',

and another saying 'I follow Apollos'.

For Paul and Apollos are only servants

within the work of the Lord.

I may have planted, and Apollos may have watered,

but God

gave the growth.

I may have laid the foundation,

and Apollos may be building upon it,

but the foundation is Jesus Christ,

and you are being built together

on that foundation

into God's temple;

so let no one harm

God's temple,

for God's temple is holy,

with God's Spirit

dwelling within.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 5.20-22a,27-28,33-34a,37a

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said,

'I tell you,

your righteousness

must be greater than that

of the scribes and the Pharisees

if you are to enter

the kingdom of heaven.

You have heard it said,

"You shall not murder";

and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement."

But I say to you

that if you are angry

with a brother or sister,

you will be liable to judgement.

You have heard it said,

"You shall not commit adultery."

But I say to you

that any man who looks at a woman

improperly

has already

committed adultery

in his heart.

You have heard it said,

"You must fulfil your vow

when you swear an oath to the Lord."

But I say to you,

do not swear

oaths or vows

at all,

but in your ordinary speaking,

let your "yes" mean "yes",

and let your "no" mean "no",

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

without the need

for any oath or vow.'

Sunday between 18 and 24 February (if before Ash Wednesday)

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Leviticus 19.2b-4,9-12,17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

You shall be holy,

for I am holy,

says the Lord your God.

You shall honour

your mother

and your father,

and you shall keep my sabbath,

says the Lord.

You shall not

turn to idols,

or make gods out of metal

for yourselves,

says the Lord.

When you gather in the harvest,

you shall not

cut to the very edge of your field,

or return

for the little

that remains.

And you shall not

strip your vineyard bare,

or gather

the fallen grapes.

These you shall leave

for the poor,

and for the foreigner

living amongst you,

says the Lord your God.

You shall not steal,

or be dishonest in your dealings,

or lie to one another.

You shall not swear

a false oath

in my name,

for this would be dishonouring

the name

of the Lord your God.

You shall not hold hatred

in your heart

against your neighbour.

You shall challenge

your neighbour's wrong-doing,

for if you fail to do so,

you bear the guilt

of that wrong-doing

yourself, says the Lord.

You shall not

take revenge,

or bear a grudge

against any

of your people.

And you shall love your neighbour

as yourself,

says the Lord your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 3.18-22

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The best wisdom of this world

is mere foolishness to God.

So do not long for this world

to call you wise.

Indeed, when you find

true, godly wisdom,

this world

will call you a fool.

The scripture says: 'the Lord catches the wise

in their own craftiness', and,

'their arguments come to nothing'.

So let no one boast about mere human leaders.

For so much more

is yours in Christ - indeed everything!

Not just Paul, and Apollos, and Peter,

but the whole world; even life, and death;

the whole of the present,

and the whole of the future.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 5.38-48

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'You have heard it said,

"An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

But I say to you,

do not take revenge

against the one who has wronged you.

If they strike you on one cheek,

offer the other.

If they demand your shirt,

give your coat as well.

If they force you to walk one mile,

walk two.

Give to those who ask,

and welcome

those who come to borrow.

You have heard it said,

"You shall love your neighbour -

and hate your enemy."

But I say to you,

love your enemies,

and pray for those who persecute you.

This will make you true children

of your Father in heaven.

For you see how your Father

makes the sun come up each day

on the good, and the wicked, alike.

And you see how your Father makes the rain to fall

on both the righteous

and the unrighteous.

If you love only those who love you,

that deserves no reward.

If you greet only your brothers and sisters,

you are doing no more

than all people everywhere.

So in all these things, aim for perfection - the perfection of your Father in heaven.'

This is the Ocean that the Lend

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 25 February and 3 March Gospel - Matthew 6.24-33 [not Sunday 3 March in a leap year] Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (if before Ash Wednesday) according to Matthew. Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jesus said, 'You cannot serve two masters, First Reading - Isaiah 49.9-10,14-15 for you will love one, A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. and hate the other; The Lord says to Jerusalem: you will be devoted to one, I led you and despise the other. from captivity to freedom. You cannot serve I gave you food along the way. both God and wealth. I led you So I tell you: to pasture in the wilderness. do not worry about what you will eat, You knew neither hunger nor thirst, as I led you, with compassion, or drink, or wear; by springs of water for life through the desert heat. is more than food, I led you from darkness to light. and the body And yet is more than clothing. you continue to say, Look at the birds of the air: 'The Lord has abandoned us', they do not plant, or harvest, 'Our Lord has forgotten us'. or gather into barns, No mother and vet abandons her child, your heavenly Father or forgets feeds them. the infant And you are more valuable she holds than the birds! in her arms. Look at the wild flowers, And neither will I how they grow: forget you, they do not says the Lord. weave or sew, This is the word of the Lord. and yet not even Solomon Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 4.1-5 in all his glory A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. was clothed Apollos and I, alike, as finely have sought only as these. If this is how to be servants of Christ, entrusted God clothes the grass of the field, which is with all that God has revealed. alive today, I believe and dried up tomorrow, I have fulfilled that trust. then how much more but it is not will God clothe you! So have faith! for me, or you, Do not worry, as others do, or anyone else on earth, about what you will eat, to judge. or drink, or wear. For when the Lord comes. Worrying and shines a light will not add on all a single hour that is hidden to your span of life. in our hearts. And your heavenly Father knows all motivations that you need these things. So work instead will be known; and the Lord will judge for the kingdom of God, what is worthy of praise. and for righteousness;

This is the word of the Lord.

as well.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

and all these other things will be given to you

Year A

Sunday between 4 and 7 March [plus Sunday 3 March in a leap year] (if before Ash Wednesday)

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 11.18-20, 26-28

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Fix these words

in your heart

and in your soul,

on your hands

and before your eyes.

Teach them to your children,

every morning, and every evening,

both when you are at home,

and when you are away.

Write them

on your gates

and on your houses.

For I set before you

today

both a blessing

and a curse:

a blessing.

if you live

by the commandments of the Lord your God

that I am giving you today;

and a curse,

if you reject the way

of the Lord your God,

and follow

other gods

you have not known.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 1.1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

From Paul,

a servant of Jesus Christ,

called by God

to be an apostle.

The gospel we proclaim

was promised

long ago,

through the prophets,

in the holy scriptures.

It is the gospel

of the Son of God,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the flesh.

he was descended from David.

In the Holy Spirit,

he was declared,

in great power,

by his resurrection from the dead,

to be the Son of God.

Through him,

we have received God's grace,

and we have been commissioned

as apostles,

to call people of all nations

to faith.

including yourselves, who are

called to belong to Jesus Christ.

We write now

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 7.21-29

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said,

'The day will come

when many will claim

to have spoken prophecies,

cast out demons.

and done powerful deeds,

in my name.

But I will call them wicked,

and send them away,

saying, "I do not know you".

For you do not

enter

the kingdom of heaven

by calling me Lord,

but by doing

my Father's will.

If you hear my words,

and then

live by them.

you have built your house on rock,

and it will stand firm

when the storms

and the floods

beat against it.

But if you hear my words

and then do not

live by them,

you have built your house on sand,

and in the storm,

and the flood.

it will collapse,

and be swept away.'

And the crowds paid full attention

to every word

that Jesus spoke,

because his teaching

was powerful -

unlike the teaching

of their scribes.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Ash Wednesday

First Reading - Isaiah 1.11-18

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Trample through my temple no more,

says the Lord.

I take no pleasure

in your endless sacrifices.

Your offerings are futile.

I despise your incense,

your festivals,

and your solemn assemblies,

while iniquity remains.

When you reach out your hands in prayer,

I will not listen.

I will cover my eyes,

for your hands are red with blood, says the Lord.

But this

is how to wash yourselves,

and make yourselves clean:

cease to do evil,

and learn to do good;

work for justice;

rescue the oppressed:

defend the orphan,

and plead for the widow.

Then, says the Lord,

all that was

stained

blood-red

with sin

will be made pure,

like lamb's-wool,

or freshly-fallen snow.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 5.14-15,17

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

We declare, with confidence,

that Christ died

for all:

so

all have died.

Therefore, let us live

no longer

for ourselves,

but for Christ, who died for us -

and rose again.

For anyone who is in Christ

is a new creation.

The old

has passed away,

and everything

is new.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Take care

not to do

your good deeds

to be seen by others;

for if that is your purpose,

you will have no reward

from your Father in heaven.

When you give

to those in need,

do not announce it

with a fanfare,

in the synagogues,

and in the streets,

as the hypocrites do,

seeking praise.

I tell you,

they have received their reward.

But when you give, do not let

your left hand know

what your right hand

is doing.

Do your giving in secret,

and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.

In the same way, when you pray,

do not be like the hypocrites, who love

to stand and pray in the synagogues,

and at the street corners, to be seen by others.

I tell you, they have received their reward.

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.

And when you fast, do not look miserable,

like the hypocrites, who disfigure their faces

to show others

they are fasting.

I tell you,

they have received

their reward.

But when you fast,

clean your hair, and wash your face,

so that your fasting is seen

not by others,

but by your Father;

and your Father, who knows all things,

will reward you.

And do not put your heart

into storing up treasure on earth,

where everything decays,

and thieves break in and steal.

But put your heart, instead,

into storing up

everlasting treasures

in heaven,

that no thief

can take away.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Year A ssra.uk

First Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Genesis 3.1-6

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The serpent

was more cunning

than any other creature

the Lord God had made.

The serpent said to Eve, 'Did God say

that you are not to eat

from any of the trees

in the garden?'

Eve said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit

of any tree

in the garden;

except the tree

in the middle of the garden,

for God said that if

we even touch it.

we shall die.'

The serpent said to Eve, 'You will not die;

but when you eat

the fruit

of that tree.

your eyes will be opened,

and you will be like God,

knowing good and evil.'

Understanding now

that the fruit

of the tree

would bring knowledge,

and seeing that it was beautiful,

and good to eat,

Eve took fruit

from the tree,

and gave some to Adam, who was with her,

and they ate.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 5.12-19

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Sin - rebellion against God - came into the world

through Adam;

and death

came into the world

through sin;

and death spread to all,

for all have sinned.

And so we see

that sin

was already in the world, and leading to death,

long before the laws,

defining and measuring sin,

were given to Moses.

But now, the power of sin and death,

which all began

with the sin of Adam,

is swept away

by the far greater power

of the gift of God's grace

in Jesus Christ.

The sin of Adam led to death,

but now

there is life

for those who receive forgiveness

in Christ.

Adam's trespass

led to condemnation and death for all.

But Christ's work of righteousness

leads to forgiveness and life for all.

By the disobedience of Adam,

many were made sinners, and died.

Now, by the obedience of Christ,

many will be made righteous, and live.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 4.1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus was led by the Spirit, into the wilderness,

to be tempted by the devil.

He ate nothing

for forty days, and forty nights.

The tempter came to him,

in his great hunger, and said,

'If you are the Son of God,

command these stones

to become bread."

But Jesus answered, 'The scripture says

that life is sustained,

not by bread alone,

but by the word of God.'

Then the devil took him to the holy city,

and placed him

on the highest point

of the temple,

saying, 'If you are the Son of God,

throw yourself down from here,

for the scripture says

that the Lord Most High

will send angels to protect you,

to raise you up in their hands,

so that

you will not even hurt your foot

against a stone.'

Jesus answered, 'The scripture also says,

"Do not put the Lord your God

to the test."

Then the devil led him to a high mountain,

and showed him all the kingdoms of the world,

and their splendour; and said,

'All these, I will give to you,

if you fall down and worship me.'

Jesus said, 'Away from me, Satan;

for the scripture says,

"Worship and serve

the Lord your God,

and no other."

And the devil left him.

And angels came,

and ministered to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Genesis 12.1-5 A reading from the book of Genesis. The Lord said to Abram. 'You are to leave your country, your people, and your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. And I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing to many. I will bless those who bless you, and I will rebuke those who dishonour you. And in you, all the nations of the earth will be blessed.' And Abram departed from Haran, with his wife Sara. and his nephew Lot, and all their household, and all their possessions. as the Lord had directed. This is the word of the Lord. Second Reading - 2 Timothy 1.8-10 A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy. God saved us. and called us to new life in Christ, not because of anything we had done, but by God's grace and for God's purposes. This grace of God was established in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world. It is by this grace of God that our Saviour Jesus Christ has broken the power of death and shown us the way to eternal life. So do not be ashamed to speak of our salvation in Christ, And do not be ashamed of me, a prisoner for Christ. But be ready to suffer

for the sake of the gospel,

in the power of God. This is the word of the Lord.

trusting

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Jesus took Peter, and the brothers James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And there, Jesus was transfigured in their presence. His face shone like the sun. His clothes became dazzling white. And Moses and Elijah appeared. talking with him. Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here. Let me make three shelters. one for you. one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them. And a voice spoke from the cloud, saying, 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.' When the disciples heard the voice. they fell to the ground in fear. But Jesus came to them, and touched them, saying, 'Get up, and do not be afraid.' When they looked up, they now saw only Jesus, alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus said, 'Tell no one what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 17.1-9

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Exodus 17.1-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The whole people of Israel

made the journey

through the wilderness

in stages, as the Lord commanded.

In one place where they rested,

there was no water

for the people to drink.

The people argued,

and complained against Moses,

saying, 'You have brought us

out of Egypt

to a place where we, and our children,

and our livestock, will all die of thirst!'

Moses said to them, 'Surely

you should not

quarrel or complain against me.

For surely

you should not

doubt the Lord.

or put the Lord to the test.'

And Moses cried out to the Lord,

'What shall I do with this people?

They are almost ready to stone me.'

The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people.

Take with you

some of the elders of the people.

Carry with you

the same stick that you used

to strike

the river Nile.

I will stand before you,

on the rock, at Mount Sinai.

You will strike the rock, and water

will come out of the rock,

for the people to drink.'

And Moses did

as the Lord commanded.

And he called the place

'Quarrel', and 'Testing',

because there, the people had quarrelled,

and doubted the Lord,

and even questioned

whether the Lord was with them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 5.1-2,5-8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

It is rare

for anyone

to die for another -

even for somebody good.

And so we see the proof

of God's great love for us

in this:

that while we were still

weak, ungodly sinners,

Christ died for us.

And now we have received God's love

into our hearts

through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We have been reconciled with God, by faith,

in our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now we stand, with joyful confidence,

in the grace,

and the peace,

and the glory of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 4.5-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus approached a town in Samaria,

on land that Jacob

had once given

to his son Joseph.

Tired out by the journey, Jesus sat down

by Jacob's Well,

while his disciples

went into town

to buy food.

At about midday,

a woman of Samaria

came to draw water

from the well.

Jesus asked her

to draw some water

for him to drink.

Now Jews do not share things

with people of Samaria,

so the woman said to Jesus, 'It is strange

that you, being Jewish, are requesting

a drink from me, a woman of Samaria.'

Jesus said, 'If you knew

the generosity of God,

and who it is

that is asking you

for a drink,

you would have asked him

for the gift

of living water.'

The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket,

and the well is deep.

Where would you get that living water?

Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us

this well,

and drank from it himself,

with his sons, and all their livestock?'

Jesus said, 'Everyone who drinks this water

will be thirsty again.

But those who drink the water

that I give

will never be thirsty.

The water that I give

will become.

within them,

a flowing fountain

of water

for eternal life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading - 1 Samuel 16.1b,4-7,10-13a

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord sent Samuel

to the home of Jesse, in Bethlehem,

saying, 'I have chosen, for myself, a king,

amongst the sons of Jesse.'

In Bethlehem, Samuel invited

Jesse and his sons, and all the elders of the city,

to meet with him, in peace,

and make a sacrifice to the Lord.

Once they had gathered, Samuel first saw

Jesse's eldest son, Eliab.

Samuel thought that Eliab

would surely be the Lord's anointed.

But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not

look upon his height, or his appearance,

for I have rejected him.

Mortals may look

on the outward appearance,

but the Lord

looks on the heart.'

Jesse presented six more of his sons

to Samuel.

But Samuel said, 'Are all

your sons here?

For the Lord has not chosen

any of these.'

Jesse replied, 'There remains only the youngest,

and he is out, watching over the sheep.'

Samuel said, 'Send for him;

and we will not eat

until he arrives.'

When the youngest son arrived,

the Lord immediately said to Samuel,

'Rise, and anoint him, for he is the one.'

Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed David

in the presence of his brothers.

And the Spirit of the Lord

came powerfully

upon David

from that day forward.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 5.8-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Once, you were in darkness;

but now, you are in the light

of the Lord.

So live

as children of the light,

in the fruitful ways

of goodness, righteousness, and truth,

seeking always

what is pleasing

to the Lord.

And take no part

in the fruitless works of darkness;

but expose them, instead, to the light.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 9.1-7,14,16-17,33-39

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

After leaving the temple,

Jesus and his disciples

saw a man who had been blind from birth.

The disciples asked Jesus,

'Why was this man born blind?

Was it for his own sins,

or for the sins of his parents?'

Jesus answered, 'Neither;

but that the works of God

could be revealed in him.

I am the light of the world,

and while it is day,

we must do the works

of the one who sent me.

then leave energy the group

Then Jesus spat on the ground,

made mud with the saliva,

and spread the mud

on the man's eyes,

saying to him, 'Go and wash

in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent).

The man went,

and washed;

and came back,

able to see.

All of this happened

on the sabbath.

The Pharisees

began to argue amongst themselves.

Some insisted, 'This Jesus

cannot be from God,

for he does not

observe the sabbath.'

But others said, 'If he were a sinner,

he could not perform

such signs.'

The man who had been

healed of his blindness

said, 'Surely

his good works show

that he is a prophet.'

The Pharisees said,

'You were born in sin,

and you presume to teach us?'

And they drove him out.

Jesus found him, and said to him,

'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'

He answered, 'Who is that, sir?

Tell me, so that I may believe.'

Jesus said, 'You have seen him,

and you are speaking with him.'

He said, 'Lord, I believe;'

and worshipped him.

Jesus said, 'For judgement

I have come into the world:

to bring sight

to the blind,

and to expose the blindness

of those who think they can see.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Ezekiel 37.11-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The people are saying, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is gone.'

But the Lord God says, 'I will bring you up from your graves.

I will put my spirit within you, and you will live.

And I will lead you back

to the promised land.

And then you will know

that I am the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

To set the mind on the flesh

is death.

But to set the mind on the spirit

is life, and peace.

The mind that is set on the flesh

is hostile to God, and unable

to follow God's law.

But your life now is not

in the flesh, but in the spirit,

with the spirit of God dwelling within you.

For everyone who belongs to Christ

has the spirit of Christ within.

And though your body is dead, in sin,

your spirit is alive

in the righteousness of Christ.

For the spirit of God,

having raised Jesus from the dead,

now dwells within you, to give life

to your mortal body also.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 11.20b-45

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

When Martha heard

that Jesus was coming,

she went out to meet Jesus,

while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord,

if you had been here, my brother Lazarus

would not have died.

But even now, I know that God will give you

whatever you ask.'

Jesus said to Martha, 'Your brother

will rise again.'

Martha said, 'I know

that he will rise again

at the resurrection, on the last day.'

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection, and the life.

Those who live and believe in me

will never die.

And even if they die,

they will live.

Do you believe this?'

Martha said to Jesus, 'Yes, Lord,

I believe

that you are the Messiah,

the Son of God, who has

come into the world.'

Then Martha went back into the village,

and said to her sister Mary,

'The Teacher is here,

and is calling for you.'

Mary left the house,

and went quickly to the place

outside the village

where Martha had met with Jesus.

Those who had been consoling Mary

thought she was going to the tomb, to weep, so they also left the house, and followed her.

When Mary saw Jesus,

she knelt at his feet,

and said to him, 'Lord,

if you had been here,

my brother would not have died.'

When Jesus saw Mary weeping,

and those who were with her, also weeping,

he was deeply moved.

Jesus asked them, 'Where have you laid him?'

They said, 'Lord, come and see.'

Jesus also began to weep,

leading some to say, 'See how he loved him!'

But others said, 'He opened

the eyes of the blind.

Surely he could have kept Lazarus from dying.'

Jesus arrived at the tomb,

greatly distressed.

It was a cave,

with a stone

across the entrance.

Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.'

Martha said, 'Lord, it will be unpleasant;

he has been dead

for four days.'

Jesus replied, 'Those who believe

will see the glory of God.'

So they took away the stone.

For the sake of the gathered crowd,

so that they would understand

that this was the work of the Father,

Jesus looked up, and said,

'Father, I thank you for hearing me'.

Then Jesus shouted

into the cave, 'Lazarus, come out!'

And Lazarus came out of the cave,

his hands and his feet

still bound

in strips of linen,

and a cloth around his head.

Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him,

and let him go.'

Many of those who had been

comforting Mary

saw what Jesus did,

and came to believe in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Palm Sunday

Palm Procession - Matthew 21.4-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

The disciples brought the donkey and the foal to Jesus,

as Jesus had instructed them,

and made a saddle from their cloaks,

fulfilling the words

of the prophet Zekariah,

'Your king is coming to you, Jerusalem,

humble, and riding on a donkey,

on the foal of a donkey.'

Many in the crowd

spread their cloaks on the road,

and others cut branches from the trees

and spread those on the road.

The crowds that went in front of him,

and the crowds that followed behind,

shouted out, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord!'

When they entered Jerusalem,

the whole city was in turmoil,

with everyone asking, 'Who is this?'

And the crowds were saying, 'This is

the prophet Jesus,

from Nazareth, in Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Main Liturgy

First Reading - Isaiah 50.4-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God

has taught me wisdom,

so that I may speak

words of comfort

to the weary.

Morning by morning,

the Lord God awakens me,

so that I may learn wisdom

as a servant of the Lord.

When I face

persecution

and violence.

I do not hide my face,

or turn away.

Let my accusers

confront me.

I will set my face

like flint.

For I know

that the Lord God

brings justice,

and I will not

be defeated

or ashamed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let Christ Jesus

be your example.

He did not regard

his equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a servant.

Born in human form,

he humbled himself,

in faithful obedience,

even to death on the cross.

And now, God has highly exalted him,

and has given him the name

that is above every name,

so that

at the name of Jesus.

all shall bow down.

in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,

and declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory

of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Passion - Matthew 26.14 - 27.61

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Judas Iscariot,

one of the twelve.

went to the chief priests, and said,

'What will you give me

if I betray him to you?'

They paid him

thirty pieces of silver.

And from that moment,

he looked for an opportunity

to betray Jesus to them.

On the first day

of the Passover festival,

the disciples asked Jesus

where they should

make preparations

for the Passover meal.

Jesus told them to go into the city

to a certain man, and say to him,

'The Teacher says, "My time is near;

I will keep the Passover at your house

with my disciples."

The disciples did

as Jesus had directed them,

and they prepared

the Passover meal.

When it was evening,	Peter said to Jesus,
Jesus and the twelve	'Others may fall away,
took their places at the table.	but I will not.'
While they were eating,	Jesus said to Peter, 'This very night,
Jesus said, 'Truly, I tell you,	before the cock crows,
one of you	you will deny me
will betray me.'	three times.'
The disciples were greatly distressed,	Peter replied, 'Even if I must
and began to say to him,	die with you,
one after another, 'Surely, not me, Lord?'	I will not deny you!'
Jesus said, 'One who is	And all the disciples
sharing this meal with me	said the same.
will betray me.	
The Son of Man will go	They went to a place
as it is written.	called Gethsemane.
As for the one who	And Jesus said to his disciples, 'Stay here,
betrays him,	while I go over there
it would have been better	to pray.'
not to have been born.'	Jesus took with him
Judas, the betrayer,	Peter, and the brothers James and John.
said, 'Teacher, am I the one?'	And he became
Jesus replied,	sorrowful, and distressed,
'You have said it.'	saying to them, 'My soul
Tou Have Salu It.	·
While they were esting	is consumed with grief, to the point of death.
While they were eating, Jesus took bread,	Stay here, and keep watch.'
•	And going a little further,
and after giving thanks,	he fell to the ground,
he broke it,	and prayed, 'My Father,
and gave it to his disciples,	if it is possible,
saying, 'Take, eat;	take this cup from me;
this is my body.'	yet not my will,
Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks,	but yours,
he gave it	be done.
to them,	Returning to the disciples,
saying, 'Drink from this cup,	he found them sleeping.
all of you;	He said to Peter, 'Could you not
for this is my blood	watch with me, even one hour?
of the covenant,	Stay awake, and pray,
which is poured out	that you may not
for many	have to enter
for the forgiveness of sins.	the time of temptation, testing, and trial;
And I will not	for the spirit is willing,
drink	but the flesh is weak.'
the fruit of the vine	Again he went away, and prayed, 'My Father,
again	if this cup cannot pass
until I drink it with you	unless I drink it,
in my Father's kingdom.'	your will be done.'
,	And he returned, and again
When they had sung a hymn,	found them sleeping,
they went out	for their eyes were heavy.
to the Mount of Olives.	So leaving them again,
And Jesus said to them,	he went away,
'You will all fall away	and prayed a third time,
because of me	saying the same words.
this night.	Then he returned to the disciples,
As the scripture says,	and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping,
"I will strike the shepherd,	and taking your rest?
and the sheep	The hour has come,
will be scattered."	and the Son of Man is betrayed
But after I am raised up,	into the hands of sinners.
I will go ahead of you	
to Galilee.'	Let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.'
io Gaillee.	oce, my beliayer io al ridilu.

While Jesus	Those who had arrested Jesus
was still speaking,	took him to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest,
Judas, one of the twelve, arrived,	where the scribes and the elders had gathered.
with a crowd,	Peter followed them
with swords and clubs,	at a distance,
from the chief priests,	to the courtyard of the high priest,
and the elders of the people.	where he sat with the guards,
Judas, the betrayer,	to see how this would end.
had arranged a signal with them,	to ooo now tine would one.
saying, 'I will greet him	The chief priests, and the whole council,
with a kiss;	were looking for false testimony against Jesus,
,	
then you can arrest him.'	so that they could have him
So Judas	put to death.
now approached Jesus,	But they found none,
saying, 'Greetings, Teacher,'	even though
and kissed him.	many false witnesses
Jesus said to Judas, 'My friend, do	came forward.
what you are	Finally, two came forward, who claimed
here	that Jesus had said
to do.'	he could destroy
Then they took hold of Jesus,	the temple of God,
and arrested him.	and rebuild it,
	in three days.
One of the disciples	The high priest stood up,
drew his sword,	and demanded of Jesus, 'How do you respond
and struck	to what they are saying?
the servant of the high priest,	Have you no answer?'
cutting off	Jesus remained silent.
his ear.	Then the high priest said,
But Jesus said,	'I put you under oath
'Put away your sword;	before the living God.
for all who live	Tell us now,
by the sword	whether you are the Messiah,
will die	the Son of God.'
by the sword.	Jesus said to him,
I could appeal to my Father,	'You have said it.
and he would send	But I say to you,
twelve legions	that after all this,
of angels.	you will see
But what is written	the Son of Man
must be fulfilled,	seated
that it must happen	at the right hand of power,
in this way.'	and returning
	on the clouds of heaven.'
Then Jesus turned to the crowd,	Then the high priest
and said,	tore at his robes,
'Day after day	and said to the scribes and the elders,
I was teaching in the temple,	'We need
and you did not arrest me.	no more witnesses.
And now you come out	You have heard
with swords and clubs	his blasphemy.
to arrest me	What is your verdict?'
like an outlaw.	The scribes and the elders
But all this has taken place	answered, 'He must die.'
that the scriptures	And they spat
would be fulfilled.'	in his face,
	·
Then all the disciples	and struck him.
deserted him, and fled.	And some mocked him,
	saying, 'If you are a prophet,
	tell us who struck you.'

Now Peter was sitting outside, Taking the coins, in the courtyard. the chief priests said, 'We cannot put these One of the women who worked there approached Peter, into the treasury, and said, 'You were with Jesus, from Galilee.' for they are blood money.' But Peter denied it. And after discussing this together, saying, 'I do not know they used them what you mean.' to buy And he moved The Potter's Field, to the outer courtyard. as a place Another woman saw him there, and said. to bury 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' foreigners. Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath, For this reason, saying, 'I do not know the man.' the place After a while, those standing there has been called said to Peter, 'Surely you were with him, The Field of Blood for your accent betrays you.' to this day. Peter began to curse, and again swore, And in this way with an oath, 'I do not know the man.' the words of the prophet At that very moment, were fulfilled: the cock crowed. 'They took And Peter remembered thirty silver coins, that Jesus had said to him, the price 'Before the cock crows, that had been you will deny me three times.' set on him. And Peter went out, and gave them and wept bitterly. for The Potter's Field, as the Lord When morning came, had directed.' the chief priests. and the elders of the people, Now Jesus again conspired together, stood before Pilate, the governor; against Jesus, and Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you to bring about his death. the King of the Jews?' Then they bound Jesus, led him away, Jesus replied, 'You have said it.' and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. Then the chief priests and the elders When Judas set out their accusations against Jesus. But Jesus gave no reply. saw that Jesus Pilate said to Jesus, 'Do you not hear was condemned, the accusations he repented, they are making against you?' and brought back And still. the thirty silver coins Jesus gave no reply. to the chief priests and the elders. Judas said, 'I have sinned, And a message was sent to Pilate by betraying innocent blood.' by his wife: The chief priests, and the elders, said, 'Have nothing to do with this innocent man, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' for today I have suffered many things Judas in a dream, because of him.' threw the coins into the temple. And he went away

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and hanged himself.

Now at the festival, it was the custom Pilate's soldiers took Jesus to the barracks, where of the governor to release to the crowd the whole company of soldiers a prisoner, of their choosing. gathered around him. Pilate was holding a notorious prisoner, They put a red robe on him, called Barabbas. and twisted some thorns Pilate asked into a crown, and put it on his head. the gathered crowd, They put a reed 'Who do you want me to release for you? in his right hand, Barabbas? then knelt before him, Or Jesus, called the Messiah?' and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' Pilate recognised They spat on him, that it was out of envy and hit him, on the head, with the reed. that the chief priests and the elders And after they had mocked him, had arrested Jesus. they removed the robe from him, and had brought Jesus to him. and led him away And now the chief priests and the elders to crucify him. persuaded the crowds to ask As they went out, for the release of Barabbas, a man from north Africa, called Simon, was there, and they made him carry the cross. and to have Jesus When they came to the place called Golgotha, The Place of the Skull, put to death. Pilate asked the crowd again, they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with bitter herbs; 'Which of these two shall I release to you?' but after tasting it, he would drink no more. And the crowd And when they had crucified him, demanded Barabbas. they divided his clothing between them, Pilate asked them, 'What then shall I do by casting lots. with Jesus, called the Messiah?' Then they sat and kept watch over him. And the crowd cried out, Above his head. 'Crucify him!' they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Pilate asked, 'Why? What evil has he done?' Two thieves But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify!' were crucified with him, one on his right, and one on his left. When Pilate saw that he could do nothing, Those who passed by and that a riot was beginning, mocked him, he took water. shaking their heads, and washed his hands and saying, 'You said you could in front of the crowd, destroy the temple, saying, 'I am innocent and build it in three days of this man's blood.' so save yourself. And the people answered, 'His blood be on us If you are the Son of God, and on our children!' Pilate released Barabbas for them, come down from the cross.' and had Jesus flogged; The chief priests, the elders, then handed Jesus over and the teachers of the law. to be crucified. also mocked him, saying, 'He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he is the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God: he claims to be the Son of God; let us see whether God will deliver him now.'

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And those who were crucified with him

also taunted him.

At midday, darkness came over the whole land for three hours. Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice. 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Jesus cried out in Aramaic, addressing God as 'Eli'. Some of the bystanders thought he was calling for Elijah. One of them brought a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and held it up for Jesus to drink. But others said. 'Wait. let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus let out a loud cry once again, and yielded up his spirit. And the curtain of the temple sanctuary was torn in two. The earth shook, and rocks split apart. **Tombs** broke open; and the bodies of many godly people who had died were awakened. After his resurrection, they came out from their tombs, and entered the holy city, and appeared to many. When the centurion, and the other soldiers, guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake, and all that had taken place, they said, 'Truly this was the Son of God.'

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee. and had provided for him. They included Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus, went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus; and Pilate ordered that it should be given to him. So Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb. which had been carved out from the rock. He rolled a great stone across the entrance of the tomb. and went away. And Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, were there,

The Passion of the Lord.

sitting opposite the tomb.

Maundy Thursday

First Reading - Exodus 12.2-3,5a,6-8,11-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord spoke these words

to Moses and Aaron

in Egypt.

You are to call this month

the first month

of the year.

On the tenth day

of this month,

each family, each household,

is to take a lamb,

a year-old male, without blemish.

On the fourteenth day,

each household

is to slaughter the lamb

at sunset.

With the blood of the lamb,

you are to mark

the door-frame

of the house

where you will eat.

That same night,

you are to roast the lamb

over a fire,

and eat it,

with bitter herbs,

and bread

made without yeast.

You are to eat it

hurriedly,

with your belt fastened,

and your shoes on your feet.

That night will be

the Passover

of the Lord -

for I will pass through

the land of Egypt

that night,

and I will strike down

every first-born male

in the land of Egypt,

both people and animals.

Against all the gods of Egypt,

I will bring judgement -

for I am the Lord.

But when I see

the blood of the lamb

on the houses where you live,

I will pass over you,

and no plague will destroy you,

even as I strike

the land of Egypt.

And then,

you are to keep this day

as a day of remembrance,

a festival to the Lord

for ever,

through every generation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 5.5a,6a,7-13

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Looking like a lamb

that has been slain,

and is alive again,

the one who is

the Lion of Judah, and the root of David, took

the scroll

from the one who was

seated on the throne.

The four living creatures, and the twenty-four elders,

holding musical instruments,

and golden bowls

of fragrant offerings of incense

(which are the prayers of the saints),

fell down before the Lamb,

and sang: 'You are worthy,

for you were slain,

and by your blood

you have restored to God

a people to serve

as a royal priesthood on earth

from every nation, tribe, and language.'

Then I heard thousands of angels,

all around the throne,

with the living creatures, and the elders,

singing in full voice: 'Worthy

is the Lamb that was slain,

to receive

all wisdom and power,

all glory and honour and praise!'

Then I heard every creature

in heaven and on earth,

and under the earth, and in the sea,

singing to the one who was seated on the throne,

and to the Lamb, 'Blessing and honour

and glory and power,

be yours for ever and ever!'

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 1.23,26b-27,29

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

John the Baptist said,

'I am the voice

crying out, in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord,"

as the prophet Isaiah has said.

But amongst you

stands one

you do not know,

the one who is coming after me.

And I am not worthy

even to be his servant.'

The next day,

John saw Jesus

coming towards him,

and declared,

'Here is the Lamb of God,

the one who takes away the sin of the world!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Good Friday

First Reading - Isaiah 53.3-5

He was despised

and rejected.

He knew anguish

and pain.

We counted him as worthless,

as struck down

by God.

We turned our faces

from him.

Yet truly

he bore our anguish,

and carried our pain.

He was wounded

for our transgressions,

and crushed

for our iniquities.

He bore the punishment

that makes us whole.

And by his wounds,

we are healed.

Second Reading - Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-10a

We have

a great high priest, who has

ascended

into heaven.

Jesus, the Son of God.

And he is able to sympathise

with our weakness,

for he himself

has been tested,

in every way, as we are -

yet without sin.

So let us trust in him,

and approach the throne of grace

with confidence,

that we may receive

mercy,

and find

grace to help

in time of need.

In the days of his earthly life,

Jesus offered up prayers,

with loud cries, and tears,

to the one who was

able to rescue him

from death.

And his prayer was heard,

in his reverent submission

to the will of the Father.

Even as

the Son,

he grew

in devotion

through all

he learned

and endured.

And when he had

accomplished and completed

all things,

he was declared by God

to be

the eternal high priest,

and has become

the source

of eternal salvation

for all who trust in him.

Good Friday Passion Readings begin on the next page

Good Friday	Simon Peter,
Passion Reading Part 1	and another disciple,
John 18.1-27	followed Jesus.
	The other disciple
Jesus went	was known
with his disciples	to the high priest, and was able
to a garden	to follow Jesus
on the far side	all the way into the courtyard.
of the Kidron valley.	But Peter was left standing outside the gate,
Judas	until the other disciple
also knew the place,	went out
because Jesus	and spoke to the woman who was
would often meet there	guarding the gate.
with his disciples.	The woman said to Peter, 'Are you also
So Judas led	one of his disciples?'
the soldiers and the temple guards there,	Peter said, 'I am not.'
with weapons and torches.	The temple guards and servants
Jesus, knowing what was happening,	had made a charcoal fire
stepped forward, and asked them, 'Who is it	in the courtyard,
that you are looking for?'	and they were standing around it
They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'	to keep warm.
Jesus said, 'I am he.'	Peter went
	and stood with them.
And they stepped back	
and fell to the ground.	Inside, Jesus was being questioned
Jesus asked them again, 'Who is it	about his disciples
that you are looking for?'	and his teaching.
And again they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'	Jesus said, 'I have always spoken openly.
Jesus replied, 'I say again, I am he.	I have taught
Now let these others go.'	in the synagogue,
In this way,	and in the temple,
he fulfilled the words	where people gather.
he had spoken earlier	I have said nothing in secret.
in prayer:	You do not need
'I have protected those	to question me.
you entrusted to me.'	You can ask
Simon Peter	those who heard me.'
now drew his sword,	One of the temple guards
and struck	struck Jesus on the face,
the servant	saying, 'That is not
of the high priest,	how you answer
cutting off	the high priest.'
his right ear.	Jesus said, 'If what I have said
Jesus said, 'Put your sword away,	is untrue, then say so;
for I must surely drink	but if it is true, why strike me?'
from the cup	Annas now sent Jesus, bound,
that the Father	to Caiaphas, the high priest.
has given me.'	Simon Peter
Then the soldiers	was still standing
and the temple guards	with the temple guards,
arrested Jesus,	by the charcoal fire, in the courtyard.
and bound him.	Those who were standing there
They took him first to Annas,	asked Peter, 'Are you also
the father-in-law	one of his disciples?'
of Caiaphas, who was the high priest	Peter again denied it,
that year.	saying, 'I am not.'
•	One of the servants of the high priest
Caiaphas	
was the one who had said	(a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off)
that it was better	said to Peter, 'Did I not
to have one person die	see you with him, in the garden?'
for the people.	Again Peter denied it;
	and at that very moment,
	the cock crowed.

Good Friday Passion Reading Part 2

John 18.28 - 19.16

At first light, they took Jesus from the court of Caiaphas, the high priest, to the headquarters of Pilate, the Roman governor.

But they did not go in, as that would have been a ritual defilement, preventing them

from eating the Passover.

So Pilate went out to them, and asked, 'What charges do you bring against this man?'

They answered, 'If he were not an offender, we would not have brought him to you.'

Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves, and judge him by your own law.'

They replied, 'It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.'

Pilate went back inside his headquarters.

There, he summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

Jesus said, 'Do you ask this for yourself, or is it something that others have said?'

Pilate replied, 'I am a Roman, not a Jew. Your own people, and their chief priests have handed you over to me.

What is it

that you have done?'

Jesus said, 'My kingdom

is not

of this world,

or I would have guards,

fighting to protect me.

My kingdom is not here.'

Pilate said, 'So you are a king!'

Jesus said, 'You have said it.

I was born, and I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth

hears my voice.'

Pilate said, 'And what is truth?'

Pilate then returned

to those who were waiting outside, and said, 'I find no case against him.

But you have a custom

that I release a prisoner for you at Passover.

Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?'

And they shouted, 'Not him,

but Barabbas!'

And Barabbas

was a common criminal.

Pilate took Jesus,

and had him flogged.

The soldiers made a crown, out of thorns, and put it on his head; and they dressed him in a purple robe.

They came up to him,

saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and struck him on the face.

Pilate returned to those who were waiting outside,

and said, 'I am bringing him out to you

to let you know

that I find no case against him.'

Jesus came out,

wearing the crown of thorns

and the purple robe.

Pilate said, 'Behold the man!'

As soon as the chief priests, and the temple guards, saw him,

they shouted, 'Crucify!'

Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him.

I find no case against him.'

They said, 'By our law, he must die,

for he claims to be

the Son of God.'

When Pilate heard this,

he was greatly concerned.

He entered his headquarters again,

and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?'

But Jesus gave no answer.

Pilate said, 'Do you refuse to speak to me?

Do you not see

that I have the power to release you,

or to crucify you?'

Jesus said, 'You would have had

no power over me,

had it not been given to you.

The one who handed me over to you

is guilty of a greater sin.'

On hearing this, Pilate again

sought to release Jesus,

but the chief priests

and the temple guards

said, 'If you release him, you are no friend

of the emperor,

for he sets himself against the emperor,

by calling himself a king.'

Pilate took Jesus outside,

and sat on the judgement seat,

at the stone pavement.

It was about midday

on the day of preparation

for the Passover.

Pilate said, 'Here is your king!'

They cried out, 'Away with him!

Crucify him!'

Pilate asked them, 'Shall I

crucify your king?'

They answered, 'We have no king

but the emperor!'

And Pilate handed Jesus over to them,

and they led him away

to be crucified.

Good Friday Passion Reading Part 3 John 19.17-end With Jesus carrying his own cross, they led him out to The Place of the Skull (which in Hebrew is Golgotha). There, they crucified him, between two others, one on his right, and one on his left. Pilate had an inscription placed on the cross: 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many people were able to read this, as the place of the crucifixion was near the city. and the sign was written in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. The chief priests complained to Pilate, insisting that the inscription should not be 'The King of the Jews', the King of the Jews'. I have written.' divided his clothes between them. so rather than tear it.

but 'This man claimed to be But Pilate said, 'What I have written, The soldiers who crucified Jesus But his tunic was woven as a single piece, they cast lots for it. As it says in the psalm, 'They divided my garments amongst themselves, and for my clothing, they cast lots.' Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother. and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw the beloved disciple standing beside his mother, Jesus said to his mother, 'Here is your son', and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that time on,

the disciple took her into his own home.

Knowing that everything was now completed,

and in order to fulfil the scripture,

From a jar that was standing there,

Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'

they filled a sponge

on a branch of herbs.

and lifted it to his mouth.

When Jesus had received it,

he said, 'It is finished,' And he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.

with sour wine,

fixed it

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The temple authorities did not want the crucifixions continuing into the sabbath, so they asked Pilate to order that the legs of the crucified be broken. and the bodies removed. The soldiers came and broke the legs of the two who had been crucified alongside Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, seeing that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but pierced his side with a spear; and blood and water flowed out. This account is given by one who was there, who witnessed these things, so that you may know it to be true. And so it is that the scriptures were fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken,' and,

'They will look upon the one they have pierced.' After all these things had taken place, Joseph of Arimathea sought and received from Pilate permission to take away the body of Jesus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the religious authorities. Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus by night, brought linen cloths, and ointment, with myrrh, and fragrant oils. And together, they anointed and wrapped the body of Jesus for burial. In a garden, close to the place of crucifixion, there was a new tomb. in which no one had ever been laid. And as the sabbath

was soon to begin,

Easter Day

First Reading - Acts 2.22-24,29-32,36

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said, 'People of Israel,

you were all witnesses

to the signs, wonders, and deeds of power,

that God did amongst us

through Jesus of Nazareth.

And yet you had him crucified,

at the hands of those

outside the law.

But God raised him up,

setting him free from death,

which could not

hold him in its power.

All this was in fulfilment of a plan

that God formed

long ago.

King David died,

and was buried,

and his tomb is with us

to this day.

But as a prophet, King David knew

that God would put

one of his own descendants

on his throne.

When King David wrote

that he would not

be abandoned to death,

he was writing

of that descendant, the Messiah,

and the resurrection

of the Messiah.

And now, we are all witnesses

that God has raised up

this Jesus

from the dead.

So let it be known, to all Israel,

that God has made this Jesus -

the one you crucified -

to be both Messiah and Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 3.1-4

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Now that you have been raised up with Christ,

seek the things

that are above.

Set your minds

on the things of heaven,

not on the things of earth.

For you have died,

and your new life, in the risen Christ,

is secure.

in the presence of God.

And when Christ, who is your life, appears,

you also

will appear with him

in glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 20.1-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb,

and saw that the stone

had been removed.

She hurried back to Simon Peter.

and the disciple Jesus loved, and said,

'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,

and we do not know

where they have laid him.'

Peter and the other disciple

set off running

towards the tomb.

The other disciple outran Peter,

reaching the tomb first.

Bending down to look in, he could see

the linen wrappings, lying there,

but did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him,

and went into the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings; and he saw

the cloth that had been on Jesus' head,

rolled up separately, in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple also went in,

and saw, and believed;

(for until this point,

they had not understood the scripture,

that he must rise from the dead).

When these two disciples returned to their homes,

Mary stayed, weeping, outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

and she saw two angels, in white robes,

sitting one at the head, and one at the feet,

of where the body of Jesus had been.

The angels said to Mary, 'Why are you weeping?'

Mary said, 'They have taken away my Lord,

and I do not know where they have laid him.'

When she had said this, she turned around,

and saw Jesus standing there,

but she did not know

that it was Jesus.

Jesus asked her, 'Why are you weeping? Who is it

that you are looking for?'

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,

'Sir, if you have carried him away,

tell me where you have laid him,

and I will take him away.'

Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

Mary turned, and said to him, 'Teacher!'

Jesus said, 'Do not hold me,

for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go, and tell my brothers

that I am ascending

to my Father and your Father,

to my God and your God.

Mary Magdalene went

and said to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord';

and she told them the words

the Lord had spoken to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 2.32,36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said, 'People of Israel,

we are all now witnesses

that God has raised up Jesus from the dead.

So let it be known, to all Israel,

that God has made this Jesus -

the one you crucified -

to be both Messiah and Lord.'

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter, and the apostles,

what they should do.

Peter said to them, 'Save yourselves

from this corrupt generation.

Repent, and be baptised,

in the name of Jesus Christ,

for the forgiveness of your sins;

and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This promise is for you, and for your children,

and for all who are far away -

for all are now called

by the Lord our God.'

Those who welcomed Peter's message were baptised.

And that day, about three thousand

were added to their number.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 1.3-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Let us give praise to God,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

For by the great mercy of God,

and the resurrection of Jesus Christ

from the dead,

we have been given new birth

into a new and living faith,

and into an inheritance, kept for us in heaven,

that will never perish, spoil, or fade.

And you, yourselves, are being protected,

by the power of God, and by your faith,

until the day when our salvation

will be fully revealed, at the end of the age.

So rejoice, even though, for a little while,

you suffer many and various trials.

Gold

is also tested, by fire.

And your faith

is more precious than gold!

Your present trials demonstrate

that your faith is genuine;

and that will be to your praise and honour

when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Although you have not seen him, you love him,

you trust in him, and you are filled

with the glory

of a joy beyond words,

as your faith leads you on

towards the perfection of your salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 20.19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

The disciples met together

on the evening

of the first day of the week,

with the doors locked,

because they were afraid.

And Jesus came, and stood amongst them,

and said, 'Peace be with you.'

He showed them his hands.

and his side.

And the disciples were filled with joy

at seeing the risen Lord.

Jesus said to them, 'Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me,

so I send you.'

And breathing on them,

he said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone,

they are forgiven.

If you fail to forgive,

sin remains.'

Now one of the twelve,

Thomas (called the Twin),

was not with them

when Jesus came.

When the other disciples told Thomas

that they had seen

the Lord,

Thomas said to them, 'Unless I see and touch

the marks

of the nails

in his hands,

and put my hand

in his side,

I will not believe.'

A week later,

Thomas was with the disciples

when they gathered.

And again, though the doors were locked,

Jesus came, and stood amongst them,

and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Jesus said

to Thomas, 'See and touch my hands,

and place your hand in my side.

Do not doubt, but believe.'

Thomas replied, 'My Lord, and my God!'

Jesus said to Thomas, 'You have seen me,

and you have believed.

Blessed are those who do not see,

and yet believe.'

Jesus did many other signs,

in the presence of his disciples,

which are not recorded in this book.

But these are written

that you may believe

that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,

and through believing,

may have life

in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 2.42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

All those who were baptised

devoted themselves

to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers.

All were deeply moved

at the many wonders and signs

being done

through the apostles.

The believers were all together, day by day,

in the temple,

and breaking bread in their homes,

where they would

eat together, with glad and generous hearts.

They held everything in common,

selling their goods and possessions,

and distributing the proceeds

to any who were in need.

They were continually praising God.

They had the goodwill

of all the people.

And day by day, the Lord was adding to their number those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 1.17b-21

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

We have been rescued

from the futile ways

that we inherited from our ancestors.

And the cost of our rescue

was not silver or gold,

but the precious blood of Christ, who was

like a sacrificial lamb, without defect or blemish.

This was God's plan and purpose

from before the foundation of the world:

that through Christ, we should find

faith and trust in God, who has raised Christ from death to glory.

So during this time of our exile, let us live a life that honours

our Father in heaven.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 24.13-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

That same day, the first day of the week,

two of the disciples

were walking to a village called Emmaus,

about seven miles from Jerusalem,

talking with each other

about everything that had happened.

While they were talking, and discussing these things, Jesus himself came near, and walked with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him.

Jesus asked them what they were discussing as they were walking along.

They stood still, looking downcast.

One of them said, 'You must be the only person,

in all Jerusalem, who does not know

the things that have happened there, in recent days.'

Jesus asked them, 'What things?'

They said, 'About Jesus of Nazareth,

a prophet, mighty in word and deed,

in the sight of God, and all the people.

And how our chief priests and elders

handed him over

to be condemned to death.

and crucified.

We had hoped

that he was the one to save Israel.

It is now the third day since these things took place,

and some women from our group

astounded us.

They were at the tomb early this morning.

They did not find his body,

but came back and told us

that they had seen

a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.

Some of those who were with us

went to the tomb,

and found it just as the women had said.'

Jesus said to them, 'How foolish you are,

and how slow to believe

all that the prophets have declared!

For it was necessary that the Messiah

should suffer these things, and only then

enter into his glory.'

And beginning with Moses, and the prophets,

Jesus explained to them

all the scriptures concerning himself.

As they came near to the village, Jesus

walked on ahead, as if he intended to go on.

But they persuaded him to stay with them,

as it was already late, and becoming dark.

When they came to eat, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened,

and they recognised him.

And he disappeared

from their sight.

And now, they each

told the other

how their hearts

had burned within them

as he had talked with them, on the road,

and opened the scriptures to them.

That same hour, they returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven, and those with them,

gathered together.

They were saying, 'The Lord has risen,

and has appeared to Peter!'

And the two disciples told them

what had happened on the road,

and how the Lord

had been

made known to them

in the breaking of bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 3.1-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter and John went up to the temple

at the time of the afternoon prayers.

They saw a man who had been lame from birth

being carried to one of the temple gates,

where he would beg each day

as people entered the temple.

Peter and John

looked at him intently.

Peter said, 'Look at us'.

And he looked up,

expecting to receive something from them.

Peter said, 'I have no gold or silver,

but I will give you

what I have.

In the name

of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!'

Taking him by the hand,

Peter helped him up,

and immediately, the man's feet and ankles

became strong.

He stood up, and began to walk.

And he entered the temple,

holding on to Peter and John,

walking, even jumping,

and giving thanks to God.

People began to gather around, amazed,

when they saw him,

and recognised him

as the man who sat begging

at the temple gate.

Peter addressed those who gathered,

saying: "People of Israel, do not

be surprised

by what you see.

We have no power or godliness

to make this man walk.

But by this sign, the God of our ancestors,

the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

is glorifying Jesus, the faithful son of God -

the one you handed over to Pilate,

and rejected

even when Pilate offered to release him.

You rejected the holy and righteous one,

asking for a murderer instead.

You killed the prince of life.

But God raised him from the dead.

And now, it is by faith in the name of Jesus

that this man has been healed,

and made strong.

I know that you, and your leaders, acted in ignorance;

but this is how God fulfilled

all that is written in the prophets,

that the Messiah would suffer.

So repent, now;

ssra.uk

turn again; and your sins

will be forgiven.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2.20-25

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

It is not a virtue, if you endure

when you are punished for doing wrong.

But if you endure

when you suffer for doing right,

that is a worthy sacrifice,

for you are following the example

of Christ, who suffered for you.

As it says in the scriptures, 'He committed no sin,

in word or deed.'

When he was abused,

he gave no insult in return.

When he suffered, he did not curse,

but trusted

in the one who is

the righteous judge of all.

It was for our sins

that he suffered, in his body, on the cross.

It is by his wounds

that we are healed.

And it is by his worthy sacrifice

that we can now be dead to sin,

and alive to righteousness.

Like sheep, we were going astray;

but now, we have returned to the one who is

the shepherd and guardian of our lives.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 10.1-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

'When the shepherd

goes to the sheepfold,

the gatekeeper

welcomes him in.

The shepherd then calls his sheep

by name, and leads them out.

And they follow him,

because they know his voice.

The thief climbs in another way, but the sheep

will not follow him.

They keep away from him, because they do not

know his voice.'

The Pharisees did not understand

what Jesus was saying to them.

So Jesus said to them, 'I am

the gate for the sheep.

Whoever enters by the gate

will be safe,

free to come in, and go out,

and find pasture.

All who came before me

were thieves and robbers.

coming only to steal, and kill, and destroy.

But the sheep

did not listen to them.

I came

that they may have life,

and life in all its fullness.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Year A

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 4.1-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter and John continued to speak

to the crowd that had gathered, in the temple,

about Jesus, and about the resurrection of the dead.

The priests, and the Sadducees,

were greatly annoyed,

and taking the commander of the temple guard,

they arrested Peter and John,

and put them in a cell

for the night.

But many had already heard the message,

and the number of believers was now

about five thousand.

The next day, the leaders, the elders,

and the teachers of the law, all met in Jerusalem.

Amongst them were Annas the high priest,

and Caiaphas, and others

from the high priest's family.

They had Peter and John brought in,

and began to question them:

'By what power, or in what name, are you doing this?'

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,

'Rulers and elders of the people,

you question us today

about an act of kindness

towards a man who was lame.

We say to you, and to all the people of Israel:

this man stands before you,

healed

in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,

the one you crucified,

and God raised from the dead.

This Jesus is

"the stone the builders rejected,

which has become the cornerstone."

and there is no other name under heaven

by which we can be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2.4-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

The scripture says: 'See, I am laying in Zion

a cornerstone, chosen and true;

and whoever relies on it

will never be put to shame.'

The scripture also says, 'The stone

that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone.'

So come to the one who is

the living stone,

rejected by mortals,

but chosen by God.

And like living stones yourselves,

be built into a spiritual temple,

to be a holy priesthood,

offering spiritual sacrifices,

acceptable to God,

through Jesus Christ.

And for those who do not believe,

the scripture also says,

it is 'a stone that makes them stumble and fall'.

And so indeed they stumble and fall

when they reject the word of God.

But you are a chosen people,

a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

declaring the praises

of the one who called you

and led you out of darkness

into freedom and light.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 14.1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not be afraid.

Trust in God.

Trust also in me.

There is room for many

in my Father's house.

I go now to prepare a place for you.

And I will return for you,

and take you to myself,

so that where I am,

there you will be also.

And you already know the way

to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know

where you are going.

How can we know the way?'

Jesus said, 'I am the way,

and the truth, and the life.

Everyone who comes to the Father comes through me.

And if you know me,

you know my Father also.

and indeed you have seen him.

Philip said, 'Lord,

show us the Father,

and we will be satisfied.'

Jesus said, 'Philip,

have I been with you, all this time,

and still, you do not know me?

Whoever has seen me

has seen the Father,

for I am in the Father,

and the Father is in me.

The words that I speak

are the words

of the Father within me.

And now, those who trust in me

will do all that I have done, and more, because I am returning to the Father.

And I will do

whatever you ask

in my name;

and in this way also,

I will bring glory

to the Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 7.52-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Concluding his statement

to the high priest

and the council,

Stephen now accused them directly.

'Your ancestors persecuted

every prophet

they were sent.

They killed those who spoke

of the coming of

the Righteous One.

And now

you have become

his betravers

and his murderers.

You had the privilege

of receiving God's law,

but you never obeyed it!'

The high priest

and the council

were furious

at Stephen's words.

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit,

gazed into heaven, and said,

'I see

the glory of God,

and I see

Jesus, standing

at the right hand of God!'

But they covered their ears,

and with a loud shout,

they rushed at Stephen,

and dragged him out of the city.

Then laying their coats

at the feet

of a young man

named Saul,

they began

to stone

Stephen.

Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus,

receive my spirit.'

And falling

to his knees,

as he died.

Stephen cried out, 'Lord,

do not hold this sin against them.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3.15b-18a

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Always be ready

to speak about

the confidence

that you have in your faith.

Do so with gentleness, and respect,

and with a clear conscience,

so that those who speak against you

will be

put to shame

by your good conduct

in Christ.

It is better to suffer

for doing good

than to suffer

for doing wrong;

as Christ also suffered - the righteous

for the unrighteous,

once, for the sins of all,

to bring us back to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 14.15-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me,

and live by all that I have taught you,

I will ask the Father,

and he will send you

the Holy Spirit.

to be with you -

the Spirit of truth,

unknown to the world,

but known to you,

to be alongside you,

amongst you,

and within you.

Soon, the world

will not see me.

But you will see me.

I will not

leave you desolate.

I will come to you.

And you will live,

because I live.

And you will know

that I am in the Father.

And you will know

that you are in me,

and that

I am in you.

If you love me,

and live by all

that I have taught you,

I will love you,

and my Father

will love you,

and you will know that I am with you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Ascension Day
First Reading - Acts 1.3-11
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
After his suffering
and death,
Jesus
presented himself alive
to the apostles,
with many
convincing proofs,
appearing to them
during forty days,
and speaking
of the kingdom of God.
Jesus said to them,
'Do not
leave Jerusalem,
but wait here
for all that is promised by the Father.
John baptised with water,
but you will be
baptised
with the Holy Spirit
not many days from now.'
The apostles
asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time
when you will restore
the kingdom of Israel?'
Jesus replied, 'You cannot know
every time or season
in the purposes of the Father.
But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit
comes upon you.
And you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem, in all Judea,
in Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.'
Then, as they were watching,
he was taken up,
and a cloud
hid him
from their sight.
And as they looked intently
into the sky, two figures in white robes appeared,
saying, 'Men of Galilee,
why do you stand here
looking into the sky?
This Jesus
has been
taken up
from you
into heaven,
and will return
in the same way
you saw him go.'
This is the word of the Lord.

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Second Reading - Hebrews 7.23-28
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
The former high priests
  were many in number,
  because they were prevented by death
  from continuing in office.
But Jesus lives for ever,
  and his priesthood
  does not
  come to an end.
He is able to intercede, for all time,
  on behalf of those who
  approach God
  through him.
He is holy,
  righteous,
  undefiled;
set apart now
  from sinners,
exalted
  above the heavens.
The former high priests
  offered sacrifices
  day after day.
  for their own sins
  and for the sins of the people;
but Jesus offered himself,
  once for all.
The old law
  appointed
  high priests who were
  subject to human weakness;
but the new law
  appoints
  a Son, who is
  made perfect
  for ever.
This is the word of the Lord.
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Gospel - Matthew 28.16-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. The eleven disciples went to the mountain in Galilee. as Jesus had directed them. When the disciples saw Jesus there, one by one, they bowed down and worshipped him. Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore, and make disciples

of all nations,

baptising them

in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them

all that I have commanded you.

And know

that I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 1.3-9,12-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After his suffering and death,

Jesus presented himself alive to the apostles,

with many convincing proofs,

appearing to them during forty days,

and speaking of the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to them,

'Do not

leave Jerusalem,

but wait here

for all that is promised

by the Father.

John baptised with water,

but you will be

baptised

with the Holy Spirit

not many days from now.'

The apostles

asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time

when you will restore

the kingdom of Israel?'

Jesus replied, 'You cannot know

every time or season

in the purposes

of the Father.

But you will receive power

when the Holy Spirit

comes upon you.

And you will be my witnesses

in Jerusalem,

in all Judea,

in Samaria,

and to the ends of the earth.'

Then, as they were watching,

he was taken up,

and a cloud

hid him

from their sight.

The eleven returned

from the Mount of Olives

to the upper room in Jerusalem

where they were staying.

And with the women,

and Mary, the mother of Jesus,

and his brothers,

they devoted themselves

to prayer.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 5.6-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Be humble

in the presence

of the mighty power of God;

and God will raise you up

at the right time.

Let God, who cares for you,

hold all your anxieties.

Be alert, and watchful,

and steadfast in your faith.

Resist your enemy, the devil, who goes about

like a lion, seeking someone to devour.

You know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world

share the same suffering as you.

And you know

that after you have suffered a little while,

the God of all grace

will fully restore you,

strengthen you,

and establish you

in the eternal glory of Christ

to which you are called.

To God be the power and the glory for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 17.1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven, and said,

'Father, the hour has come

to glorify your Son, that your Son

may glorify you.

You granted your Son authority

to give eternal life

to those you have given to him;

to know you, the one true God,

and Jesus Christ, the one you have sent.

Father, I have glorified you on earth

by completing the work

that you gave me to do.

Now glorify me, in your own presence once again,

with the glory that I knew

before the world began.

I have made your name known

to those you gave me

from the world.

They were yours, and you gave them to me;

and they have trusted your word.

They know

that everything I have

comes from you.

I have passed on to them

the words that you gave to me,

and they have received and trusted them.

And they know that I myself

came from you.

I pray for them now;

praying not for the whole world,

but for those you have given to me,

because they are yours,

and they have honoured me.

Now I am departing from the world,

to return to you;

but they will remain in the world.

Father, protect them,

for the honour of your name,

the name that you entrusted to me.

May they be one, as we are one.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

This is the cooper of the Lord.

Pentecost

First Reading - Acts 2.1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples

were all together in one place,

when suddenly, all around them,

there was a sound

like the rush of a violent wind,

filling the entire house

where they were meeting.

Flames, or tongues of fire, appeared amongst them,

and rested on each of them.

And they were filled with the Holy Spirit,

and began to speak in many languages.

At this sound,

a crowd began to gather,

made up of Jewish believers who were

staying in Jerusalem -

from Asia and Arabia,

Egypt and North Africa,

Judea, Turkey, Syria,

Greece and the Balkans,

Crete, and Rome,

both Hebrews and converts.

They said, 'Surely, these who are speaking

are all from Galilee.

And yet we hear them

declaring the greatness of God,

each

in our own language.

What can this mean?'

But others mocked and said, 'They have had

too much wine.'

Peter, standing with the eleven,

raised his voice,

and addressed the crowd, saying:

'People of Judea,

and all who are here in Jerusalem:

these are not drunk, as you suppose,

for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No; this is what was spoken

through the prophet Joel,

when God declared: "In those days,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

The young will see visions,

your elders will dream dreams,

and your sons and your daughters

will receive and proclaim my word.

There will be wonders and signs

in the heavens, and on the earth:

blood, and fire, and clouds of smoke,

the sun turned to darkness

and the moon blood red.

before the coming

of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord

will be saved."

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12.4-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

There are many different gifts,

but only one Spirit.

There are different kinds of ministry,

but all serving the same Lord.

There are different activities,

but in all of them, and in everyone,

it is the same God at work.

And the work of the Spirit, in each individual,

is given

for the good of all.

Through the Spirit,

one person receives the gift of wisdom.

Another, by the same Spirit, receives the gift

of knowledge.

In the same Spirit, another receives the gift of faith.

Another receives gifts

of healing,

and another receives the gift

of the working of miracles.

Others, in the same Spirit,

receive the gifts

of prophecy, discernment,

languages, and interpretation.

All these gifts

are the work of the one Holy Spirit, who

distributes

these gifts

as the Holy Spirit wills.

And just as the body

is one body, with many parts,

so we, though many,

are one body, in Christ.

For in the one Spirit,

we were all baptised into one body,

whether Hebrews or Greeks, slaves or free.

and we all receive

the same

Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 7.37-39

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

On the final day

of the festival of the harvest, in Jerusalem,

Jesus was again

teaching in the temple.

Jesus said, 'Let all who are thirsty

come to me

and drink.

And, as the scripture says,

all who believe in me

will have streams of living water

flowing from within.'

By this, Jesus meant the Spirit,

which all who believed in him

would receive

after he had been glorified.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Trinity Sunday

First Reading - Isaiah 40.28-31

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord

is the everlasting God,

the creator

of all the earth,

with wisdom

beyond

our understanding.

The Lord does not

faint

or grow weary

and will give strength

to the suffering

and the weak.

Even the young

may grow weary,

and stumble, and fall.

But those who trust in the Lord

will find their strength renewed.

They will rise up

on wings

like eagles.

They will run,

and they will

endure.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 13.11-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

Finally, my brothers and sisters,

be joyful, as you grow in faith.

Encourage one another;

be of one mind;

live in peace.

And the God

of love and peace

will be with you.

Greet one another

with a holy kiss.

All the saints here

send their greetings.

And may the grace

of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God.

and the fellowship

of the Holy Spirit,

be with you all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 28.16-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

The eleven disciples went

to the mountain

in Galilee.

as Jesus had directed them.

When the disciples

saw Jesus there,

one by one,

they bowed down

and worshipped him.

Jesus said, 'All authority

in heaven and on earth

has been given to me.

Go therefore,

and make disciples

of all nations,

baptising them

in the name of the Father

and the Son

and the Holy Spirit,

and teaching them

all that I have commanded you.

And know

that I am with you always,

even

to the end

of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 24 and 28 May (if after Trinity Sunday) Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time First Reading - Isaiah 49.9-10,14-15 A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The Lord says to Jerusalem:

I led you from captivity to freedom. I gave you food along the way. I led you to pasture in the wilderness. You knew neither hunger nor thirst, as I led you, with compassion,

by springs of water through the desert heat. I led you from darkness to light.

And yet you continue to say, 'The Lord has abandoned us', and,

'Our Lord has forgotten us'. No mother

abandons her child, or forgets the infant

> she holds in her arms.

And neither will I forget you. says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 4.1-5

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Apollos and I, alike, have sought only

to be servants of Christ,

entrusted with all

that God has revealed.

I believe

I have fulfilled that trust,

but it is not for me,

or you,

or anyone else on earth,

to judge.

For when the Lord comes,

and shines a light

on all

that is hidden

in our hearts,

all motivations

will be known;

and the Lord will judge

what is worthy of praise.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 6.24-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said,

'You cannot serve two masters,

for you will love one,

and hate the other;

you will be devoted to one,

and despise the other.

You cannot serve

both God and wealth.

So I tell you:

do not worry

about what you will eat,

or drink, or wear;

for life

is more than food,

and the body

is more than clothing.

Look at the birds of the air:

they do not plant,

or harvest,

or gather into barns,

and vet

your heavenly Father

feeds them.

And you are more valuable

than the birds!

Look at the wild flowers,

how they grow:

they do not

weave or sew,

and yet

not even Solomon

in all his glory

was clothed

as finely

as these.

If this is how

God clothes

the grass of the field, which is

alive today,

and dried up tomorrow,

then how much more

will God clothe you!

So have faith!

Do not worry, as others do,

about what you will eat,

or drink, or wear.

Worrying

will not add

a single hour

to your span of life.

And your heavenly Father knows that you need these things.

So work instead

for the kingdom of God,

and for righteousness;

and all these other things

will be given to you

as well.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Year A ssra.uk

Sunday between 29 May and 4 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 11.18-20, 26-28

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Fix these words

in your heart

and in your soul,

on your hands

and before your eyes.

Teach them to your children,

every morning, and every evening,

both when you are at home,

and when you are away.

Write them

on your gates

and on your houses.

For I set before you

today

both a blessing

and a curse:

a blessing,

if you live

by the commandments of the Lord your God

that I am giving you today;

and a curse,

if you reject the way

of the Lord your God,

and follow

other gods

you have not known.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 1.1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

From Paul,

a servant of Jesus Christ,

called by God

to be an apostle.

The gospel we proclaim

was promised

long ago,

through the prophets,

in the holy scriptures.

It is the gospel

of the Son of God,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the flesh,

ssra.uk

he was descended from David.

In the Holy Spirit,

he was declared,

in great power,

by his resurrection from the dead,

to be the Son of God.

Through him,

we have received God's grace,

and we have been commissioned

as apostles,

to call people of all nations

to faith.

including yourselves, who are

called to belong to Jesus Christ.

We write now

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 7.21-29

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said,

'The day will come

when many will claim

to have spoken prophecies,

cast out demons,

and done powerful deeds,

in my name.

But I will call them wicked,

and send them away,

saying, "I do not know you".

For you do not

enter

the kingdom of heaven

by calling me Lord,

but by doing

my Father's will.

If you hear my words,

and then

live by them,

you have built your house on rock,

and it will stand firm

when the storms

and the floods

beat against it.

But if you hear my words

and then do not

live by them,

you have built your house on sand,

and in the storm.

and the flood.

it will collapse,

and be swept away.'

And the crowds paid full attention

to every word

that Jesus spoke,

because his teaching

was powerful -

unlike the teaching

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Year A

of their scribes.

Sunday between 5 and 11 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Hosea 6.3b-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

The presence of the Lord

is as certain

as the rising of the sun.

And the Lord will come to us

like the spring rains

that water the earth.

Yet the Lord says, 'What shall I do with you,

my people?

For your compassion disappears,

like the dew,

and like the morning mist.

I send you my words,

to cut you

to the heart.

I send you my judgements,

blazing

like the sun.

Then I see

your sacrifices,

and I see

your burnt-offerings.

But what I long to see

is compassion,

and for my people

to know their God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 2.13-16

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Hearing God's law

will not

make you righteous,

unless

you also do

what the law demands.

When those who have not

heard God's law

do naturally

what the law demands,

they show

that they have the law

within themselves,

already written

on their hearts,

and in their

thoughts

and consciences.

And their own

thoughts and consciences

will both accuse them

and excuse them

on the day

when God judges

the secret thoughts

of us all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 9.9-13

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

As Jesus

was walking along,

he passed by the place where

the Roman taxes

were collected.

Jesus saw a man

called Matthew

working there.

Jesus said to Matthew,

'Follow me.'

And Matthew got up

and followed Jesus.

Jesus and his disciples

later

sat at dinner

with many

collectors of the Roman taxes,

and other

notorious sinners.

When the Pharisees saw this,

they said

to the disciples,

'Why does your teacher

eat with such people?'

When Jesus heard this, he said,

'It is the sick,

not the healthy, who

need a doctor;

I have come

to call sinners,

not

the righteous.

Go and learn

what the scripture means,

where it says,

"I look

not

for sacrifice,

but for compassion."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 12 and 18 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Exodus 19.1-6

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Exactly two months

after escaping from slavery in Egypt,

the Israelites arrived

at Mount Sinai.

And they set up camp there,

at the foot

of the mountain.

Moses went up the mountain

to meet with God.

And there, the Lord

gave Moses

this message

for the people.

'You have seen what I did

to those who had

enslaved you,

and how I carried you

on eagles' wings,

to bring you

to myself.

So now, I say,

if you will hear my voice,

and keep my covenant,

you will be my treasured possession

out of all the nations.

The whole world is mine -

but you will be, for me,

a kingdom of priests,

and a holy nation.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 3.21-24

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

The Hebrew law,

and the Hebrew prophets,

speak of the righteousness

that comes from God.

But this righteousness

has now been made known

even to those

outside

the Hebrew law.

The righteousness

that comes from God

is now given, through faith in Jesus Christ,

to all who believe.

There is no longer any distinction,

for all have sinned,

and fallen short

of the glory of God.

And all are now set free from sin,

and reconciled with God,

freely,

by God's grace,

through Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 9.35 - 10.8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus went through all

the towns and villages, curing every disease and sickness,

teaching in the synagogues,

and proclaiming

the good news of the kingdom.

Whenever Jesus saw the crowds,

he had compassion on them,

because they were weary, and lost,

like sheep

without a shepherd.

Jesus said to his disciples,

'The harvest is plentiful,

but the workers are few.

Ask the Lord

to send more workers

for the harvest."

Then, summoning the twelve,

Jesus gave them

authority

to drive out

unclean spirits,

and to cure

10 0010

every disease

and every sickness.

The twelve he appointed as apostles

were:

Simon Peter,

and his brother Andrew;

James and John

(the sons of Zebedee);

Philip,

and Bartholomew;

Thomas,

and Matthew (the tax-collector);

James (the son of Alpheus)

and Thaddeus;

Simon (the Zealot);

and Judas Iscariot (the one who betrayed him).

These twelve, Jesus sent out,

with these instructions:

'I am sending you

not to any foreign nation,

not even to Samaria,

but to our own people.

the descendants of Jacob,

in Galilee, and Judea,

for they have become

like lost sheep.

As you go, proclaim the good news

that the kingdom of heaven

has come.

Heal the sick,

cleanse those with leprosy,

raise the dead,

and drive out demons.

Freely you have received.

Now freely give.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 19 and 25 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 20.9-11a

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

I cannot hold back

from proclaiming the Lord,

or from speaking

in the name

of the Lord.

The word of the Lord

is like a fire in my bones,

and I am powerless

to hold it in.

I am surrounded

by those who

denounce me.

They watch

for the opportunity

to take their revenge.

But the Lord is with me

like a mighty warrior,

and those who

work against me

will not

prevail.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 6.3-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

If you die,

you are no longer

under the power of sin.

And if, like Christ,

you are then

raised up from the dead,

by the glory of the Father,

you are no longer

under the power of death.

In his death,

Christ died to sin,

once,

for all.

And the life he now lives,

he lives

to God.

In our baptism,

we are united with Christ,

in both

his death

and his resurrection.

We die to sin,

and we are raised up,

by the glory of the Father,

to live to God,

in newness of life

in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 10.16,28-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the twelve,

'I am sending you out

like sheep

amongst wolves.

Have the wisdom

of serpents.

And be as innocent

as doves.

Do not be afraid

of those who can kill the body

but cannot

kill the soul.

Instead.

serve and honour God, who has power

over both the body

and the soul.

Two sparrows

are sold for a penny,

yet not even a sparrow

falls to the ground

without your Father knowing it.

So do not be afraid.

You are worth more

than many sparrows.

Even the hairs of your head

are all counted.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 26 June and 2 July

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 28.1-9,14a

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The prophet Hanan-iah announced,

in the temple,

that within two years,

the heavy burden

imposed by the king of Babylon

would be removed;

and the exiles.

and the treasures of the temple,

would return

from Babylon

to Jerusalem.

Jeremiah said, 'May the Lord indeed

fulfil the words

that you have spoken,

and bring back to this place

the treasures of the temple,

and all the exiles.

But listen now

to these words

that I speak to you, and to all the people.

From ancient times,

the prophets have spoken

to many great kingdoms and nations,

of famine, disease, and war.

But when a prophet

brings words

of comfort, and peace,

only when

the words of that prophet

come true

will it be known

that the Lord

has truly

sent a prophet.

For this is what the Lord Almighty,

the God of Israel,

truly says:

Beware, for this nation will continue

to be in chains,

serving the King of Babylon, who will rule

with a rod of iron.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 6.13-16,23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now that God has brought you

from death to life,

you are no longer

under the law,

but under grace.

And sin

can no longer

rule over you.

This does not mean

that you are free to sin,

for you become like a servant

to the one you obey.

If you obey sin, you will die.

But if you serve God,

you will live - and live in righteousness.

So do not present yourself to sin,

to be used for wickedness,

but present yourself to God,

to be used for righteousness,

For the wage paid by sin

is death.

but the free gift of God

is eternal life

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 10.34-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the twelve: 'Do not think

that I have come

to bring peace

to the earth;

for I bring

not peace, but a sword.

I have come to set a son against his father,

a daughter against her mother,

and a woman

against the mother of her husband.

Your enemies

will be members

of your own household.

For whoever loves father or mother

or son or daughter

more than me

is not worthy

to be my disciple.

And whoever does not

take up their cross

and follow me

is not worthy

to be my disciple.

Those who cling to their life

will lose it.

But those who lose their life

for my sake

will find it.

Whoever welcomes you

into their home

welcomes me:

and whoever welcomes me

welcomes the one who sent me.

Whoever welcomes a prophet

as a prophet

will receive a prophet's reward.

Whoever welcomes

any righteous person

will receive the reward of the righteous.

And whoever gives even

a cup of water

to even the least

of my disciples -

truly I tell you, all these will receive their reward.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 3 and 9 July

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Zechariah 9.9-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah.

Rejoice, O Zion,

and shout aloud, O Jerusalem,

for your king is here,

your righteous saviour,

humble, and riding

on a donkey.

He will banish

the chariots of battle

and the weapons of war.

He will command peace

for all nations,

across the whole land,

and

to the ends

of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.1-4

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

There is now

no condemnation

for those who are

in Christ Jesus.

For the spirit of life,

in Christ Jesus,

has set us free

from the power

of sin

and death.

In the weakness

of our

human flesh,

the law

could never

set us free.

But God has now done

what the law

could not do.

By sending

God's own Son,

in human flesh,

like a perfect

sacrifice for sin,

God has destroyed

the power

of sin and death.

And so

we finally enter

into the righteousness

that the law intended,

living now

not

by our weak

human flesh,

but by

the spirit.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 11.18-19, 25-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said,

'John the Baptist came,

neither eating nor drinking,

and they said he had a demon.

The Son of Man comes,

eating and drinking,

and they call him a glutton,

a drunkard.

and a friend of sinners.

But wisdom

is known

by her deeds.'

And Jesus said,

'I thank you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth,

that you have revealed

to your children

what you have hidden

from the scholar

and the scribe.

You have trusted me

with all things,

as Father

to Son,

so that others

will come to know you, Father,

as I know you.'

And Jesus said,

'Come to me,

all you

that are weary,

with heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest.

Walk with me,

and learn from me:

for the burden

I will place upon you

will fit you well,

and will not overwhelm you.

For I am gentle,

and humble in heart;

and you will find rest

for your soul.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 10 and 16 July Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 55.10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The rain and the snow

come down from heaven,

and do not return there

until they have watered the earth,

making it fruitful with grain,

producing bread to eat,

and new seed to sow.

In the same way, says the Lord,

the word that I speak

will not return to me

without accomplishing

all that I intend, and succeeding

in the purpose for which I sent it.

And now where once

there were thorns and brambles,

tall and blossoming trees

will grow;

and this will be a memorial,

an everlasting sign,

to honour the name of the Lord.

And you will go out with joy,

and return in peace;

and the trees of the field

will clap their hands,

and the mountains and the hills

will break into song.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.5-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Those who live according to the flesh

have set their minds on the things of the flesh.

But those who live according to the spirit

have set their minds on the things of the spirit.

To set the mind on the flesh

is death.

But to set the mind on the spirit

is life, and peace.

The mind that is set on the flesh

is hostile to God, and unable

to follow God's law.

But your life now

is not in the flesh,

but in the spirit.

with the spirit of God

dwelling within you.

For everyone who belongs to Christ

has the spirit of Christ within.

And though your body is dead, in sin,

your spirit is alive

in the righteousness of Christ.

For the spirit of God,

having raised Jesus from the dead,

now dwells within you, to give life

to your mortal body also.

So, my brothers and sisters,

we owe nothing to the flesh.

It has no power over us to make us live according to the ways of the flesh

which lead to death. Instead, we put to death

the ways of the flesh,

and live by the spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 13.1-8, 18-23

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus sat by the lake, and a great crowd gathered around him.

So while the crowd

remained on the beach,

Jesus got into a boat, and spoke from there, teaching them many things, in parables.

Jesus said:

'A farmer went out

to scatter seed

in the field.

Some seed

fell on the path,

and the birds came, and ate it up.

Some seed

fell in shallow soil, on rocky ground;

it sprang up quickly,

but when the sun came out,

it dried up, and withered away,

because it had no root.

Some seed fell amongst thorns,

and the thorns grew up, and choked it.

But some seed fell on good soil,

and produced a harvest

of thirty or sixty or a hundred times

what was planted.

In the same way, when someone hears

the word of the kingdom,

and does not take it to heart,

the evil one comes, and snatches it away -

like the birds,

with the seed that fell on the path.

The seed that fell

in shallow soil, on rocky ground,

is like someone who hears the word,

and immediately receives it with joy,

but has no root, and falls away

when trouble or persecution comes.

The seed that fell amongst the thorns

is like someone who hears the word,

but it is choked out

by the cares of this world, and its wealth,

and there is no harvest.

But the seed that falls on good soil

is like someone who hears the word,

and takes it to heart.

and produces a harvest

of thirty or sixty or a hundred times

what was planted.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 17 and 23 July Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 44.6-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord of all heaven,

your King and Saviour, says:

'I am the first,

and I am the last,

and there is

no other god.

No other

has established a people, long ago,

or revealed what is to come.

So do not

be troubled or afraid,

for I declared it long ago,

and you are my witnesses:

there is no other god,

no other rock.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.14-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now that you are led

by the spirit of God,

you are

adopted

as children of God.

God receives you

not as slaves,

to fall back into fear,

but as adopted children,

able to address God

as 'Abba' and 'Father'.

And being adopted

as children of God,

we inherit

all things,

alongside

Christ Jesus himself,

including

both his suffering

and his glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 13.24-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus told them another parable.

'A farmer

planted

good seed

in a field.

Then, during the night,

an enemy came,

and planted weeds

amongst the wheat.

When the wheat

came up,

the weeds

also appeared.

The workers said, "You planted

good seed.

So why does the field

have weeds?"

And the farmer said, "An enemy has done this!"

The workers asked

whether they should

gather up

the weeds.

But the farmer said, "No,

for in pulling up

the weeds,

you would also

uproot

the wheat.

So let them

grow together

until the harvest,

when I will tell

the workers

first

to gather

the weeds

into bundles, to be burned,

and then

to gather the wheat

into my barn."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 24 and 30 July Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 1 Kings 3.5-13

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord appeared

to Solomon

in a dream, by night,

saying, 'Make your request.

Ask what I should give to you.'

And Solomon

said to the Lord.

'You showed great and steadfast love to my father David, who served you faithfully, in righteousness and justice.

And you have continued

in that great and steadfast love

by giving David a son

to sit on his throne today.

And now, I am that king,

your humble servant,

in place of my father David,

even though I am only a child.

The people of this nation,

your chosen people, O Lord,

are so great in number

that they cannot be counted.

And so my request

is for an understanding heart,

to judge between good and evil,

for without this, none could govern

this your great people.'

It pleased the Lord

that this was Solomon's request.

So the Lord said to Solomon,

'Because you have

not asked

for long life,

or riches,

or the death of your enemies,

but have asked

for an understanding heart,

to govern with justice,

I will grant

what you have asked.

I will give you

a wise

and understanding heart,

like no other

that has gone before,

or will ever

be again.

And I will also

give you

what you have

not asked:

riches and honour, all your life,

such that no other king

can compare.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.18-26

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Our present sufferings

are not worth comparing

to the glory

that is to come.

The whole creation

is waiting, with eager longing,

to be freed

from the slavery

of death and decay,

and to enter

the glorious freedom

of the children of God.

The whole creation

is groaning, as if in labour pains.

And even we.

with the spirit of life within us,

groan inwardly,

as we await

the completion of our adoption

into the full freedom

of the children of God.

We do not yet

see it completed,

but we wait for it

with patience, confidence, and trust.

And the spirit helps us

in our present weakness;

for we do not know

how to pray as we ought,

but the spirit prays within us,

in sighs too deep for words.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 13.31-33, 44-46

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said,

'The kingdom of heaven

is like a mustard seed

that someone plants in a field.

It is the smallest of all seeds,

but when it grows, it becomes a great tree,

and the birds of the air

come and nest in its branches.

Or the kingdom of heaven

is like a spoonful of yeast,

that a woman takes.

and mixes into an entire sack of flour,

so that every part of the dough will rise.

Or the kingdom of heaven

is like treasure, buried in a field,

which someone discovers;

and they sell

all that they have, to buy the field.

Or the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant,

in search of fine pearls.

Finding one pearl of great value,

to secure it, they sell

all that they have.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 31 July and 6 August	Gospei - Mattnew 14.13-21
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
	according to Matthew.
First Reading - Isaiah 55.1-3	On hearing
	<u> </u>
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.	that John the Baptist
Come, all who are thirsty;	had been killed
come to the water and drink.	by King Herod,
Come, all who are in poverty;	Jesus
come for grain, and milk, and wine,	withdrew
without money,	by boat
and without cost.	to a wilderness place,
For you work,	alone.
and you spend,	But news of it
but you find	spread,
neither food	and the crowds
nor fulfilment.	followed him
So listen now	on foot
to the word of the Lord,	from the towns,
and you will eat,	so that when Jesus went ashore,
and be filled,	a great crowd
,	-
and your soul	had already gathered.
will delight	Jesus had compassion on them,
in abundance.	and healed the sick amongst them.
Come to me,	As evening came,
and hear my word.	the disciples
•	said to Jesus
Hear my word,	
that you may live,	that he should send the crowds away
says the Lord.	from this desolate place,
And the Lord	into the villages,
will make with you	to buy food.
an everlasting covenant.	But Jesus said to the disciples,
This is the word of the Lord.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
This is the word of the Lord.	'The people can stay,
	if you give them something to eat.'
Second Reading - Romans 8.28-30	The disciples replied,
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.	'We have nothing here
God's purpose,	but five loaves.
from the beginning,	and two fish.'
	Jesus said, 'Bring them to me.'
was that many	
would become like Christ,	Then Jesus ordered the crowds
the Son of God,	to sit down on the grass.
so that Christ	He took
would be the firstborn	the five loaves, and the two fish.
of many	And looking up to heaven,
•	<u> </u>
brothers and sisters.	he blessed them,
And now, by God's grace,	and broke them into pieces.
we have indeed	And he gave the pieces
been called,	to the disciples.
and reconciled with God.	And the disciples
We have even	gave the pieces
	•
entered into	to the crowds.
the glory of God.	And everyone ate,
And so we see	and was filled.
that	And the disciples collected up
in accordance	what was left over
with God's	
	of the broken pieces,
plan	filling twelve baskets.
and purpose,	Those who ate
all things	were about five thousand men,
work together	in addition
for good	to the women
-	
for those who love God.	and the children.
This is the word of the Lord.	This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 7 and 13 August

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 1 Kings 19.9a, 11-13a

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Elijah arrived

at the mountain of God;

and entered a cave, where he spent the night.

Then the word of the Lord

came to Elijah,

saying, 'Go out,

and stand on the mountain,

for the Lord is about to pass by.'

And there came a great wind, so strong

that it was breaking rocks, from the mountains,

into pieces;

but the Lord was not

in the wind.

And after the wind.

there was an earthquake;

but the Lord was not

in the earthquake.

And after the earthquake, a fire;

but the Lord was not

in the fire.

And after the fire,

a still, small voice,

like a breath, or a whisper.

When Elijah heard it,

he wrapped his cloak around his face,

and went out,

and stood at the entrance of the cave;

and then came the voice of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.31-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

We can trust that God, who gave

his Son for us, will surely give us

all that we could ever need, and more.

And knowing that God is with us,

we know

that nothing

can stand against us.

No charge can be brought

against God's chosen,

for it is God who declares us free.

No one can condemn,

for it is Christ Jesus who intercedes for us

at the right hand of God.

And nothing can separate us

from the love of Christ -

not hardship, or distress,

or persecution, or famine,

or destitution, or danger, or the sword.

It says in the Psalm,

'For your sake,

we are being killed all day long,

like sheep

to be slaughtered.'

Yet in all these things, we overcome

through the one who loves us.

And so I am convinced

that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor rulers,

nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers,

nor height, nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation,

can separate us

from the love of God

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 14.22-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus sent the disciples on ahead of him,

back across the lake,

by boat.

As darkness fell,

he dismissed the crowds,

and went up the mountain,

by himself, to pray.

The disciples, in the boat, were now

far

from land.

And the boat

was being battered

by the waves,

for the wind

was against them.

In the darkness before dawn,

Jesus came walking towards them

on the lake.

When the disciples saw him,

they were terrified,

and cried out in fear.

But Jesus said to them, 'I am with you.

Do not be afraid.'

Peter said, 'Lord, if it is you,

tell me

to come to you

on the water.'

Jesus said, 'Come.'

Peter stepped

out of the boat,

on to the water,

to walk towards Jesus.

But suddenly aware

of the strength of the storm,

Peter became frightened,

and began to sink.

Peter cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

Jesus reached out his hand,

and caught hold of Peter,

saying, 'Why so little faith?'

As Jesus and Peter

climbed into the boat.

the wind dropped.

And the disciples worshipped Jesus,

saying, 'Truly you are

the Son of God.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 14 and 20 August

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 56.6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

People of every nation

will come

to love and serve the Lord.

They will keep the sabbath,

and trust

in the Lord's covenant.

And I will welcome them.

here on my holy mountain,

says the Lord;

and they will be joyful

in my house of prayer.

Their offerings and sacrifices

will be accepted

on my altar.

And my house will be called

a house of prayer

for all nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 12.1-2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you,

brothers and sisters,

as your response

to God's great mercy,

to present your bodies

as a living sacrifice,

holy and acceptable to God.

Do not be

conformed

to the ways

of this world,

but be transformed.

by the renewing of your minds,

towards

the perfect

will of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 15.21-28

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus went north

from Galilee

to the coastal districts of Lebanon.

A woman

from that region, who was not

a Hebrew.

approached Jesus,

saying, 'Have mercy on me,

Lord, Son of David,

for my daughter

is tormented

by a demon.'

But Jesus

did not answer her.

And his disciples said to him, 'Send her away,

for she keeps

shouting after us.'

So Jesus said to her,

'I was

sent

only

to the lost sheep

amongst the Hebrew people.'

But she knelt before him,

saying, 'Lord, help me.'

Jesus said to her, 'It is not right

to take food

away

from the children.'

She said, 'Yes, Lord,

but surely

there will be

crumbs

that fall

from the table.'

Jesus now turned to her,

and said, 'You have great faith.

Let it be done for you

as you request.'

And at that very moment,

her daughter

was healed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 21 and 27 August

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 51.1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I say

to all who aim for righteousness,

to all who seek the Lord:

Look to the rock

from which you were cut,

the quarry

from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father,

and Sarah who carried you.

The Lord blessed them,

and made you a great nation.

And surely now

the Lord will comfort Jerusalem

once again,

and will look with compassion

on her ruins.

The wilderness that is Jerusalem today

will flourish

like the Garden of Eden.

And there will be joy, and gladness,

thanksgiving, and song.

And the word of the Lord

will bring justice

and light

to all nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 12.4-8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

In one body,

there are many members.

And not all the members

have the same function.

In the same way,

we, though many,

are one body, in Christ,

belonging to one another.

And by God's grace,

we have received

a great diversity of gifts,

including prophecy,

teaching, and encouragement;

practical generosity,

good deeds, and acts of service;

leadership;

and gracious compassion.

So make full use

of each gift

that you have received.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 16.13-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus travelled north,

to the region beyond Galilee.

There he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say

that I am?'

The disciples replied, 'Some say John the Baptist;

others say Elijah,

or Jeremiah,

or one of the prophets.'

Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say

that I am?'

Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah,

the Son

of the living God.'

Jesus said to him, 'Blessed are you,

Simon,

son of Jonah,

for this was

revealed to you

not by

flesh and blood,

but by

my Father in heaven.

And I say to you:

you are Peter, the rock,

and on this rock,

I will

build my church,

and the powers of hell

will not

prevail against it.

I will give you

the keys

of the kingdom of heaven,

and whatever you lock or unlock

on earth

will be locked or unlocked

in heaven.'

Then Jesus asked the disciples

not

to say

to anyone

that he was

the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 28 August and 3 September

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 15.16-21

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

In my despair, I cried out to the Lord,

'O Lord, you have become to me

like a river

that has run dry.

My pain is unending,

a wound that will not heal.

Under the weight of the burden

that you have placed upon me,

I sit alone, filled with bitterness,

far away

from any

celebration or feast.'

And the Lord responded to my cry, saying,

'If you return to me, I will restore you,

and you will stand in my presence once again.

You will serve as my voice,

and the people will turn to you.

When they turn against you,

I will protect you,

like a wall of bronze;

and I will be with you,

to save you, and to deliver you.'

And now, O Lord, to serve you

is once again

my delight:

for your words are my nourishment,

and the joy

of my heart.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 12.9-18

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Let your love be genuine.

Reject all that is evil,

and cling to all that is good.

With ever-greater devotion,

honour one another,

and serve the Lord.

Rejoice in faith,

be patient in suffering,

and persevere in prayer.

Support each other in need,

and offer care to everyone.

Bless those who persecute you:

bless them, and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice,

and weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another;

and find your place amongst the humble,

not amongst the arrogant.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,

but always do what is right

in the sight of all.

And do all that you can

to live at peace

with everyone.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 16.21-26

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

From that time on,

Jesus began to explain to his disciples

that he must go to Jerusalem,

and suffer many things

at the hands of the elders,

the chief priests, and the scribes;

that he would be put to death,

and on the third day,

be raised.

Peter

took Jesus aside,

and began to rebuke him,

saying, 'Lord,

let it not

be so.

This must never

happen to you.'

But Jesus

turned

and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan.

You are a stumbling-block to me,

for your mind

is set

on the human,

not the divine."

And Jesus turned to the disciples

and said,

'If any one of you

wishes to be

my disciple,

you must deny yourself,

take up your cross,

and follow me.

If you try

to save your life,

you will lose it.

But if you

lose your life,

for my sake,

you will find it.

There is no profit

in gaining

the whole world,

but losing

your very soul;

for nothing

in this world

can match the value

of your soul.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 10 September

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Ezekiel 33.7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The Lord said

to the prophet Ezekiel:

I have called you

to serve my people

like the one who serves the city

by keeping watch,

from the city walls,

to warn

of approaching danger.

You must warn the people now

to turn

from their wicked ways.

If you do not

warn them,

they will die

in their transgressions,

and their blood

will be on your hands.

But if you do warn them,

and they still

do not turn

from their wicked ways,

they will die in their rebellion,

but your life

will be saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 12.19-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

When you are wronged,

do not seek revenge.

Instead, leave room

for the judgement of God.

For the scripture says, 'Retribution is mine;

I will repay, says the Lord.'

So, as the scripture

also says,

if your enemies are hungry, feed them;

if they are thirsty, give them something to drink;

for in doing this

you are heaping burning coals

on their heads.

So do not be overcome

by evil.

but overcome evil

with good.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 18.15-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said, 'If a fellow-disciple

sins against you,

point out the fault

when the two of you

are alone.

And if that fellow-disciple listens,

you have won that disciple back.

But if that

fellow-disciple

will not listen,

take one or two others along with you,

so that everything

may be confirmed

by the word

of two or three witnesses.

If that fellow-disciple

still refuses to listen,

tell it to the church.

And if that fellow-disciple

refuses to listen

even to the church,

treat that disciple

as you would treat

an outsider

or an enemy.

Truly, I tell you,

anything you resolve

in this way

on earth

is resolved

the same way

in heaven.

And truly, I tell you,

if two of you

agree on earth

about anything

you ask,

it will be done for you

by my Father

in heaven.

For whenever

two or three

are gathered together

in my name,

I am with them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 11 and 17 September

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 50.15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Joseph's brothers feared

that Joseph would still

hold against them

all the wrongs

that they had done to him.

So the brothers approached Joseph,

and said, 'Before your father died,

he gave us this message

to pass on to you: "I beg you, my son;

forgive the crimes of your brothers,

and all the wrongs that they have done to you."

And so we come to you now,

as humble servants

of the God of your father,

and we beg you to forgive us

for all the wrongs that we have done to you.'

Joseph was moved to tears

when he heard these words.

His brothers fell down before him,

saying again, 'We are your humble servants.'

But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid.

You thought you had a plan for harm,

but God had a plan for good,

to save many lives,

as you see today.'

And Joseph reassured them,

and comforted them,

saying, 'Have no fear.

I will provide for you, and for your children.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 13.8-10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Owe no one anything,

except to love one another;

for in this

you fulfil the entire law.

You know the commandments:

You shall not commit adultery;

You shall not murder;

You shall not steal:

You shall not covet.

All these.

and any other commandments,

are summed up in this:

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore

love

is the fulfilling

of the law.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 18.21-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Peter asked Jesus, 'Lord, how many times

must I forgive

someone who sins against me?

As many as seven?'

Jesus replied, 'Not seven,

but seventy times seven!'

And Jesus told this parable.

'There was a king who wished

to settle accounts

with his servants.

One of the servants owed

ten thousand

gold coins.

As the servant could not pay,

the master ordered

that the servant should be sold,

to pay the debt,

along with his wife, his children,

and all their possessions.

The servant fell to his knees,

and begged his master

to have patience with him,

until he could pay in full.

And out of pity for him,

the master forgave

the entire debt,

and let the servant go.

As that servant went out, he met

one of his fellow-servants, who owed him

a few copper coins.

He took him by the throat, and said,

"Pay me what you owe."

The fellow-servant fell to his knees,

and begged the servant

to have patience with him,

until he could pay in full.

But the servant refused.

And he had his fellow-servant

thrown into prison

until the debt could be paid.

When the other servants

heard of this,

they were indignant,

and reported to their master

all that had happened.

The master summoned the servant, and said,

"You wicked servant!

I forgave you all that debt when you pleaded with me.

You should have had

the same mercy for your fellow-servant

that I had for you."

Then he handed that servant over

to be punished

until the debt was paid in full.

And surely this is how my heavenly Father

will treat you,

if you do not forgive each other

from the heart!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 18 and 24 September

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 55.6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Turn away

from your wicked ways,

and turn to the Lord,

for the Lord is ready to welcome you.

Turn away

from your plotting

for injustice,

and call upon the Lord,

for the Lord is near.

Return to the Lord your God,

for God will have mercy,

and freely forgive.

For the ways

and the purposes

of the Lord

are higher than ours -

as high as the heavens

are above the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 1.20b-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Even in my imprisonment, I trust

that Christ

will be glorified

in whatever happens to me,

whether I live,

or whether I die.

And I do not know

which I prefer.

For to me, to live is Christ,

and to die is gain.

To remain in this body

means fruitful ministry;

to depart would mean

to be with Christ.

But I have become convinced

that I shall remain,

for your sake;

so that I can return to you,

and share with you, once again,

in your growth in faith,

and in the great confidence

and joy

that you have

in Christ Jesus.

So continue to live

in accordance

with the gospel of Christ,

so that, whether I come to see you myself,

or whether I hear about you from afar,

I will know that you are standing firm,

and that you are working as one,

in the spirit,

for the faith,

and for the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 20.1-16

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said, 'A landowner went out,

early in the morning,

to hire workers.

They agreed the usual daily wage,

and began the day's work

in the vineyard.

The landowner went out again,

around nine o'clock;

and seeing others,

standing idle, in the market-place,

invited them, also, to work in the vineyard,

offering to pay them

"whatever is right."

The landowner went out again, at midday,

and again, at about three o'clock,

and did the same.

And around five o'clock, the landowner went out

and found others, and asked them

why they were standing around

idle all day;

and when they said

that nobody had hired them,

the landowner told them to join the others,

working in the vineyard.

When evening came,

the landowner told his manager

to call in the workers,

and give them their pay,

beginning with the last.

So those who were hired

at five o'clock

came in first.

And each of them received

the usual daily wage.

When the others came in,

they thought

they would receive more.

But they also received

the usual daily wage.

And they complained against the landowner,

saying, "These worked only the final hour,

but you have made them equal to us,

when we worked the full day,

through the scorching heat."

But the landowner said, "I am doing you no wrong.

You agreed the usual daily wage.

So take what is yours, and go.

I can do as I please

with what belongs to me.

And I choose

to give the last

the same as you.

Or do you somehow see wickedness

in my generosity?"

And so it will be

in the kingdom of heaven:

that the last will be first,

and the first will be last.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 25 September and 1 October

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Ezekiel 18.21-25

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

When the righteous turn away

from all that is good, and instead

practice wickedness,

their former good deeds

will be forgotten,

and they will die in their wickedness, says the Lord.

But if the wicked turn away

from the wrongs they have done,

and instead

practice righteousness, doing all that is good,

their former wickedness

will not be held against them,

and they will surely live, says the Lord.

I hear the people of Israel say

that in this, the Lord is unfair.

But the Lord says this:

I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked,

but rather

that they turn from their wickedness

and live.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 2.1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

You already know

the confidence, support and encouragement,

of the love of Christ,

and of fellowship together

in the Spirit.

So make my joy complete

by being united

in one purpose, one heart,

one love, and one mind.

Let there be no

selfish ambition,

but in humility,

let each of you

treat others

as better than yourself;

looking not to your own interests,

but to the interests

of others.

Let Christ Jesus

be your example.

He did not regard

his equality with God

as something

to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a servant.

Born in human form,

he humbled himself,

in faithful obedience.

even to death on the cross.

And now, God has highly exalted him,

and has given him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus,

all shall bow down.

in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,

and declare

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory

of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 21.23-32

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus was teaching

in the temple

in Jerusalem.

The chief priests, and the elders of the people,

demanded, 'By what authority

are you doing these things?'

Jesus said to them, 'Let me ask you a question.

Was John's call to baptism

a message from God,

or was it only

from John's own mind?'

And they argued with one another, saying,

'We cannot say

that John's call to baptism

was a message from God,

because we rejected John.

And we cannot say

that it came only

from John's own mind,

because the people

regard John

as a prophet,

and they would turn against us.'

So they said to Jesus, 'We do not know.'

Jesus said to them, 'And neither will I tell you

by what authority

I do these things.'

And Jesus told them this parable.

'A man told

his two sons

to go and work

in the vineyard.

One said

he would go,

but never arrived.

The other refused to go,

but then changed his mind, and went.

In the same way,

people that you condemn

responded

to John's call to repentance,

when you rejected it.

And they

are now entering

the kingdom of God

ahead of you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 2 and 8 October

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 5.1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Let me sing a love-song

for my vineyard.

On a fertile hill, I dug the ground, cleared the stones, and planted the choicest vines.

I dug a wine-press, and built a tower,

and I expected the finest grapes.

But when the fruit came, it was bitter.

So now, people of Judah and Jerusalem,

judge between me and my vineyard.

What more could I have done for my vineyard? And yet it yielded only bitterness.

So now, I will tell you

what I will do

to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,

and break down its wall,

and it will be destroyed,

and trampled down.

I will make it a waste-land.

No longer will it be pruned

or tended.

It will be overgrown with brambles and thorns.

I will order the clouds

to give it no rain.

And my vineyard

is the people

I had called to myself, says the Lord.

And they are the vines

that I planted and cherished.

But when I looked for justice,

I saw bloodshed.

When I looked for righteousness,

I heard cries of distress.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 3.4-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone

had reason

to be confident,

I had more.

I was a descendant of Jacob,

in the tribe of Benjamin,

a Hebrew, born of Hebrews.

In the observation of the law. I was a Pharisee.

In zeal, I was a persecutor of the church.

In righteousness according to the law,

I was blameless.

And yet I regard

all these things

as worthless now,

for nothing

has any value at all

compared to knowing

Christ Jesus as my Lord.

For the sake of Christ,

I have lost everything.

But I count this loss as nothing,

for what I have gained

is Christ.

United with Christ, I depend

no more

on a righteousness of my own,

derived from the law,

for I have instead

a righteousness

that comes from God,

through faith in Christ.

And so, leaving behind

all that has gone before,

I now press on towards the goal

of knowing Christ more fully,

and the power of his resurrection;

sharing in his sufferings, and even

becoming like him in his death,

if somehow then

I may share

in his resurrection from the dead.

All this I choose, just as Christ

has chosen me.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 21.33-41,43

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said,

'There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. and put a fence around it.

Within the fence,

he dug a wine-press,

and built a tower.

Then he leased the vineyard to tenants,

and went away to another country.

When the harvest-time came,

he sent his servants

to collect his produce.

But the tenants seized them,

beat them, and killed them.

So the landowner sent more servants, and then more, but the tenants treated them all in the same way.

Finally the landowner sent his son to them,

for the tenants would surely respect his son.

But when the tenants saw the son, they said,

"This is the one who will inherit the vineyard; let us kill him, and take the vineyard for ourselves."

So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

Now when the owner of the vineyard returns,

what will he do to those tenants?'

The chief priests and the elders said, 'He will dismiss those wicked tenants, and let the vineyard to others, who will give him the fruit

at harvest-time.'

Jesus said, 'And in the same way,

the kingdom of God

will be taken away from you,

and given to those who produce the fruits of the kingdom.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 9 and 15 October

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 25.6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this holy mountain, the Lord God

will prepare for all people

a feast

of rich food

and fine wine.

The Lord will take away

the cloud of darkness

that hangs

over peoples and nations.

The Lord God

will bring to an end

the humiliation of the people,

will wipe away

the tears from all faces,

and will destroy

the power of death

for ever.

And the people will say, 'This is the day

of the Lord our God.

Let us rejoice.

for we trusted in God,

and the day

of our salvation

has come.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 4.4-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord - always!

I say again, rejoice!

And let your

gracious gentleness

be known to everyone.

The Lord is near,

so do not worry

about anything.

But in everything, with prayer,

and thanksgiving,

let your requests

be made known to God.

And the peace of God,

which surpasses

willon surpasses

all understanding,

will protect

your hearts

and your minds

in Christ Jesus.

Finally,

my brothers and sisters,

set your minds

on all that is

true, and pure,

just, and honourable.

Set your minds

on all that is

pleasing, and admirable,

excellent, and worthy of praise.

And whatever you have learned

from all that I have said and done,

put this into practice also.

And the God of peace

will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 22.1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus spoke again

to the chief priests, and the Pharisees,

in a parable.

'A king gave a banquet

for the wedding of his son.

But when he sent his servants

to call those who had been invited.

they would not come.

So he sent other servants, with the message:

"Come now

to the wedding banquet!

The cattle

and the best calves

have been slaughtered.

and everything is ready!"

But they ignored

the king's servants,

and went away,

to their farms,

and to their businesses.

Some even seized

the king's servants,

and beat them, and killed them.

The king was furious,

and sent his troops

to destroy those murderers,

and burn their city.

Then the king said to his servants,

"The wedding is ready,

but those who were invited

are not worthy.

So go out

into the streets,

and invite

everyone you find!"

The servants went out into the streets

and gathered everyone they found,

both good and bad,

and the wedding hall

was filled with guests.

When the king himself came in,

he saw that every single guest had put on the wedding robe -

except one.

The king challenged him,

but he had no reply.

And the king had him

thrown out

into the night.

For even when many are called, not all are finally chosen.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 16 and 22 October

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 44.28 - 45.1,4,13a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says to Cyrus of Persia:

You will be my shepherd,

to carry out my purposes,

to rebuild Jerusalem,

and to restore the temple.

I anointed you

as King of all Persia.

I led you, and strengthened you,

to suppress all the nations around you.

Every king surrenders to you.

Every city gate is open to you.

For the sake of my servant Jacob,

and my chosen people,

I have called you by name,

and I have given you

a title of honour,

even though you do not know me.

I have raised you up in righteousness,

to rebuild my city

and to set my exiles free.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 1.1-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy;

to the church at Thessalonika.

Grace to you, and peace,

from God our Father,

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always remember you in our prayers,

giving thanks to God our Father

for your works of faith and love,

and for the joyful and steadfast trust

that you have

in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We knew that God had called you

when we saw the message of the gospel

come to you

not only in words

but also in the power

of the Holy Spirit.

You followed our example,

and the example of our Lord,

when, in spite of persecution,

you received the word with joy.

Now, you yourselves

have become an example

for all the believers

in Macedonia and beyond.

Wherever we go, we have no need

to speak about your faith,

for they already know

about the welcome you gave us,

and how you turned away from idols

to serve the true and living God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 21.45, 22.15-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

When the chief priests

and the Pharisees

heard Jesus' parables,

they realised

that Jesus was speaking about them.

So with some of

Herod's officers,

the Pharisees made a plan

to trap Jesus

in what he said.

They sent some of their followers to Jesus,

to say, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere,

and that you teach the way of God,

showing deference to no one.

Tell us, then, what you think.

Is it lawful

to pay taxes

to the emperor,

or not?'

Jesus said, 'You hypocrites.

Show me the coin

that is used

for the tax.'

They showed him the coin,

and he said to them,

'Whose head is this?

And whose title?'

They said, 'The emperor's.'

Jesus said, 'So give to the emperor

the things

that are the emperor's.

And give to God

the things

that are God's.'

And they had no reply:

and they left him,

and went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 23 and 29 October Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Leviticus 19.2b, 15-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

You shall be holy,

for I am holy,

says the Lord your God.

You shall ensure justice

for your neighbour,

without regard

to status

or wealth.

You shall not speak falsehood

against your neighbour.

You shall not profit

from endangering

the life

of your neighbour.

You shall not hold hatred

in your heart

against your neighbour.

You shall challenge

your neighbour's wrong-doing,

for if you fail to do so,

you bear the guilt

of that wrong-doing

yourself.

You shall not

take revenge,

or bear a grudge,

against any of your people.

And you shall love your neighbour

as yourself.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2.1,7b,12-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

You yourselves know,

my brothers and sisters,

that the time we spent with you

was not in vain.

We were gentle amongst you,

like a mother

with her own children.

We urged

and encouraged you

to lead lives

that are honouring to God, who has

called you

into the glory

of God's kingdom.

And now, we constantly

give thanks to God

that when you received

the word of God

from us,

you welcomed it

not as a human word,

but as God's word.

which indeed it is.

And we give thanks

that God's word

is now powerfully

at work

amongst you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 22.35-40

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

One of the Pharisees,

an expert in the law,

asked Jesus this question:

'Teacher,

which commandment

in the law

is the greatest?'

Jesus said.

'The first and greatest commandment is this:

"You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

and with all your soul,

and with all your mind."

And the second is like it:

"You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

On these two commandments

hang all

the law

and the prophets.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 30 October and 5 November

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Fourth Sunday before Advent All Saints Sunday

First Reading - Revelation 7.9-13a,14b-17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I looked,

and saw a great multitude,

that no one could count,

from every nation,

tribe, people, and language,

standing before the throne,

and before the Lamb,

robed in white,

waving palm branches,

and declaring, with one voice,

'Salvation belongs to our God,

and to the Lamb!'

The angels

around the throne

bowed down

and worshipped God,

singing, 'All blessing and honour,

all glory and power,

all majesty, virtue, wisdom and praise,

belong to our God for ever!'

One of the elders said, 'These, in white robes,

are the ones who have come out

of the great ordeal.

They have purified their robes

in the life-blood of the Lamb.

Now they are before

the throne of God,

serving continually in God's temple.

And God will protect them:

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

and they will hunger and thirst no more.

The Lamb, on the throne, will be their shepherd,

and will guide them

to the spring

of the water of life.

And God will wipe away

every tear from their eyes."

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4.14-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters,

we know

that Jesus died,

and rose again.

And we can trust

that God will also raise up

those who have

died in Christ.

Indeed the Lord has revealed to us

that they will go to meet the Lord

ahead of us

when the Lord returns.

The Lord will come down from heaven,

and at the Lord's command -

with a trumpet blast

and the call of an archangel -

those who have died in Christ

will be raised up first.

Only then

will we who are

left alive

be caught up

in the clouds

with them,

to meet the Lord,

and to be with the Lord for ever.

So encourage one another

with these words.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 23.2-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the crowds,

and to his disciples,

'The scribes and the Pharisees

teach the law of Moses,

but they do not live

by the law

they teach.

So follow what they teach,

but do not follow

what they do.

They place burdens on others

that they are not willing

to carry themselves.

Everything they do,

they do to be seen by others.

They love to take

the places of honour

at banquets,

and the best seats

in the synagogues.

They love to be greeted in the market-place,

and to have people call them Teacher.

But you are not to be called Teacher,

for the Messiah

is your only teacher,

and you are all

learning together.

And you should call

no one on earth

your father,

for you have one Father -

your Father in heaven.

And amongst you,

the servant

will be the greatest.

For those who place themselves above others

will be brought down.

But those who choose

to be humble

will be lifted up.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 6 and 12 November

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Third Sunday before Advent

Remembrance (or the Sunday before Remembrance)

First Reading - Micah 3.5-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

False prophets

are leading the people astray.

They promise peace

to anyone who will feed them,

and threaten war

to those who will not.

But they have no vision, or revelation,

or word from God.

And now they will be disgraced

and put to shame, says the Lord.

For the spirit of the Lord

has come upon me with great power,

to pronounce judgement

on the transgressions

of the nation.

Your rulers

hate justice,

and distort the truth.

You build the city

with wickedness,

and Jerusalem

with bloodshed.

Your judges

take bribes.

Your priests and your prophets

serve not God

but those who pay them.

And still you say,

'Surely the Lord is with us!

No harm will come upon us!'

But it is because of you

that Zion will be ploughed like a field,

and Jerusalem,

even the Temple Mount,

will be in ruins,

and overgrown.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5.1-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

You know

that the day of the Lord

will come

at a date, and time, unknown -

like a thief in the night.

People will be confident

in their peace and security,

when destruction

will be suddenly

upon them,

like the pains

of childbirth,

with no escape.

But you are not

children of darkness,

for that day

to surprise you

like a thief.

You are children of the light, and of the day.

So keep awake, and alert.

Put on the armour

of faith and love,

and for a helmet,

the confidence you have

in your salvation.

For on that day of destruction,

God will indeed

be leading us.

not to condemnation,

but to salvation

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 25.1-4,8-13

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said, 'People

were up all night

preparing

for the wedding day.

Half of them

had charged up their lamps with oil

so that their lamps

would stay bright

until dawn.

When the others

saw their own lamps beginning to fail,

they pleaded for oil.

But the ones who were better prepared

said that

if they shared their oil,

nobody's lamps

would last until dawn.

So those who had

not brought

enough oil

went

to find some.

And they missed

the arrival

of the groom.

By the time they returned,

the celebration

was underway.

And when they pleaded to be let in,

the door-keeper said, "I do not know you".

So be awake.

and be ready,

for you do not know

the date,

or the time,

when the kingdom of heaven

will come.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 13 and 19 November

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Second Sunday before Advent
Second Sunday before Advent

Remembrance (or the Sunday after Remembrance)

First Reading - Zephaniah 1.7a,12-16,18

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent now, in the presence of God,

for the great day of the Lord

is at hand,

approaching fast;

a day of distress and anguish,

a day of ruin and devastation,

a day of darkness,

with trumpet blast, and battle cry,

against the fortified cities,

and the highest city walls.

The Lord will search

all Jerusalem,

to seek out those who have

started to believe

that the Lord will bring

neither punishment nor reward.

Their wealth will be plundered,

their houses laid waste,

their buildings abandoned,

their vineyards left desolate.

Their silver and gold

will not save them,

on that day

when the whole earth

will be consumed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5.12-15

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

Be at peace

with one another.

Show love and respect

to those who minister amongst you,

as they teach you, and challenge you,

in the name of the Lord.

Challenge those who are

idle and disruptive.

But encourage the faint-hearted,

support the weak,

and be patient

with everyone.

Never repay anyone

evil for evil.

But seek always

to do good -

to one another,

and to everyone.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 25.14-29

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples,

'A householder,

planning a long journey,

made arrangements

with his servants

to look after his property.

To one, he gave five coins,

to another, he gave two coins,

and to another, he gave one coin,

giving to each according to their ability.

Then he went away.

The servant who had received five coins

went off at once, and worked with them,

and made five more.

In the same way, the servant who had two coins

went off, and worked with them, and made two more.

But the servant who had received only one coin

went off, and dug a hole in the ground,

and hid his master's money.

Eventually, the master returned,

and called the servants together.

The one who had received five coins

stepped forward, saying, "Master,

you gave me five coins;

see, I have made five more."

The master said, "Well done, good and faithful servant.

You have been faithful with a little:

I will put you in charge of more.

Come and celebrate with your master."

Then the servant who had received two coins

stepped forward, saying, "Master,

you gave me two coins;

see, I have made two more."

The master said, "Well done, good and faithful servant.

You have been faithful with a little;

I will put you in charge of more.

Come and celebrate with your master."

Then the servant who had received only one coin

stepped forward, saying, "I know that you are

a demanding master,

gathering the harvest

where you do not

plant the seed.

So I was afraid,

and I hid your coin in the ground.

Here it is. I return what belongs to you."

But the master replied, "You wicked and lazy servant!

If you had only

placed my coin

with the bankers,

I would have received it back with interest!"

And the master said, "Take the coin from him,

and give it to the servant with ten.

For those who have much

will receive even more,

but those who have nothing

will lose

even what they have."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 20 and 26 November

Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Last Sunday before Advent Christ the King

First Reading - Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

My sheep were scattered

on a day of great darkness.

But like a shepherd,

I will search for my sheep,

and rescue them, says the Lord.

From the nations

I will gather them,

and I will bring them

to their own land.

I will feed them with good pasture

on the mountains;

and where broad rivers flow,

they will find their rest.

I will seek the lost,

and bring back the strayed.

I will bind up the injured,

and strengthen the weak.

But the strong

I will feed with justice,

when I judge

between the strong

and the hungry;

for it was the strong

that drove the weak away.

So I will rescue my sheep,

and judge between them.

And I, the Lord, will be their God;

and my servant David

will be their shepherd,

and their king.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 1.17-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

The power of God

has raised Christ

from the dead,

to God's right hand on high,

far above all earthly powers -

above every other name,

in this world, or the next.

God has made Christ

the head of the church;

and has made the church

the body of Christ.

So now may your hearts be filled

with the same power of God,

which is the gift of God

to all who believe.

May your hearts be filled

with all the glorious riches

that God gives to you, and to all the saints;

and with confidence

for the future

to which God has called you.

And may the God of glory,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

give you a spirit of wisdom

and insight,

that you may continue to grow

in the knowledge of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 25.31-45

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'When the Son of Man

comes in glory, with his angels,

all the nations will be gathered

before his royal throne,

and he will separate the people

like a shepherd separating the sheep from the goats;

the sheep to his right, and the goats to his left.

Then he will say to those on his right,

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father;

and enter into the kingdom

that has been prepared for you

from the foundation of the world:

for I was hungry, and you gave me food;

I was thirsty, and you gave me water;

I was destitute, and you gave me clothing;

I was a stranger, and you welcomed me;

I was sick, and you took care of me;

I was in prison, and you visited me."

The righteous will answer him, "Lord,

when did we see you hungry

and give you food,

or thirsty and give you water?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,

or destitute, and give you clothing?

And when did we see you sick, or in prison,

and visit you?"

And he will answer them, "All that you did

for even the least

of these, my brothers and sisters,

you did for me."

Then he will say to those on his left,

"You that are lost,

depart from me, for ever,

to the place of torment,

prepared for the devil,

for I was hungry, and you gave me no food;

I was thirsty, and you gave me no water;

I was in rags, and you gave me no clothing;

I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me;

I was sick, and in prison, and you did not visit me."

They will also answer, "Lord, when was it

that we saw you hungry, or thirsty,

or a stranger, or in rags,

or sick, or in prison,

and did not help you?"

And he will say to them, "Whenever you rejected

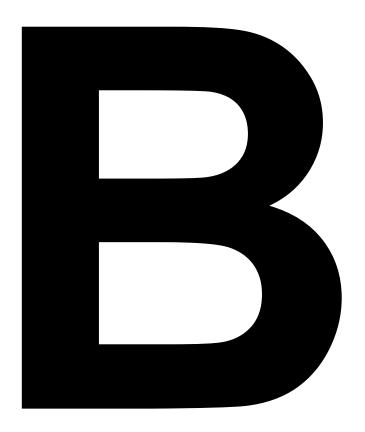
even the least

of these, my brothers and sisters,

you rejected me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Year



Year B

Sunday between 27 November and 3 December First Sunday of Advent

First Reading - Isaiah 63.18 - 64.9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Tear open the heavens, O Lord,

and come down, like a raging fire.

Let the mountains break apart

at your presence,

so that all

the nations tremble.

and even your enemies

will know your name.

From ancient times,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard,

any God

but you.

You rescue those who trust in you.

You welcome all who gladly do right.

But now

our transgressions

have aroused your anger.

Our enemies

have destroyed your sanctuary.

And we have become

like a people

that has never known you;

like a people that has never been

called by your name.

Even our most righteous deeds

are like a filthy garment before you.

We fade like a fallen leaf,

and our own iniquities

sweep us away, like the wind.

There is no one left amongst us who calls

on your name, or pleads with you for mercy.

You have turned your face away from us,

and abandoned us to our iniquity.

And yet, O Lord, you are our Father.

You are the potter, and we are the clay.

You made us; we are the work of your hands.

We are your people, O Lord.

Do not be angry with us beyond measure,

or remember our iniquity for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1.4-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Every day, I give thanks

for all that God is doing amongst you;

for in Christ, you have grown in every way.

You have grown in your confidence

in the message of Christ.

And you have grown in every spiritual gift,

as you look for the coming of our Lord.

God has called you into the fellowship

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

And we trust that God will continue

to give you the strength

that will keep you in holiness

for the day of our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 13.24-37

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'There will be

persecution and suffering,

until the day

when the sun and the moon

will give no light,

and the stars

will be shaken from the sky.

And then you will see

the Son of Man

coming in the clouds

with great power and glory.

And he will send angels

to gather his chosen

from the furthest corners

of the heavens

and the earth.

When buds

and then leaves

appear on the fig tree,

you know

that summer is near.

In the same way,

when you see these things

taking place,

you will know

that the time is near.

All these things

will take place

before this generation

has passed away.

The heavens

and the earth

will be destroyed;

but my words

will remain for ever.

No one knows

the day or the hour

at which

these things will take place:

not the angels in heaven,

nor even the Son;

but only the Father.

The master of the household

is going on a journey,

leaving the servants

each with their own task.

And you are appointed to keep watch.

You do not know

whether the master will return

at dawn, or in the evening, or in the night;

and he must not

find you sleeping

when he returns.

So I say to you, and to everyone:

be on your guard,

and stay alert,

for you do not know

when that day will come.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 10 December	And there will be new heavens,
Second Sunday of Advent	and a new earth,
	where everything
First Reading - Isaiah 40.1-5a	will be made perfect
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.	in the presence of God,
Comfort my people,	in fulfilment
and speak tenderly to Jerusalem.	of God's promises.
Let her know	As we await that day,
that she has served her sentence.	let us live holy and godly lives,
Her penalty is paid.	at peace with God.
She has already received,	And let us remember
from the Lord's hand,	that the patience
double	of our Lord
for all her transgressions.	is our gracious opportunity
And now,	for salvation.
a voice cries out:	This is the word of the Lord.
'In the wilderness,	•
prepare the way of the Lord.	Gospel - Mark 1.1-8
Fill the valleys,	Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
level the hills,	according to Mark.
straighten the paths,	Here begins
and make the rough ways	the good news,
smooth.	the gospel of Jesus Christ,
And the glory of the Lord	the Son of God.
will be revealed.'	God spoke
This is the word of the Lord.	through the prophet Isaiah,
	saying, 'I am sending
Second Reading - 2 Peter 3.8-15a	my messenger
A reading from the second letter of Peter.	ahead of you,
Some have said,	to prepare the way,
from a human perspective,	a voice to cry out
that the promises of the Lord	in the wilderness,
are slow	"Prepare the way of the Lord."
in coming to fulfilment.	And so
But with the Lord, a day	indeed
is like	it came about
a thousand years,	that John the Baptist
and a thousand years	appeared in the wilderness,
are like	proclaiming a baptism
a day.	of repentance
So we	for the forgiveness of sins.
do not say	And all the people
that the fulfilment	of Judea and Jerusalem
of the Lord's promise	were going out to him.
is delayed.	And they were baptised by him,
Instead,	in the river Jordan,
we understand	confessing their sins.
that the Lord	His clothing
is being patient,	was made from camel's hair,
allowing time	with a belt of leather;
for all to repent;	and for food,
for the Lord prefers	he ate locusts,
that none	and wild honey.
should perish.	And in his preaching, he said:
For the day of the Lord	'I baptise you with water,
will come	but after me
like a thief in the night.	comes one who is more powerful.
With thunder and fire,	I am not worthy
the heavens will pass away.	even to be his servant.
And the earth,	And he will baptise you
and everything upon it,	with the Holy Spirit.'
will be destroyed.	This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 11 and 17 December

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading - Isaiah 61.1-2, 10-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God

is upon me,

for the Lord has anointed me

to bring good news

to the poor, the lowly, and the afflicted;

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and release to the prisoners;

to bind up

the broken-hearted,

and to comfort

those who mourn;

to declare

the day of God's justice,

and the year of the Lord's favour.

So let us rejoice,

and sing praise

to the Lord our God.

For as bride and groom

are prepared in fine clothes

for their wedding,

so the Lord

has clothed us

with salvation and righteousness.

And as a garden

flourishes in the spring-time,

so the Lord God

will make righteousness

and praise

flourish in every nation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5.16-23

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

This is the will of God for you

in Christ Jesus:

that you

rejoice always,

give thanks in all circumstances,

and pray without ceasing.

Do not quench the Spirit,

and do not treat prophecies

with contempt;

but test everything.

Hold fast

to all that is good,

and keep away

from all that is evil.

And may the God of peace

keep you in holiness,

in body, mind, and spirit,

for the coming

of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 1.6-8, 19-28

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John.

John himself

was not

the light,

but came

to bear witness

to the light.

The temple authorities

in Jerusalem

sent a delegation

to the place

where John was baptising.

They demanded

of John, 'Who are you?'

And John

told them plainly, 'I am not

the Messiah.'

So they asked him, 'What then?

Are you Elijah?

Are you the prophet?'

And when John

said that he was not,

they asked him again, 'Who are you?

Let us have an answer

for those who sent us!

What do you say about yourself?'

And John said

(using the words of the prophet Isaiah),

'I am the voice

crying out

in the wilderness,

"Make straight

the way of the Lord."

They asked him, 'Then why

are you baptising,

if you are not

the Messiah,

and not Elijah,

and not the prophet?'

And John answered them, 'I baptise in water,

but amongst you

stands one

you do not know,

the one who is

coming after me:

and I am not worthy

even to be

his servant.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunda	y between	18	and	24	Decembe
- "	~ , ,				

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading - 2 Samuel 7.1-9, 11b, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

David, the king,

was settled in his house,

and the Lord had given him rest

from all his enemies

around him.

So David said

to the prophet Nathan, 'I now live

in a house

built from cedar,

but the ark of God

still lives

in a tent.

At first, the prophet Nathan replied,

'Do whatever you have in mind;

for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night, the word of the Lord

came to the prophet Nathan,

that he should instead

give to king David

this word from the Lord:

'I have not lived

in a house

from the day I brought

my people

out of Egypt, to this day;

but I have travelled

with my people,

with a tent

as my only dwelling.

I appointed leaders

to shepherd my people,

but I never asked

any one of them

to build me a house of cedar.

I took you from the pasture,

from following the sheep,

to be my servant,

and the leader of my people.

Wherever you have gone,

I have been with you.

I have defeated

your enemies

all around you.

And now, I will make your name great

in all the earth.

You will not

make a house

for the Lord

to live in:

but I, the Lord,

will make your house

and your kingdom

secure.

and establish

your throne

for ever.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 16.25-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Glory to God, who strengthens you

to stand firm

in the good news of Jesus Christ

that we proclaim!

And Glory to God, at whose command

this good news

has been revealed,

first through the writings of the prophets, and now

by proclamation to all the nations,

so that all people

might come to believe and trust

in Jesus Christ!

To the one eternal God of all wisdom

be glory for ever!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 1.26-38

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God

to a town called Nazareth, in Galilee,

to Mary, engaged to a man called Joseph, who was

descended from the line of king David.

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary

and said, 'Greetings, O favoured one!

The Lord is with you!'

Mary was overcome with fear,

and wondered what this greeting could mean.

The angel said, 'Mary, do not be afraid,

for you have found favour with God.

And now, you will conceive, and bear a son,

and you will name him Jesus.

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 ancestor David.

He will reign over the people of Jacob for ever.

And his kingdom will never end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be,

for I am not yet

joined to my husband, or any man.'

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit

will come upon you,

and the power of the Most High

will surround you.

And the child to be born

will be holy;

and will be called

the Son of God.

And your relative Elizabeth, childless

in her old age, will also bear a son;

and is already in her sixth month,

for every promise of God

will be fulfilled."

And Mary said, 'I am a servant of the Lord.

May the word

that you have spoken

be fulfilled.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Midnight Mass

and suitable for other services after midday on 24 December

First Reading - Isaiah 9.2,6-7a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light.

On those who dwell

in the land of deep darkness -

on them, the light will shine.

For a child is born to us,

a son to rule over us,

and he will be called

Wonderful Counsellor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

and Prince of Peace.

From the throne of David.

he will extend for ever

his kingdom of righteousness,

justice, and peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 4.4-8,9b

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord - always!

I say again, rejoice!

And let your

gracious gentleness

be known to everyone.

The Lord is near,

so do not worry

about anything.

But in everything, with prayer,

and thanksgiving,

let your requests

be made known to God.

And the peace of God,

which surpasses

all understanding,

will protect

your hearts

and your minds

in Christ Jesus.

Finally.

my brothers and sisters,

set your minds

on all that is

true, and pure,

just, and honourable.

Set your minds

on all that is

pleasing, and admirable,

excellent, and worthy of praise.

And the God of peace

will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 2.1,3-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

An order went out, from the emperor,

that all the world

should be registered,

each in their own town.

Joseph, a descendant of David,

was engaged to Mary, who was expecting a child,

so they travelled together

to the city of David,

Bethlehem, in Judea.

While they were there,

the time came

for the child

to be born,

and Mary gave birth

to her firstborn, a son.

She wrapped the child in bands of cloth,

and laid him in a manger,

because there was no room for them

at the inn.

Out in the fields, there were shepherds,

keeping watch

through the night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them,

and the glory of the Lord

shone around them,

and they were afraid.

The angel said, 'Do not be afraid.

I bring good news

of great joy

for all people.

Today, in the city of David,

there is born a Saviour,

the Messiah,

the Lord.

This will be the sign for you:

you will find the child

wrapped in bands of cloth,

and lying in a manger.'

A vast choir of angels appeared, proclaiming,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Peace on earth,

and God's blessings

on all people!'

The shepherds made their way quickly

to Bethlehem.

where they found Mary and Joseph,

and the child, lying in the manger.

When the shepherds made known

the message of the angels,

all who heard it

were amazed.

And Mary treasured all these words,

and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned,

glorifying and praising God

for all

that they had

seen and heard.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Christmas Day

25 December

First Reading - Isaiah 52.7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Those who keep watch

are shouting out

with joy.

For they see, on the mountains,

the messenger

approaching,

bringing good news

of salvation, and peace;

good news

of the triumph

of our God.

Join in their song,

O ruins of Jerusalem!

For all the world

will see the Lord

returning to Zion,

with mercy and strength,

declaring

that your freedom

has been won.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 1.1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago,

God spoke to our ancestors,

in many and various ways,

by the prophets,

but in these last days,

God has spoken to us

by a Son,

appointed by God

as inheritor

of all things,

the reflection

of God's glory,

the exact imprint

of God's very being.

Present with God

at the creation of the universe,

and sustaining

all creation

by his powerful word,

he has

reconciled us to God,

and is seated now,

higher even than the angels,

at the right hand

of God's Majesty

on high.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 1.1-12,14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

In the beginning

was the Word,

and the Word

was with God.

and the Word

was God.

The Word

was in the beginning

with God.

Through the Word,

all things

came into being.

And in the Word

was life -

the life

that was the light

of all people.

That light

now shines

in the darkness.

and the darkness

has not

overcome it.

There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John.

John himself was not

the light.

but came

to bear witness to the light.

The true light,

bringing light to all,

was coming

into the world.

He was in the world -

the world that came into being through him -

and yet the world

did not

know him.

He came to his own,

and his own

did not

receive him.

But all who

did

receive him -

all who believed in his name -

he called

to become

children of God.

And the Word

became flesh,

and dwelt amongst us.

And we have seen his glory -

the glory

of the Father's only Son,

full of grace

and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 26 December and 1 January	Gospel - John 21.19b-25
Saint John the Evangelist	Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
	according to John.
First Reading - Exodus 33.7-11a	Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.'
A reading from the book of Exodus.	Peter turned,
Moses set up a tent, called the Tent of Meeting,	and saw 'the disciple Jesus loved'
far outside the camp,	approaching them.
and anyone who sought the Lord	(This is the disciple who had been
would go to it.	next to Jesus.
Whenever Moses himself went out to it,	at the supper,
all the people	and had said, 'Lord, who is it
would stand by their tents	that is going
and watch.	to betray you.')
The pillar of cloud would descend,	When Peter saw
and would stand	this disciple approaching,
by the entrance	Peter said
of the tent,	to Jesus, 'Lord,
and the Lord	what about him?'
	And Jesus
would speak with Moses there.	
When they saw	said to Peter, 'If it is
the pillar of cloud,	my will
standing at the entrance of	that he
the Tent of Meeting,	remains
all the people would bow down,	until I return,
each of them	what is that
at the entrance of their tent.	to you?
And the Lord	You,
would speak	follow me!'
with Moses	So the rumour spread,
there,	amongst the believers,
face to face,	that this disciple
as you speak	would not die.
with a friend.	Yet Jesus
This is the word of the Lord.	did not say
	that this disciple
Second Reading - 1 John 3.1-2	would not die;
A reading from the first letter of John.	Jesus said, 'If
The love	it is my will
that God the Father	that he remains
has for us	until I return,
is so great	what is that to you?'
that we are already	This is the very disciple
declared to be	now recording
children of God.	all
Those who do not know	these things,
the Father	and writing them;
neither see nor understand this.	so you can know
My brothers and sisters,	that this account
already	is true.
we are children of God;	There are also
but there is more	many other things
that is still to be revealed,	that Jesus did.
of what we are yet to become; for we trust	And if every one of them
	were written down,
that when Christ appears in glory,	the whole world
we will become	could not contain
yet more fully	the books
like him,	that would be written.
for we shall see him	This is the Gospel of the Lord.
face to face.	
This is the word of the Lord.	

Sunday between 2 and 6 January only	Gospel - Matthew 2.1-12
The Epiphany	Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
	according to Matthew.
First Reading - Isaiah 49.5-7	In the time of King Herod,
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.	after Jesus was born
The Lord called me,	(in Bethlehem of Judea),
even before I was born,	Magi from the East
to gather Jacob and Israel	came to Jerusalem,
back to the Lord;	saying, 'We are looking for the child
a great task,	who is born
for which the Lord God	to be king of the Jews.
is my strength.	For we observed his star, at its rising,
And now the Lord says,	and we have come to pay him homage.'
'It is too light a thing	When King Herod heard this,
that you should be my servant	he was troubled,
to raise up the tribes of Jacob,	and all Jerusalem with him.
and to restore the survivors of Israel.	He called together
I will give you	the chief priests and the scribes,
as a light	and enquired of them
to all	where the Messiah
nations,	was to be born.
that my salvation may reach	They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea;
to the ends of the earth.	for it is written in the prophets:
Amongst the nations, the powerful	"You, O Bethlehem,
may despise you,	in the land of Judah,
reject you,	are not the least
and enslave you.	amongst the ruling cities
But the day will come	of Judah; for out of you
when kings	will come a leader, who is
will stand in your presence,	to shepherd
and princes	my people Israel."
will bow down,	Then Herod called secretly for the Magi,
because the Lord,	and learned from them
the faithful,	the exact time
the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel,	at which the star had appeared.
has chosen you.'	Then he sent them to Bethlehem,
This is the word of the Lord.	saying, 'Go and search for the child;
This is the word of the Lord.	and when you have found him,
Second Reading - Galatians 3.26-29	bring me word,
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.	so that I may also go
All those who are	and pay him homage.
baptised into Christ	So the Magi set out;
are equally adopted	and there, ahead of them,
as children of God.	went the star
There is neither	which they had seen
Hebrew nor Greek,	at its rising;
slave nor free,	until it stopped
	• •
male nor female;	over the place
for all are one in Christ Jesus.	where they would find the child; at which
And all become inheritors,	they were filled with joy.
together,	On entering the house, they saw the child,
of the promises made to Abraham	with Mary his mother,
	and they knelt down, and paid him homage.
and his descendants.	Then, opening their treasure-chests,
This is the word of the Lord.	they offered him gifts of gold,
	frankincense, and myrrh.
	And having been warned in a dream
	not to return to Herod,
	they left for their own country
	by another road.

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This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 7 and 13 January

First Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 55.1-3,6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Come, all who are thirsty;

come to the water and drink.

Come, all who are in poverty;

come for grain, and milk, and wine,

without money,

and without cost.

For you work,

and you spend,

but you find

neither food

nor fulfilment.

So listen now

to the word of the Lord,

and you will eat,

and be filled,

and your soul

will delight

in abundance.

Come to me.

and hear my word.

Hear my word,

that you may live,

says the Lord.

And the Lord

will make with you

an everlasting covenant.

Turn away

from your wicked ways,

and turn to the Lord,

for the Lord is ready to welcome you.

Turn away

from your plotting

for injustice,

and call upon the Lord,

for the Lord is near.

Return to the Lord your God,

for God will have mercy,

and freely forgive.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 1.9-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

God's purpose is to bring

to unity, in Christ,

all things

in heaven

and on earth.

God called us

to live

to the praise of God's glory, in Christ.

And whilst we

were the first

to place our trust in Christ,

you also

can now live

to the praise of God's glory, in Christ,

for you have heard

the same message of truth,

the same gospel of salvation;

and you have been marked

with the same

seal of the promised Holy Spirit, which is

God's pledge to us

that we are

God's own people.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 1.29-34

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

John the Baptist saw Jesus

coming towards him,

and said, 'Here is

the Lamb of God:

the one who takes away

the sin of the world;

the one who comes after me,

but ranks ahead of me,

because he existed

before I was born.

When God sent me

to baptise

with water,

God said

that I would see

the Spirit descend

on the one who is to baptise

with the Holy Spirit.

I came baptising

with water

to make known to Israel

the one who is to baptise

with the Holy Spirit.

And now,

I have seen the Spirit

descending from heaven

like a dove,

and resting upon him.

And so I declare

that this is

the Son of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 14 and 20 January

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 1 Samuel 3.1-10

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The boy Samuel

was ministering to the Lord

in the temple,

under the guidance

of Eli, the high priest.

The word of the Lord

was rare in those days,

and visions from the Lord

were few.

Eli's eyesight

was failing.

And Samuel

did not yet

know the Lord,

for the word of the Lord

had not yet

been revealed to him.

One evening,

before the lamp of God had gone out,

Eli was lying down in his room,

and Samuel was lying down

in the temple of the Lord,

near the ark of God.

And the Lord called out: 'Samuel!'

Samuel said, 'Here I am!'

and ran to Eli,

and said, 'Here I am,

for you called me.'

But Eli said, 'I did not call;

go and lie down.'

Samuel went, and lay down;

and the Lord called out

a second time, 'Samuel!'

Again, Samuel went to Eli,

and said, 'Here I am,

for you called me.'

But Eli said, 'My son, I did not call;

go and lie down.'

And the Lord called Samuel

a third time.

And again, Samuel went to Eli,

and said, 'Here I am,

for you called me.'

And now Eli understood

that the Lord

was calling the boy.

So Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, and lie down,

and if you hear the call again,

say, "Speak, Lord,

for your servant is listening."

So Samuel went

and lay down again,

and the Lord came, and stood there,

calling as before, 'Samuel!'

And Samuel said, 'Speak,

for your servant is listening."

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 6.12,19-20

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

All things may be lawful, in Christ -

but not all things

are beneficial.

All things may be lawful -

but you should take care

not to become

a slave to anything.

You are no longer your own,

for you were bought, at a price,

to be a servant of God.

Your body is now

a temple

of the Holy Spirit,

given by God,

and dwelling within you.

Therefore glorify God

in your body.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 1.35-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

The next day,

John the Baptist

was standing

with two of his disciples

when Jesus passed by.

John said to them, 'Look,

here is the Lamb of God!'

And the two disciples

followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned

and saw them following him,

he said to them, 'What is it

that you are looking for?'

They asked Jesus, 'Teacher,

where are you staying?'

Jesus replied, 'Come and see.'

And they spent

the rest of that day

with Jesus.

One of the two

was Andrew.

Andrew went to find his brother Simon,

and said to him, 'We have found

the Messiah.

the Christ'.

And Simon went with Andrew

to the place where Jesus

was staying.

Jesus looked at Simon,

and said, 'You are Simon, son of John,

but you will be called

Peter, the Rock.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 21 and 27 January

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 62.1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

For your sake, O Zion,

I will not keep silent;

and for your sake, O Jerusalem,

I will not rest, says the Lord,

until your righteousness

shines out like the dawn.

and your salvation

like a beacon in the night.

All kings, all nations,

will see your glory.

You will be a royal crown of beauty

in the hand

of the Lord your God.

And the Lord

will give you

a new name.

You will no longer

be called "forsaken".

And your land

will no longer

be called "desolate".

You will be called

"the delight of the Lord".

And your land

will be called

"the bride of the Lord".

For the Lord

delights in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9.19-23

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I am free, subject only

to the law of Christ.

But I have made myself a servant

to everyone,

that I might lead

as many as possible

to salvation.

To those who live under the law,

I became like one who lives

under the law,

so that I might win those who live

under the law.

To those who live outside the law,

I became like one who lives

outside the law,

so that I might win those who live

outside the law.

To the weak, I became weak,

so that I might win the weak.

I have become all things to all people,

all for the sake of the gospel,

that by all possible means

I might lead some to salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 2.1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

There was a wedding, at Cana,

in Galilee.

The mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples

were also guests

at the wedding.

The wine ran out,

and Jesus' mother

came to Jesus,

and said, 'They have

no wine.'

Jesus said to his mother, 'What is that to you,

or to me? My time has not yet come.'

But his mother

said to the servants.

'Do whatever he tells you.'

Jesus pointed

to the stone water-jars,

used for ceremonial washing.

There were six,

holding about

six hundred litres

in all.

Jesus told the servants

to fill the jars

with water.

And they filled them

to the brim.

Jesus said, 'Now draw some out,

and take it

to the chief steward.'

They took some

to the chief steward,

and he tasted it.

And the water

had become wine.

The servants who had taken it

to the chief steward

knew where it had come from,

but the chief steward

did not know.

When the chief steward tasted it,

he called the bridegroom,

and said,

'Everyone serves

the best wine first.

and the cheaper wine later,

when the guests

have had plenty to drink.

But you have kept

the best wine

until now.'

This was the first of the signs

by which Jesus

revealed his glory;

and his disciples

believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 28 January and 3 February Gospel - Mark 1.14-28 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. First Reading - Jonah 3.1-10 After John the Baptist A reading from the book of Jonah. was arrested. The word of the Lord Jesus came to Galilee, came to Jonah a second time, proclaiming the good news of God, saying, 'Go to the great city of Nineveh, saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and declare there and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe the good news.' the message that I have given you.' Jonah set out, and went to Nineveh, As Jesus walked as the Lord had spoken. by the Sea of Galilee, Nineveh was a city he saw Simon, and his brother Andrew, so large casting that it would take three days a fishing net to walk across it. into the lake. Jonah entered the city. And Jesus said to them, 'Come, follow me, and I will send you out going a day's walk, announcing, 'Forty days more, to fish for people.' and Nineveh will be destroyed!' Immediately, they left their nets, The people and followed him. believed the word of God, As Jesus went a little further, declared a fast. he saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee. and put on sackcloth in their boat, mending the nets. all the people of Nineveh, Immediately. from the greatest to the least. Jesus called them. When news reached And they left their father Zebedee the king of Nineveh, in the boat the king also with the hired workers, put on sackcloth. and followed Jesus. and ordered They went to Capernaum, that all and when the sabbath came, should join the fast, Jesus went into the synagogue, and taught. and cry out to God in prayer, All were amazed and turn away at his teaching, from their evil and violent ways. for unlike their scribes. And when God saw all that they did, he taught with authority. and how they turned While they were there from their evil ways, in the synagogue, God resolved not to bring about

the calamity

that had been declared

against them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9.24-27

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

You know that, in a race,

all the runners compete,

but only one receives the prize.

So run this race as if to win!

Athletes work with discipline

for an earthly reward -

but we work for an eternal reward!

So run, and work, with direction, and purpose,

as I also continue to work

with discipline, like an athlete,

so that after teaching others,

I myself should not fail

to complete the race!

This is the word of the Lord.

a man with an unclean spirit came in,

and cried out, 'What are you doing here,

Jesus of Nazareth?

Have you come to destroy us?

I know who you are - the Holy One of God!'

But Jesus rebuked

the unclean spirit,

saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!'

The unclean spirit

threw the man into convulsions.

cried out in a loud voice.

and came out of him.

They were all astounded,

and asked one another,

'What is this new teaching,

with such authority?

Even the unclean spirits

obey him!'

And his fame spread

through the entire region

of Galilee.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 10 February (if before Ash Wednesday)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 40.27-31

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Do not say

that the Lord

does not know

of your troubles,

or that God

is neglecting

the injustice

that you suffer.

For the Lord,

the everlasting God,

the creator of all the earth,

has insight

beyond

our understanding.

The Lord does not

faint

or grow weary

and will give strength

to the suffering

and the weak.

Even the young

may grow weary,

and stumble, and fall.

But those who trust in the Lord

will find their strength renewed.

They will rise up

on wings

like eagles.

They will run,

and they will

endure.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10.32-11.1

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Let everything you do,

and every choice you make,

be for the glory of God.

Give no offence

to others.

whether Hebrews,

or Greeks.

or the church of God itself.

For we are following

the example of Christ

when we work

not for our own good,

but for the good of others,

and for their salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 1.29-39

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus went

with James and John

to the home of Simon and Andrew, where

Simon's mother-in-law

was in bed

with a fever.

Jesus went to her,

and took her hand.

She awoke.

and immediately, the fever left her;

and she was able to welcome them,

and even attend to them.

That evening,

around sunset,

the whole city came out,

gathering around the door,

bringing to Jesus

all who were sick

or oppressed by demons.

Jesus cured many who were sick

with various diseases,

and drove out many demons.

And Jesus

would not allow

the demons

to speak,

because

they knew who Jesus was.

Early the next morning,

while it was still fully dark,

Jesus went out

into the wilderness, alone,

to pray.

Simon, and some of the other disciples,

went searching for him.

When they found him,

they said to him, 'Everyone is looking for you.'

Jesus said, 'Let us go on

to the neighbouring towns,

so that I may preach there also;

for that is what I came to do.'

And Jesus travelled

throughout

the region of Galilee,

teaching in the synagogues,

and driving out demons.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 11 and 17 February (if before Ash Wednesday)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Leviticus 13.2-3,45-46;14.2-4,8a,10

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

When the priest

examines

blemishes on the skin,

and finds them to be leprosy,

the person

with the blemishes

will be declared

unclean.

and must

go to live

alone,

in a dwelling

outside the camp,

and must wear torn clothes,

and must leave their hair dishevelled,

and whilst going about,

must cover their mouth,

and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.'

But if the person

is brought again to the priest,

and the priest finds

the disease

to be healed,

the person who has been

found to be healed

shall make an offering

of two turtle-doves,

with cedar-wood,

and crimson,

and herbs,

and shall bathe,

and cut their hair,

and wear clean clothes;

and a week later,

shall make

a thanksgiving offering:

a thanksgiving offering

of a lamb.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 3.1b-6

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

We do not need

letters of recommendation,

for you are our letter,

written on our hearts,

to be known and read by all.

You are

a letter from Christ,

commending our ministry,

written not with ink,

but with the Spirit

of the living God;

and not on stone tablets,

but on human hearts.

And in the same way,

we are confident before God, through Christ,

not because of any competence of our own,

but because God has called us, and equipped us,

to be ministers of a new covenant -

a covenant

not of the written law,

that kills,

but of the Spirit,

that gives life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 1.40-45

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

A man with leprosy

knelt before Jesus,

and begged him,

'If you choose,

you can make me clean.'

Moved with compassion,

Jesus reached out his hand,

and touched him;

and said to him,

'I do choose.

Be made clean!'

And immediately,

the leprosy left him.

Jesus said to him, 'Say nothing to anyone;

but go, show yourself to the priest,

and make the offering,

for your cleansing,

that Moses commanded.'

But instead, the man who had been healed

went out

and spoke openly

about what had happened.

And word spread, so that Jesus

could no longer

go into

any town

openly,

but stayed out in the country;

and people came to him

from every town and city.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 18 and 24 February (if before Ash Wednesday)

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 43.18-25, 44.3

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Do not dwell

on all that went before,

or focus on times past,

for now I begin something new,

says the Lord;

indeed, it is already begun.

I will make rivers in the desert,

and a safe route, with streams of water,

through the wilderness.

Even the wild animals will honour me,

when I put springs of water in the desert

to refresh my chosen people -

the people I made for myself,

to declare my praise.

But you have not

called upon me, O Jacob.

You have become weary of me, O Israel.

You have not

brought burnt-offerings,

or honoured me

with sacrifices.

I have not

burdened you with demands

for offerings of grain, or spices.

I have not

wearied you with demands

for precious incense.

But you have still

burdened me with your sins,

and wearied me

with your iniquities!

And yet I am the one who, for my own sake,

will blot out your transgressions,

and remember your sin no more.

And as I pour out water

on the thirsty land,

and make streams flow in the desert,

I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring,

and my blessing

on your descendants.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 3.7-9

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

The ministry of the law,

engraved in letters, on stone tablets,

came in such glory

that the people of Israel

could not look at Moses' face,

because of the glory that shone out of it.

And the ministry of the law

became a ministry of condemnation

by the law,

that led to death.

So if there was glory then,

in the ministry

of condemnation

by the written law,

how much more glory will there be now,

in the ministry

of reconciliation with God

by the Spirit!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 2.1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus returned to Capernaum.

When people heard where Jesus was staying,

so many gathered, to hear him,

that there was no room for them,

even outside the door.

While Jesus was speaking,

four people arrived, carrying

a paralysed man.

They could not bring the man to Jesus

because of the crowd.

So they made an opening

in the roof

above Jesus,

and lowered down

the mat

on which the paralysed man lay.

When Jesus saw their faith,

he said to the paralysed man, 'My son,

your sins are forgiven.'

Amongst those

gathered there

were some teachers of the law.

Jesus knew immediately

that they would be questioning

whether these words

might even be blasphemy,

for they would say

that God alone

can forgive sins.

So Jesus said to them, 'Which is it easier to say?

"Your sins are forgiven," or

"Stand up, take your mat, and walk"?

But I will show you

that the Son of Man

has authority

on earth

to forgive sins.'

And Jesus turned

to the paralysed man,

and said, 'Stand up,

take your mat, and go home.'

And immediately, the man stood up,

picked up his mat,

and walked out, in full sight of them all.

And they were all amazed,

and they praised God,

saying, 'We have never seen

anything like this!'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 25 February and 3 March [not Sunday 3 March in a leap year] (if before Ash Wednesday)

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Hosea 2.14-15a,19-23

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

Even though my people

have been unfaithful,

I will speak to them

with tenderness.

says the Lord.

I will give them

fruitful vineyards

in the wilderness.

I will lead them to a new hope,

and a new beginning,

at the very place

where they first entered

the promised land.

I will renew

my covenant with them,

in faithfulness, mercy, and steadfast love.

I will say to them,

'You are my people'.

And the people will reply,

'and you are our God'.

And the heavens,

and the earth,

and the harvest,

will rejoice together.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4.5-7

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

We do not proclaim ourselves.

We proclaim only

Jesus Christ as Lord,

and ourselves

as your servants

for his sake.

God has said, 'Let light shine

in the darkness';

and any light

that does shine in our hearts

comes from God.

And the purpose of that light

is to make known

the glory of God,

as revealed

in Jesus Christ.

We ourselves

are plain and fragile

clay jars,

containing

this great treasure -

making clear

that the extraordinary power

of the gospel message

comes not from us, but from God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 2.18-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

The disciples

of John the Baptist,

and the disciples

of the Pharisees.

were fasting.

Some were therefore asking

why the disciples of Jesus

were not

also fasting.

Jesus said to them, 'The wedding-guests

do not fast

while the bridegroom

is with them.

But the day will come

when the bridegroom

will be taken away from them;

and then they will fast.'

And he said to them, 'You do not use

new cloth

to patch up

an old garment.

because the new cloth

will pull away from the old,

and the damage

will be worse than before.

And you do not put

new wine

into old wineskins,

because they will burst,

and both the old

and the new

will be lost.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 7 March [plus Sunday 3 March in a leap year] (if before Ash Wednesday)

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 5.12-15

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Observe the sabbath day

and keep it holy,

as the Lord your God

commanded you.

For six days

you shall labour,

and do all your work;

but the seventh day

is a sabbath

to the Lord your God.

All shall rest

on the sabbath day:

you,

your sons and daughters,

your servants;

the foreigners living in your towns;

even your livestock.

Remember that you were slaves

in the land of Egypt,

and the Lord your God

brought you out from there

with a mighty hand

and an outstretched arm;

therefore

the Lord your God

commanded you

to honour the sabbath day.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4.8-12

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

We face many challenges,

but we are not driven to despair.

We are struck down,

but we are not destroyed.

We are afflicted in every way,

but we are not crushed.

We are persecuted,

but we know that we are not forsaken.

We risk death, continually, in Jesus' service -

so that.

through our fragile, mortal bodies,

the power

of the life of Jesus

might be seen in us

and made known to you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 2.23 - 3.6

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus was walking through a field of corn on the sabbath day.

As they walked along, his disciples picked some heads of grain.

The Pharisees said to Jesus, 'What they

are doing

is not lawful

on the sabbath.

Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'Surely

you have read

what David did, when he and his companions

were hungry, and in need;

David entered

the house of God, and ate

the sacred bread, which

by law

is reserved

for the priests;

and he gave some

to his companions.'

And Jesus said to them, 'The sabbath

was made

for the people -

not the people

for the sabbath;

so the Son of Man

is Lord

even of the sabbath.'

When Jesus entered the synagogue,

there was a man who had

a paralysed hand.

The Pharisees watched closely,

to see whether Jesus

would cure him

on the sabbath.

Jesus called the man forward;

then said to the Pharisees,

'Which

is lawful

on the Sabbath:

to do good, or to do evil?

To save life, or to destroy it?'

The Pharisees

ic i lialisces

gave no reply.

Jesus looked around at them

in anger, grieved

at their hardness of heart.

Jesus said

to the man, 'Hold out your hand.'

The man held out his hand,

and it was healed.

And the Pharisees went out, and

began immediately

to conspire

with the Herodians,

against Jesus,

about how

they might destroy him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Ash Wednesday

-	A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.
First Reading - Isaiah 58.1b,3b-9a	We brought nothing into the world,
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.	and we take nothing out.
The Lord says	So if we have food, and clothing, let us be
to the people of Jacob:	content with that.
I see your rebellion,	For true riches are to be found
and I know your transgressions.	in godliness
On the day of holy fasting and prayer,	combined with
you serve	contentment.
your own interests,	Those who long to be rich
you oppress your workers,	in this world
and you quarrel, and fight.	fall into temptation, and are trapped
This is not the fasting	by many foolish and harmful desires
that will make your voice	that plunge them
heard on high.	into ruin and destruction.
If you deny yourself,	The love of worldly wealth
bow your head,	is the root
and lie down in sackcloth and ashes,	of all manner
even this	of evil,
is not the fasting	pulling people
that I honour,	away from the faith,
says the Lord.	and repeatedly causing them
The fast that I honour	pain and distress.
is to remove	So flee from all this,
the bonds of injustice,	and instead
and to let the oppressed	seek righteousness, godliness,
go free.	faith, love,
The fast that I honour	patience, and gentleness.
is to share your bread	Work always
with the hungry,	to be strong in the faith,
to bring the homeless poor	holding fast to the eternal life
into your house,	to which you are called.
and not to hide away	This is the word of the Lord.
from the needs	
of those around you.	Gospel - Matthew 23.37-39
When this	Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
becomes	according to Matthew.
your fast,	Jesus said,
then	'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
your light and your healing	the city
will come,	that kills
your righteousness	the prophets,
will lead you on,	and stones
and the glory	the messengers
of the Lord	sent to you!
will protect you.	I have so often
Then	longed
you will call,	to gather your children
and the Lord	together,
will answer.	as a hen
You will cry for help,	gathers her young
and the Lord	under her wings -
will hear.	but you would not come!
This is the word of the Lord.	I leave this temple
	desolate.
	And you will not
	see me again
	until the day when you say,
	"Rlessed is the one who comes

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 6.6-12a

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in the name of the Lord." This is the Gospel of the Lord.

First Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Genesis 9.8-15 A reading from the book of Genesis. God said to Noah, 'Today, I make a covenant, with you, and with all your descendants, with the animals and the birds. with every living creature that came out of the ark, and with all the earth, for all generations: that never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood. I set the rainbow in the clouds, as a sign of the covenant that I make with you; and when the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember the covenant that I make with you this day.'

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3.20-21

This is the word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Peter. In the times of disobedience, in the days of Noah, God showed great patience,

could be saved "through the waters", by the building

of an ark.

so that some

In the same way,

you are now saved

through the waters of baptism,

not as a removal

of dirt

from the body,

but as an appeal to God

for cleansing from sin,

and for salvation

through the resurrection

of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Mark* 1.9-15

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus came from Nazareth

in Galilee.

and was baptised by John

in the river Jordan.

As Jesus

came up

out of the water,

he saw the heavens

torn open.

and the Spirit

descending on him

like a dove.

And a voice

came from heaven:

'You are

my beloved Son,

and I delight

in you.'

And the Spirit

immediately

drove him out

into the wilderness.

He was in the wilderness

forty days,

tempted by Satan.

And he was with

the wild animals.

And the angels

waited on him.

After John

was arrested,

Jesus came to Galilee,

proclaiming

the good news of God,

saying, 'The time is fulfilled,

and the kingdom of God

has come near:

repent, and believe

the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Genesis 15.1,5-6

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord

came to

Abram

in a vision:

'Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your protector,

and your reward

will be great.

Look to the sky.

Your descendants

will outnumber

the stars.'

And Abram

trusted

in this word from the Lord.

And this

made Abram righteous

in the eyes of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 4.3,13,16

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

The scripture tells us

that it was

Abraham's

trust in God

that made Abraham

righteous

in the eyes of the Lord.

And so we see

that the promise

God made to Abraham

and his descendants

came to Abraham

through a righteousness

based on trusting in God,

and not

through any law.

For God's gracious promises

do not

depend on any law.

They depend on

the generosity of God,

and they depend on

trusting in God.

This applies

both to those who follow

the demands of the law.

and to those who, like Abraham,

trust in God

without the law.

And so we can say

that we are all

descendants of Abraham;

and Abraham

is the father of us all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 9.2-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus took with him

Peter, James, and John,

and led them up a high mountain

by themselves.

And there,

Jesus was transfigured

in their presence.

His clothes

became

dazzling white.

And Elijah

and Moses

appeared,

talking with him.

Peter said to Jesus, 'Teacher,

it is good for us

to be here.

Let us make three shelters,

one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'

For Peter

did not know

what to say;

for they were afraid.

Then a cloud

appeared,

and covered them.

And a voice

spoke from the cloud,

saying, 'This is my beloved Son.

Listen to him.'

And when they looked,

they saw only Jesus, alone.

As they were

coming down

the mountain,

Jesus said, 'Tell no one

what you have seen,

until the Son of Man

has risen

from the dead.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Exodus 20.2-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

I am the Lord your God.

I brought you out

of the land of Egypt, out

of the house of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself any idol,

in the form of anything

that is in the sky above,

or the earth below, or the waters under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them,

or worship them,

for I am the Lord your God, and I grieve

at the rebellion

of those who reject me,

to the third and fourth generation;

but I show steadfast love

to a thousand generations

of those who honour me

and keep my commandments.

You shall not take

the name

of the Lord your God

in vain.

You shall remember the sabbath day,

and keep it holy.

Six days

you shall labour, and do all your work,

but the seventh day

is a sabbath to the Lord your God.

On the sabbath day,

you shall do no work.

All shall rest

on the sabbath day: you,

your sons and daughters, your servants;

the foreigners living in your towns;

even your livestock;

for in six days, the Lord made

the heavens, the earth, the sea,

and all that is in them,

but rested on the seventh day;

therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day,

and made it holy.

You shall honour your father and mother,

that your days may be long

in the land

that the Lord, your God, is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness

against your neighbour.

You shall not envy

your neighbour's spouse.

You shall not envy

your neighbour's household, or home,

or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1.21-25

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The wisdom of the world

did not

lead people to God.

Instead, God has used

not the wisdom of the world,

but the foolishness

of our proclamation

to save

those who believe.

Greeks demand wisdom.

and Hebrews demand miraculous signs,

but we proclaim Christ crucified.

The proclamation of Christ crucified

is foolishness to Greeks,

and a stumbling-block to Hebrews.

But to those who are called -

both Hebrew and Greek -

the proclamation of Christ crucified

is both the wisdom of God,

and the power of God.

For God's foolishness

is wiser

than human wisdom;

just as God's weakness

is stronger

than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 2.13-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

The Passover festival was near,

and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

In the temple, he found traders, selling cattle,

sheep, and doves;

and money-changers, seated at tables.

Making a whip of cords,

he drove them all out of the temple -

and the sheep and the cattle with them.

He scattered the coins of the money-changers, overturning their tables.

He said to those who were

selling doves, 'Get those out of here -

for you are making my Father's house

into a market-place!'

And his disciples remembered the scripture that says,

'Zeal for your house will consume me'.

The temple authorities said to Jesus, 'What sign can you show us, that gives you the authority

to do this?'

Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple,

and in three days, I will raise it up.'

They said, 'This temple has been under construction

for forty-six years, and you will raise it in three days?'

But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

After Jesus was raised from the dead,

his disciples remembered these words,

and they understood the scriptures,

and the words that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading - 2 Chronicles 36.14-23

A reading from the Second Book of Chronicles.

The priests, and the people,

became unfaithful.

They followed the evil ways of other nations, even in the house of the Lord, in Jerusalem.

But the Lord God, the God of their ancestors,

had compassion upon them,

and repeatedly

sent messengers amongst them.

But the people mocked and rejected

the prophets and messengers of God,

despising their words.

Finally, the displeasure of the Lord

was so great, that the Lord

brought up against them

the army

of the king of Babylon.

The invading army

killed their young men with the sword,

even in the temple,

and had no compassion,

even on the old and the weak.

Both the temple

and the palace

were burned to the ground,

and their treasures were taken away to Babylon;

and the city walls were broken down.

Those who escaped from the sword

were taken away as prisoners, to Babylon,

and were made servants

of the king of Babylon.

Then Jerusalem lay desolate

for seventy years,

fulfilling all the sabbaths it had missed,

in fulfilment of the word of the Lord

by the prophet Jeremiah;

until, in the first year

of the new kingdom of Persia,

the Lord moved the heart

of Cyrus, the king of Persia,

to make this declaration:

'The Lord, the God of heaven,

has given me all the kingdoms of the earth,

and has appointed me to build, for the Lord,

a temple at Jerusalem;

so let all the Lord's people

return to Jerusalem,

and may the Lord your God be with you.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 2.1-10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

When we lived by the rules of this present world,

filled with the spirit of disobedience,

following the desires

only of the body and the senses,

we were dead

in trespass and sin.

But in great love, and mercy,

God raised us up

to new life,

with Christ, and in Christ,

and to heaven itself;

so that all may see,

now and for all time,

the infinite riches

of God's grace towards us

in Jesus Christ.

For it is by God's grace

that we have been saved,

through faith.

Our salvation is not our own doing,

as if it were some achievement,

of which we might boast.

No, our salvation is the gift of God, who has

re-made us.

in Christ Jesus,

for the good works

that have been prepared for us.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 3.16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

God so loved the world

that God gave

the only Son of God,

so that everyone

who believes

in the Son of God

will not be lost,

but will have

everlasting life.

For God sent the Son into the world

not as judge,

but as saviour;

and those who believe

in the Son of God

are no longer under judgement;

but those who do not believe

remain under judgement,

for the light has come into the world,

and those who

do not believe

have loved darkness

more than light.

Because their deeds

are evil,

they hide from the light,

out of fear

that their evil deeds

will be exposed.

But those whose deeds

are honest, and true,

come to the light,

and the light reveals that God is in

the good deeds

that they do.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Jeremiah 31.31-34

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are coming

when I will make a new covenant

with the people of Israel,

and the people of Judah,

says the Lord.

It will not be like

the covenant that I made

with their ancestors.

when I led them out of Egypt -

a covenant they have broken.

But this

is the new covenant

that I will make with them,

says the Lord:

I will put my law within them,

and I will write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,

and they will be my people;

and all

will know me,

from the greatest

to the least;

and I will forgive their iniquity,

and remember their transgressions no more.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 5.7-10a

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

In the days of his earthly life,

Jesus offered up prayers,

with loud cries, and tears,

to the one who was

able to rescue him

from death.

And his prayer was heard,

in his reverent submission

to the will of the Father.

Even as the Son,

he grew

in devotion

through all

he learned

and endured.

And when

he had

accomplished

and completed

all things,

he was declared by God

to be

the eternal high priest,

and has become

the source

of eternal salvation

for all who trust in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 12.23-28a,31-32

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Jesus said,

'The hour has come

for the Son of Man

to be glorified.

A grain of wheat

remains

a single grain,

unless it falls

to the earth

and dies:

but when

a grain of wheat

falls to the earth

and dies,

it produces

a great harvest.

Those who love

their life in this world

will lose it:

while those who hate

their life in this world

will gain

eternal life.

Those who would serve me

must follow me,

and will be with me;

and the Father

will honour them.

And now my soul is troubled,

and I would long to pray, "Father,

save me from this hour."

But it is for this hour

that I came.

And so, I pray, "Father,

glorify your name."

Now is the judgement

of this world:

now the ruler of this world

will be driven out.

And when I am

lifted up

from the earth,

I will draw

all people

to myself.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Palm Sunday

Palm Procession - Mark 11.1-2,7-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus and the disciples

were approaching Jerusalem.

When they reached Bethany,

near the Mount of Olives,

Jesus gave instructions

to two of his disciples

to go on ahead

into the village,

and to bring back

a foal

that they would find there.

They brought the foal to Jesus,

and made a saddle from their cloaks,

and Jesus sat on it.

Many people now

spread their cloaks on the road,

and others spread leaves

that they had cut in the fields.

Those going ahead of Jesus,

and those following behind,

shouted out, 'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the

coming kingdom

of our ancestor David!

Hosanna

in the highest heaven!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Main Liturgy

First Reading - Isaiah 50.4-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God

has taught me wisdom,

so that I may speak

words of comfort

to the weary.

Morning by morning,

the Lord God awakens me.

so that I may learn wisdom

as a servant of the Lord.

When I face

persecution and violence,

I do not hide my face,

or turn away.

Let my accusers

confront me.

I will set my face like flint.

For I know

that the Lord God brings justice,

and I will not

be defeated

or ashamed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let Christ Jesus

be your example.

He did not regard

his equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a servant.

Born in human form,

he humbled himself.

in faithful obedience,

even to death on the cross.

And now, God has highly exalted him,

and has given him the name

that is above every name,

so that

at the name of Jesus.

all shall bow down,

in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,

and declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory

of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Passion - Mark 14.1 - 15.47

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

The chief priests and the scribes

were looking for a way

to arrest Jesus,

and execute him.

But they feared a riot

if they made the arrest

in a public place,

or during the Festival of the Passover,

which was only two days away.

Jesus was at Bethany, outside Jerusalem,

in the house of Simon the leper.

As Jesus sat at the table to eat,

a woman came,

with a carved

alabaster jar

of valuable

perfumed

ointment.

She broke open the jar,

and poured out the ointment

on Jesus' head.

Some of those present

condemned her,

saying that the ointment

had been wasted.

when it could have been sold,

for a whole year's wages,

and the money

given to the poor.

But Jesus said, 'Let her alone. When it was evening, She has done Jesus and the twelve a beautiful thing for me. took their places at the table. While they were eating, You always have the poor with you, Jesus said, 'Truly, I tell you, and you can help them one of you whenever you wish; will betray me but you will not always have me. one who is here, She has done what she could; eating with me.' she has anointed my body early, The disciples were distressed, for burial. and began to say to him, one after another, 'Surely, not me, Lord.' And she will be remembered throughout the world Jesus said to them, 'It is one of the twelve, for her good deed, one who is eating, wherever here at this table. the good news The Son of Man will go is proclaimed.' as it is written. And for the one who Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, betrays him, then went to the chief priests, it would have been offering to betray Jesus to them. better The chief priests were glad not to have been to receive this offer, born.' and promised Judas payment. While they were eating, And Judas began to look for an opportunity Jesus took bread, to betray Jesus. and after giving thanks, he broke it, On the first day and gave it to his disciples, of the Passover festival, saying, 'Take, and eat; the day when this is my body.' the Passover lamb Then he took the cup. is sacrificed. and after giving thanks, the disciples asked Jesus where they should he gave it to them, make preparations and they all for the Passover meal. drank from it. And he said, 'This is my blood, of the covenant, Jesus sent two of the disciples into the city. which is poured out for many. saying that they would see someone And I will not drink carrying a jar of water the fruit of the vine again into a house. until I drink it They should ask in the kingdom of God.' the owner of that house to show them a guest room, When they had sung a hymn, where their teacher, and his disciples, they went out could eat the Passover meal. to the Mount of Olives. They would be shown And Jesus said to them, 'You will all fall away; a large upstairs room, furnished and ready, as the scripture says, "I will strike the shepherd, and they should and the sheep will be scattered." make preparations there. But after I am raised up, The disciples went to the city, I will go ahead of you and found everything to Galilee.' as Jesus had told them; Peter said to Jesus, 'Others may fall away, and they prepared but I will not.' the Passover meal. Jesus said to Peter, 'This very night, before the cock crows twice. you will deny me three times.' But Peter insisted all the more, 'Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And they all said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane. And Jesus said to his disciples, 'Stay here while I pray.' Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John. And he became troubled. and distressed. saying to them, 'My soul is consumed with grief, to the point of death. Stay here, and keep watch.' And going a little further, he fell to the ground,

and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him;

saying 'Abba, Father,

for you

all things are possible;

remove this cup from me;

yet not my will, but yours, be done.'

Jesus returned

to Peter, James, and John, and found them sleeping.

Jesus said to Peter, 'Could you not

keep awake one hour? Stay awake, and pray,

that you may not have to enter

the time of temptation, testing, and trial;

for the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

Jesus left them again, and prayed once more, saying the same words. And he returned to them again, and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

And Jesus returned a third time, and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping, and taking your rest? Enough. The hour has come, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Let us be going;

see, my betrayer is at hand.'

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived, with a crowd, with swords and clubs. from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Judas, the betrayer, had arranged a signal with them, saying, 'I will greet him with a kiss. Then you can arrest him, and lead him away, under guard.' So Judas now approached Jesus, and said, 'Teacher,' and greeted him with a kiss. And they took hold of Jesus, and arrested him.

Someone took a sword, and struck the servant of the high priest. cutting off his ear.

Jesus said, 'Day after day I was in your temple, teaching, and you did not arrest me.

And now you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me like an outlaw. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.'

All the disciples now deserted Jesus, and fled.

One young man amongst them had been wearing a single garment of linen cloth.

Those who had arrested Jesus caught hold of it, as they tried to arrest him, and he fled without it.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to the high priest. The elders, the scribes, and the chief priests, had all assembled there. Peter had followed at a distance. into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. The chief priests, and the whole council, were looking for testimony against Jesus, to put him to death; but they found none. Many gave false testimony against Jesus, but their testimony did not agree. Some stood up, and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple, that is made by human hands, and in three days, I will build another, not made by human hands." But even on this point, their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood, and demanded of Jesus, 'How do you respond to what they are saying? Have you no answer?' But Jesus was silent, making no reply. The high priest asked Jesus, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Holy One?' 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.' Then the high priest tore at his robes. and said, 'We need no further witnesses. You have heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?' And they all condemned him as deserving death. Some spat at him, blindfolded him, beat him, and said to him. 'What now, prophet!' And the guards also took him and beat him.

One of the women who worked for the high priest walked past where Peter was keeping warm in the courtyard below. She looked closely at Peter, then said to him, 'You were with Jesus of Nazareth.' But Peter denied it, saying, 'I do not know what you mean.' And he moved to the outer courtyard. And the cock crowed. The woman saw Peter again, and said to those who were standing there, 'This man is one of them.' Again, Peter denied it. A short time later. those who were standing there said to Peter, 'Surely you are with him, for you are a Galilean.' Peter began to curse, and swore with an oath, 'I do not know this man.' And at that very moment, the cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And Peter broke down and wept. As soon as it was morning,

As soon as it was morning,
the chief priests consulted
with the elders, and the scribes,
and the whole council.
Then they bound Jesus, led him away,
and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'
Jesus replied, 'You have said it.'
Then the chief priests made many accusations against Jesus.

Pilate asked Jesus 'Have you no

Pilate asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer?
See how many charges
they bring against you.'
But Jesus made no further reply.

A man called Simon, from north Africa, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was there, that at the festival Pilate would release a prisoner, coming in from the country; whichever one and they took him, the people demanded. and made him carry the cross. Amongst the prisoners was Barabbas. They brought Jesus He had committed a murder, to the place called as one of the rebels Golgotha, The Place of the Skull. during an insurrection. They offered him wine, mixed with myrrh; The crowd began to ask Pilate to release a prisoner, but he did not take it. in keeping with his custom. And they crucified him. Pilate had now recognised And they divided his clothing between them, that it was out of envy casting lots that the chief priests to determine had handed Jesus over to him. what each of them So Pilate said to the crowd, 'Shall I release for you would take. the King of the Jews?' But the chief priests It was nine o'clock stirred up the crowd in the morning to ask Pilate when they crucified him. to release Barabbas instead. The inscription of the charge against him Pilate addressed the crowd again, saying, 'What then read, 'The King of the Jews.' shall I do And with him, with the one they crucified you call two thieves, the King of the Jews?' one on his right, and one on his left. And they shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Those who passed by Pilate asked them, 'Why, mocked him, what evil has he done?' shaking their heads, But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' and saying, 'You said you could destroy the temple So to appease the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas. and build it And after having Jesus flogged, in three days: Pilate so save yourself; handed Jesus over come down from the cross.' to be crucified. The chief priests and the scribes The soldiers also led Jesus into the courtyard, mocked him and called together amongst themselves, the whole guard. saying, 'He saved others, They twisted some thorns but he cannot save himself! into a crown, If he is the Messiah, the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross, and put it on him. They put him and we will believe in him.' in a purple cloak, And those who were crucified with him and began to salute him, also taunted him. saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down, as if they were honouring him. And after they had mocked him, they removed the purple cloak from him, put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

Now it had become a custom

At midday,
darkness came over the whole land
for three hours.

Then Jesus cried out,
with a loud voice,
'My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?'

Jesus cried out in Aramaic,
addressing God as 'Eli'.

Some of the bystanders
thought he was calling
for Elijah.

One of them
brought a sponge,
filled it with sour wine,
put it on a stick,

filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and held it up for Jesus to drink, saying, 'Wait,

let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.'

Then Jesus

let out a loud cry; and breathed his last.

And the curtain of the temple sanctuary was torn in two.

When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw that in this way, he breathed his last.

he said, 'Truly this was the Son of God.'

in Galilee.

Amongst the women, watching from a distance, were Mary Magdalene, and Salome, and Mary the mother of Joseph and the younger James. They had followed and provided for Jesus

And many other women, who had travelled with him to Jerusalem, were also there.

It was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath. Joseph of Arimathea was a respected member of the council, who was, himself, waiting expectantly for the coming of the kingdom of God. When evening came, he found the courage to go to Pilate, to ask for the body of Jesus. Pilate had not expected that Jesus would already be dead; but when Pilate had confirmed, with a centurion, that Jesus had indeed been dead for some time, Pilate granted the body to Joseph, as requested. Then Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out from the rock. Then he rolled a stone across the entrance to the tomb.

The Passion of the Lord.

and Mary the mother of Joseph,

saw where the body was laid.

Mary Magdalene,

Maundy Thursday

First Reading - Micah 6.6-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

What shall I bring, as an offering, to the Lord,

as I bow down

before God most high?

Shall I bring burnt-offerings,

calves a year old,

thousands of rams,

rivers of oil,

or even my firstborn,

the fruit of my body,

for the transgressions of my soul?

No, for the offering

the Lord requires of us

is this:

to do justice,

to love kindness,

and to walk humbly

with our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 12.1-2,9-20a,21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,

as your response

to God's great mercy,

to present your bodies

as a living sacrifice,

holy and acceptable to God.

Do not be conformed

to the ways

of this world,

but be transformed,

by the renewing of your minds,

towards

the perfect

will of God.

Let your love

be genuine.

Reject all that is evil,

and cling to all that is good.

With ever-greater devotion,

honour one another,

and serve the Lord.

Rejoice in faith,

be patient in suffering,

and persevere in prayer.

Support each other in need,

and offer care to everyone.

Bless those who persecute you;

bless them, and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice,

and weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another;

and find your place amongst the humble,

not amongst the arrogant.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,

but always do what is right

in the sight of all.

Do all that you can

to live at peace

with everyone.

When you are wronged,

do not seek revenge.

Instead, leave room

for the judgement of God.

For the scripture says, 'Retribution is mine;

I will repay, says the Lord.'

So, as the scripture

also says,

if your enemies are hungry, feed them;

if they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

Do not be overcome

by evil.

but overcome evil

with good.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 13.4-9,12-16a, 34-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

During the supper,

Jesus left the table,

took off his outer robe.

and tied a towel around his waist.

Then he poured water into a basin,

and began to wash the disciples' feet,

and to wipe them with the towel.

He came to Simon Peter, who said, 'Lord,

surely, I cannot let you

wash my feet.'

Jesus said, 'Soon you will understand

that I must wash you clean

if you are to be

my disciple."

Simon Peter said, 'Then Lord, wash

not only my feet.

but my hands

and my head also!'

After Jesus had washed their feet,

he put on his robe,

returned to the table,

and said to them:

'Do you understand what I have done for you?

You call me Teacher and Lord;

and as your Lord and Teacher,

I have set you an example.

You should do for one another

what I have done for you,

for no servant

is greater than their master.

And I give you this new commandment:

as I have loved you,

so you

must love

one another.

By this, everyone will know

that you are my disciples:

if you have love

for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Good Friday

First Reading - Isaiah 53.3-5

He was despised

and rejected.

He knew anguish

and pain.

We counted him as worthless,

as struck down

by God.

We turned our faces

from him.

Yet truly

he bore our anguish,

and carried our pain.

He was wounded

for our transgressions,

and crushed

for our iniquities.

He bore the punishment

that makes us whole.

And by his wounds,

we are healed.

Second Reading - Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-10a

We have

a great high priest, who has

ascended

into heaven,

Jesus, the Son of God.

And he is able to sympathise

with our weakness,

for he himself

has been tested,

in every way, as we are -

yet without sin.

So let us trust in him,

and approach the throne of grace

with confidence,

that we may receive

mercy,

and find

grace to help

in time of need.

In the days of his earthly life,

Jesus offered up prayers,

with loud cries, and tears,

to the one who was

able to rescue him

from death.

And his prayer was heard,

in his reverent submission

to the will of the Father.

Even as

the Son,

he grew

in devotion

through all

he learned

and endured.

And when he had accomplished

and completed

all things,

he was declared by God

to be

the eternal high priest,

and has become

the source

of eternal salvation

for all who trust in him.

Good Friday Passion Readings begin on the next page

Good Friday	Simon Peter,
Passion Reading Part 1	and another disciple,
John 18.1-27	followed Jesus.
	The other disciple
Jesus went	was known
with his disciples	to the high priest, and was able
to a garden	to follow Jesus
on the far side	all the way into the courtyard.
of the Kidron valley.	But Peter was left standing outside the gate,
Judas	until the other disciple
also knew the place,	went out
because Jesus	and spoke to the woman who was
would often meet there	guarding the gate.
with his disciples.	The woman said to Peter, 'Are you also
So Judas led	one of his disciples?'
the soldiers and the temple guards there,	Peter said, 'I am not.'
with weapons and torches.	The temple guards and servants
Jesus, knowing what was happening,	had made a charcoal fire
stepped forward, and asked them, 'Who is it	in the courtyard,
that you are looking for?'	and they were standing around it
They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'	to keep warm.
Jesus said, 'I am he.'	Peter went
And they stepped back	and stood with them.
and fell to the ground.	Inside, Jesus was being questioned
Jesus asked them again, 'Who is it	_ ·
	about his disciples and his teaching.
that you are looking for?'	<u> </u>
And again they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'	Jesus said, 'I have always spoken openly.
Jesus replied, 'I say again, I am he.	I have taught
Now let these others go.'	in the synagogue,
In this way,	and in the temple,
he fulfilled the words	where people gather.
he had spoken earlier	I have said nothing in secret.
in prayer:	You do not need
'I have protected those	to question me.
you entrusted to me.'	You can ask
Simon Peter	those who heard me.'
now drew his sword,	One of the temple guards
and struck	struck Jesus on the face,
the servant	saying, 'That is not
of the high priest,	how you answer
cutting off	the high priest.'
his right ear.	Jesus said, 'If what I have said
Jesus said, 'Put your sword away,	is untrue, then say so;
for I must surely drink	but if it is true, why strike me?'
from the cup	Annas now sent Jesus, bound,
that the Father	to Caiaphas, the high priest.
has given me.'	Simon Peter
Then the soldiers	was still standing
and the temple guards	with the temple guards,
arrested Jesus,	by the charcoal fire, in the courtyard.
and bound him.	Those who were standing there
They took him first to Annas,	asked Peter, 'Are you also
the father-in-law	one of his disciples?'
of Caiaphas, who was the high priest	Peter again denied it,
that year.	saying, 'I am not.'
•	• •
Caiaphas was the one who had said	One of the servants of the high priest (a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off)
	,
that it was better	said to Peter, 'Did I not
to have one person die	see you with him, in the garden?'
for the people.	Again Peter denied it;
	and at that very moment,
	the cock crowed.

Good Friday Passion Reading Part 2

John 18.28 - 19.16

At first light, they took Jesus from the court of Caiaphas, the high priest, to the headquarters of Pilate, the Roman governor.

But they did not go in, as that would have been a ritual defilement, preventing them from eating the Passover.

So Pilate went out to them, and asked, 'What charges do you bring against this man?'

They answered, 'If he were not an offender, we would not have brought him to you.'

Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves, and judge him by your own law.'

They replied, 'It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.'

Pilate went back inside his headquarters.

There, he summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

Jesus said, 'Do you ask this for yourself, or is it something that others have said?'

Pilate replied, 'I am a Roman, not a Jew. Your own people, and their chief priests have handed you over to me.

What is it

that you have done?'

Jesus said, 'My kingdom

is not

of this world,

or I would have guards,

fighting to protect me.

My kingdom is not here.'

Pilate said, 'So you are a king!'

Jesus said, 'You have said it.

I was born, and I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth

hears my voice.'

Pilate said, 'And what is truth?'

Pilate then returned

to those who were waiting outside, and said, 'I find no case against him.

But you have a custom

that I release a prisoner for you at Passover.

Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?'

And they shouted, 'Not him,

but Barabbas!'

And Barabbas

was a common criminal.

Pilate took Jesus,

and had him flogged.

The soldiers made a crown, out of thorns, and put it on his head; and they dressed him in a purple robe.

They came up to him,

saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and struck him on the face.

Pilate returned to those who were waiting outside, and said, 'I am bringing him out to you

to let you know

that I find no case against him.'

Jesus came out,

wearing the crown of thorns

and the purple robe.

Pilate said, 'Behold the man!'

As soon as the chief priests, and the temple guards, saw him,

they shouted, 'Crucify!'

Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him.

I find no case against him.'

They said, 'By our law, he must die,

for he claims to be

the Son of God.'

When Pilate heard this,

he was greatly concerned.

He entered his headquarters again,

and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?'

But Jesus gave no answer.

Pilate said, 'Do you refuse to speak to me?

Do you not see

that I have the power to release you,

or to crucify you?'

Jesus said, 'You would have had

no power over me,

had it not been given to you.

The one who handed me over to you

is guilty of a greater sin.'

On hearing this, Pilate again

sought to release Jesus,

but the chief priests

and the temple guards

said, 'If you release him, you are no friend

of the emperor,

for he sets himself against the emperor,

by calling himself a king.'

Pilate took Jesus outside,

and sat on the judgement seat,

at the stone pavement.

It was about midday

on the day of preparation

for the Passover.

Pilate said, 'Here is your king!'

They cried out, 'Away with him!

Crucify him!'

Pilate asked them, 'Shall I

crucify your king?'

They answered, 'We have no king

but the emperor!'

And Pilate handed Jesus over to them,

and they led him away

to be crucified.

Good Friday Passion Reading Part 3 John 19.17-end With Jesus carrying his own cross, they led him out

they led him out
to The Place of the Skull
(which in Hebrew is Golgotha).
There, they crucified him,

There, they crucified him, between two others, one on his right, and one on his left.

Pilate had an inscription placed on the cross: 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.'

Many people were able to read this, as the place of the crucifixion was near the city, and the sign was written in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

The chief priests complained to Pilate, insisting that the inscription should not be 'The King of the Jews', but 'This man claimed to be the King of the Jews'.

But Pilate said, 'What I have written,'

The soldiers who crucified Jesus divided his clothes between them.

But his tunic was woven as a single piece, so rather than tear it, they cast lots for it.

As it says in the psalm, 'They divided my garments

amongst themselves, and for my clothing, they cast lots.'

Standing by the cross of Jesus

were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw the beloved disciple standing beside his mother, Jesus said to his mother, 'Here is your son', and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'

And from that time on,

the disciple took her into his own home.

Knowing that everything was now completed, and in order to fulfil the scripture,
Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'

From a jar that was standing there,

they filled a sponge with sour wine, fixed it

on a branch of herbs, and lifted it to his mouth.

When Jesus had received it, he said, 'It is finished,'

And he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.

The temple authorities
did not want the crucifixions
continuing into the sabbath,
so they asked Pilate to order
that the legs of the crucified
be broken,
and the bodies removed.

The soldiers came and broke the legs of the two who had been crucified alongside Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus, seeing that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but pierced his side with a spear; and blood and water flowed out.

This account is given by one who was there, who witnessed these things, so that you may know it to be true.

And so it is that the scriptures were fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken,' and,

'They will look upon the one they have pierced.'

After all these things had taken place,
Joseph of Arimathea sought and received from Pilate

permission to take away the body of Jesus.

Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear

of the religious authorities.

Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus by night,

brought linen cloths,

and ointment, with myrrh, and fragrant oils.

And together,

they anointed and wrapped the body of Jesus

for burial.

In a garden,

close to the place of crucifixion,

there was a new tomb, in which no one

had ever been laid.

And as the sabbath was soon to begin, and the tomb was nearby,

they laid the body of Jesus there.

Easter Day

First Reading - Isaiah 25.6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this holy mountain, the Lord God

will prepare for all people

a feast of rich food

and fine wine.

The Lord will take away

the cloud of darkness

that hangs over peoples and nations.

The Lord God

will bring to an end

the humiliation of the people,

will wipe away

the tears from all faces,

and will destroy

the power of death

for ever.

And the people will say, 'This is the day

of the Lord our God.

Let us rejoice,

for we trusted in God,

and the day

of our salvation

has come.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15.1-10a

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Let me remind you again,

my brothers and sisters,

of the good news

that you received, which is now

your firm foundation,

and in which you are saved:

that Christ died for our sins, and was buried;

and that he was raised on the third day -

and all this

in fulfilment of the scriptures.

After he was raised from the dead,

he appeared to Peter,

then to the twelve,

then to more than

five hundred brothers and sisters

at one time.

Then he appeared to James;

then to all the apostles.

And last of all,

he appeared also to me,

as to one

untimely born,

unfit to be called

even the least of the apostles,

because I persecuted

the church of God.

But by the grace of God,

I am what I am.

And God's grace towards me

has not been in vain.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 20.1-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb,

and saw that the stone

had been removed.

She hurried back to Simon Peter.

and the disciple Jesus loved, and said,

'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,

and we do not know

where they have laid him.'

Peter and the other disciple

set off running

towards the tomb.

The other disciple outran Peter,

reaching the tomb first.

Bending down to look in, he could see

the linen wrappings, lying there,

but did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him,

and went into the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings; and he saw

the cloth that had been on Jesus' head,

rolled up separately, in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple also went in,

and saw, and believed;

(for until this point,

they had not understood the scripture,

that he must rise from the dead).

When these two disciples returned to their homes,

Mary stayed, weeping, outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

and she saw two angels, in white robes,

sitting one at the head, and one at the feet,

of where the body of Jesus had been.

The angels said to Mary, 'Why are you weeping?'

Mary said, 'They have taken away my Lord,

and I do not know where they have laid him.'

When she had said this, she turned around,

and saw Jesus standing there,

but she did not know

that it was Jesus.

Jesus asked her, 'Why are you weeping? Who is it

that you are looking for?'

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,

'Sir, if you have carried him away,

tell me where you have laid him,

and I will take him away.'

Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

Mary turned, and said to him, 'Teacher!'

Jesus said, 'Do not hold me,

for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go, and tell my brothers

that I am ascending

to my Father and your Father,

to my God and your God.

Mary Magdalene went

and said to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord';

and she told them the words

the Lord had spoken to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 8.26-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord

appeared to Philip and said, 'Get up,

and go towards the south,

on the wilderness road

that goes down from Jerusalem towards Gaza.'

Meanwhile, the chief finance minister

of Ethiopia, who had been to Jerusalem

to worship, was now returning home

in his chariot

by that same road.

As a servant of the Queen of Ethiopia,

he was both Ethiopian, by birth,

and a eunuch of the court.

The Spirit prompted Philip

to walk alongside the chariot, where

Philip could hear him

reading, from the prophet Isaiah.

Philip asked him

whether he understood

what he was reading.

He said, 'How can I understand,

unless someone guides me?'

And he invited Philip to sit with him.

He was reading the passage

from Isaiah, which says: "Like a lamb,

he was led to the slaughter.

And like a sheep,

silent before its shearer.

he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation,

justice was denied him.

Who can speak of his legacy,

now his life is taken away?"

He asked Philip, 'Is Isaiah

speaking about himself,

or someone else?'

And beginning with this scripture,

Philip told him

the good news of Jesus.

As they continued

along the road, they came to some water,

and the court official said, 'Look, here is water!

Is there any reason why I should not

be baptised?'

He ordered the chariot to stop,

and they both went down

into the water, and Philip baptised him there.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 1.1-5

A reading from the first letter of John.

We are writing to you, with great joy,

about the eternal Word of Life,

which existed, from the beginning, with the Father, and which we have now heard with our ears,

and seen with our eyes,

and touched with our hands.

We write to you, so that you may be

in fellowship with us,

and indeed with the Father,

and with his Son Jesus Christ.

And this is the message

that we have received,

and now proclaim to you:

that God is light; and that in God,

there is no shadow or darkness at all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 20.19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

The disciples met together

on the evening

of the first day of the week,

with the doors locked,

because they were afraid.

And Jesus came, and stood amongst them,

and said, 'Peace be with you.'

He showed them his hands,

and his side.

And the disciples were filled with joy

at seeing the risen Lord.

Jesus said to them, 'Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

And breathing on them,

he said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone, they are forgiven.

If you fail to forgive, sin remains.'

Now one of the twelve, Thomas (called the Twin),

was not with them

when Jesus came.

When the other disciples told Thomas that they had seen the Lord.

Thomas said to them, 'Unless I see and touch

the marks

of the nails

in his hands.

and put my hand

in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later, Thomas was with the disciples

when they gathered.

And again, though the doors were locked,

Jesus came, and stood amongst them,

and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Jesus said to Thomas, 'See and touch my hands,

and place your hand in my side.

Do not doubt, but believe.'

Thomas replied, 'My Lord, and my God!'

Jesus said to Thomas, 'You have seen me,

and you have believed.

Blessed are those who do not see, and yet believe.'

Jesus did many other signs,

in the presence of his disciples,

which are not recorded in this book.

But these are written

that you may believe

that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,

and through believing, may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 10.9-23

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

At about midday,

Peter went up on the roof

to pray.

He became hungry,

and while a meal

was being prepared,

he fell into a trance.

He saw the heavens opened,

and something like

a large sheet

coming down,

being lowered

to the ground

by its four corners.

In the sheet, there were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds.

Then he heard a voice, saying, 'Peter, get up.

Kill, and eat.'

But Peter said, 'Surely not, Lord; for I have

never eaten

anything

profane, or unclean.'

The voice replied, 'Whatever God declares clean,

you should not call profane.'

This happened three times;

then the vision

was suddenly

taken back up

into heaven.

Peter was still wondering what this could mean,

when three men arrived, having been sent

by the centurion, Cornelius.

The three men were standing by the gate,

asking whether Simon Peter was staying there.

Peter was still thinking about the vision,

but the Spirit said to him, 'These men

are searching for you.

You are to go with them, without hesitation,

for I have sent them to you.'

So Peter went down to meet them,

saying, 'I am Simon Peter. What brings you here?'

They answered, 'The centurion Cornelius

is a righteous man, who honours God,

and is respected

by the whole Hebrew nation.

He was directed,

by a vision of an angel,

to summon you to his house,

to hear what you have to say.'

So Peter invited them in,

and gave them lodging for the night;

and the next day, Peter,

and a small

group of believers,

set off with them,

towards the house of Cornelius.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 1.6-9

A reading from the first letter of John.

We cannot say

that we have fellowship with God

if we are walking in darkness.

But if we walk in the light,

we have fellowship with God,

and with one another.

And the sacrifice of Jesus

cleanses us

from all our transgressions.

If we say

that we have

done no wrong,

we deceive ourselves,

and the truth is far from us.

But if we confess.

God is faithful and just,

and will forgive us,

and cleanse us

from all unrighteousness.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 24.36-48

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The gathered disciples

were talking about all

that they had heard and seen,

when Jesus himself

stood amongst them,

and said, 'Peace be with you.'

They were astonished, and feared

that they were seeing a ghost.

Jesus said to them, 'Why are you afraid,

and why is there doubt in your hearts?

Look at my hands and my feet -

touch, and see -

for a ghost does not have flesh and bones

as you see that I have.'

Overwhelmed by joy and amazement,

the disciples were hardly able to believe

that Jesus himself

was standing amongst them.

Jesus said, 'Do you have anything here to eat?'

They gave him a piece of fish,

and he took it, and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'Everything

that is written about me,

in the law of Moses, in the prophets,

and in the psalms, must be fulfilled.'

And he opened their minds

to understand the scriptures, where it is written

that the Messiah is to suffer.

and to rise from the dead

on the third day;

and that repentance, and forgiveness,

will be proclaimed, in his name,

to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

And he said to them, 'You are witnesses

to these things.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 10.24-29a, 34b-48a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Two days after Peter's vision,

Peter, and the believers travelling with him,

arrived at the house

of the centurion Cornelius.

Cornelius was expecting them,

and had called together

his relatives

and close friends.

When Peter arrived, Cornelius knelt down to greet him.

But Peter helped him up, saying, 'Stand up; I am only human, like you.'

When Peter went inside, he saw the gathering that Cornelius had assembled.

And Peter addressed them, saying,

'You know that it is against our law

for us, as Hebrews, to associate with Gentiles.

But God has shown me

that I should not regard anyone

as profane, or unclean.

So when I was invited here,

I accepted, without hesitation.

For now I truly understand

that God shows no partiality,

but welcomes those,

from every nation, who honour God,

and do what is right.

This gospel of peace was sent

to the people of Israel

in Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

The message has spread

through all Judea.

It began in Galilee,

with the preaching of John the Baptist.

Then Jesus of Nazareth was anointed, by God,

with the Holy Spirit, and with power. He went about doing good, and healing

all who were oppressed by the devil,

for God was with him.

We ourselves are witnesses to all that he did,

in Judea and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death on a cross.

But God raised him up, on the third day,

and allowed him to appear,

not to all the people, but to those of us

chosen by God as witnesses.

Indeed we ate and drank with him,

after he rose from the dead.

And he commissioned us to continue

the proclamation of the gospel, and to testify

that he is the one, ordained by God,

to be judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets declare

that everyone who believes in him

will receive forgiveness, through his name.'

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were gathered.

The Hebrew believers, who had travelled with Peter,

were amazed to see

that the gift of the Holy Spirit

was now being poured out

on the Gentiles,

for they heard them

speaking in many languages

and praising the greatness of God.

Peter said, 'Surely no one

can withhold the water

for baptising everyone here,

for they have received the Holy Spirit,

just as we have.'

And he ordered that they should be baptised

in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 3.1-2

A reading from the first letter of John.

The love that God the Father has for us

is so great

that we are already declared

to be children of God.

Those who do not know

the Father

neither see nor understand this.

My brothers and sisters, already

we are children of God;

but there is more

that is still

to be revealed,

of what we are yet

to become;

for we trust that when Christ appears in glory,

we will become yet more fully like him,

for we shall see him face to face.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 10.11-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

'I am the good shepherd, who will

lay down his life for the sheep.

The hired hand runs away

when the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep.

But I am the good shepherd.

I know my own sheep, and they know me;

just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father.

And I lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep,

that do not belong to this sheepfold.

They will also

listen to my voice, and come to me,

so that there will be one flock,

and one shepherd.

And now, in the love of the Father,

and as the Father has decreed, I am ready

to lay down my life - and receive it back again.

No one takes my life from me:

I lay it down of my own accord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 11.1-4, 15-18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The news was reaching

the apostles and believers

throughout Judea

that the Gentiles also

were hearing and welcoming

the word of God.

But when Peter

returned to Jerusalem,

some of the Hebrew believers

criticised him,

demanding to know why

he had accepted

hospitality

from Gentiles.

and had even

eaten with them.

So Peter explained

the whole sequence of events,

from his vision, while at prayer,

to the gathering

at the house of Cornelius.

And Peter explained, 'As I began to speak,

the Holy Spirit

fell upon them,

just as it had upon us,

at the beginning.

And I remembered

that the Lord had said,

"John baptised with water,

but you will be baptised

with the Holy Spirit."

I saw that God

was giving them

the same gift

that God gave us

when we came to believe in

the Lord Jesus Christ.

And surely

it was not for me

to hinder

the work of God!'

When they heard Peter's account,

they could

object

no longer.

And they praised God,

saying, 'Now we see

that God has granted

repentance and life

even to the Gentiles.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 3.16-24a

A reading from the first letter of John.

This is how we know what love is:

that Christ

laid down his life for us.

In the same way, we should

lay down our lives

for one another.

And surely we will

lay down our worldly goods

to support

any brother or sister in need.

My brothers and sisters, let us love,

not only in words, but also in deeds.

Then we will know

that we belong to the truth.

In place of a troubled conscience,

we will have peace in our hearts.

We will come before God

without doubt or fear.

We will have the confidence

to make our requests known to God,

trusting that God will hear our prayers.

For this is God's commandment:

that we should believe in the name

of his Son Jesus Christ,

and love one another.

All who keep this commandment

live in God, and God lives in them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 15.1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father

is the keeper of the vineyard.

He removes every branch in me

that bears no fruit.

Every branch that does bear fruit,

he cleans, and prunes, to bear more fruit.

You have been cleansed

by the words that I have spoken to you.

Now remain in me,

as I remain in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit

unless it remains in the vine,

neither can you bear fruit, unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,

you are the branches.

Those who remain in me, and I in them,

will bear much fruit.

Apart from me, you can do nothing -

like a cut and withered branch.

But if you remain in me,

and my words remain in you,

whatever you ask,

it will be done for you.

There is glory for my Father in this:

that you bear much fruit

as my disciples.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 15.1-2, 4-6, 8-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas

were once again in Antioch, in Syria.

Some disciples arrived from Judea,

and began teaching the believers in Antioch

that unless they kept

the entire law of Moses,

they could not be saved.

Paul and Barnabas

argued against them.

And eventually it was decided

that Paul and Barnabas

would go to Jerusalem

to discuss this question

with the apostles

and the elders.

and that some of the other believers

would go with them.

When the group arrived in Jerusalem,

they were welcomed

by the apostles and the elders,

and by the whole church;

and they reported

all that God was doing

amongst the believers

in Antioch.

But amongst the believers in Jerusalem

were some

who were also loyal

to the Pharisees;

and they insisted

that the believers in Antioch

should be ordered to keep

the entire law of Moses.

So the apostles and the elders

met to consider the matter.

After much debate,

Peter stood up, and said to them,

'It seems that God, who knows every human heart,

has poured out the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles, just as God poured out the Holy Spirit upon us.

And in cleansing their hearts by faith,

God has made no distinction between them and us.

Why would we now challenge

what God has done for them,

by placing upon them

a burden so great

that neither our ancestors

nor we ourselves

have been able to bear it?

We have come to believe

that we will be saved

through the grace of the Lord Jesus -

and surely

it is through the grace of the Lord Jesus

that the Gentiles also

will be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 4.7-10

A reading from the first letter of John.

My brothers and sisters,

love is from God,

so let us love one another.

Whoever does not love

does not know God.

And whoever does love

does know God.

and is a child of God;

for God is love.

God's love for us

is revealed in this:

that God sent

God's only Son

into the world

to draw us

to fullness of life

in him.

And this is love:

not that we loved God,

but that God loved us,

and sent God's Son

to be the atoning sacrifice

for our sin.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *John 15.9-17*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;

now 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.

All this I say

so that you may be

my delight; and your own joy

may be complete.

This is my commandment:

that you love one another, as I have loved you.

And there is no greater love than this:

that you lay down your life

for your friends.

You are my friends, if you keep my commandments.

I do not call you servants

any longer, because the servant does not know

what the master is doing;

but I have called you friends, because

I have made known to you

everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me, but I chose you,

and I appointed you to go and bear fruit,

fruit that will last,

and the Father will give you

whatever you ask in my name.

All of this, I say to you

to direct you

to love one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Ascension Day First Reading - Acts 1.3-11 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. After his suffering and death. Jesus presented himself alive to the apostles, with many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. Jesus said to them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem. but wait here for all that is promised by the Father. John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' The apostles asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom of Israel?' Jesus replied, 'You cannot know every time or season in the purposes of the Father. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

Then, as they were watching,

he was taken up,

and a cloud

hid him

from their sight.

And as they looked intently

into the sky,

two figures in white robes appeared, saying, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand here

looking into the sky?

This Jesus

has been

taken up

from you

into heaven.

and will return

in the same way

you saw him go.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 5.5a,6a,7-13

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Looking like a lamb

that has been slain,

and is alive again,

the one who is

the Lion of Judah, and the root of David, took

the scroll

from the one who was

seated on the throne.

The four living creatures, and the twenty-four elders,

holding musical instruments,

and golden bowls

of fragrant offerings of incense

(which are the prayers of the saints),

fell down before the Lamb,

and sang: 'You are worthy,

for you were slain,

and by your blood

you have restored to God

a people to serve

as a royal priesthood on earth

from every nation, tribe, and language.'

Then I heard thousands of angels.

all around the throne.

with the living creatures, and the elders,

singing in full voice: 'Worthy

is the Lamb that was slain,

to receive

all wisdom and power,

all glory and honour and praise!'

Then I heard every creature

in heaven and on earth,

and under the earth, and in the sea,

singing to the one who was seated on the throne,

and to the Lamb, 'Blessing and honour

and glory and power,

be yours for ever and ever!'

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 16.15-16a,19-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus said to the disciples.

'Go into all the world,

and proclaim the good news

to the whole creation.

And all who believe, and are baptised,

will be saved.'

Then the Lord Jesus.

after he had spoken to them,

was taken up into heaven,

and sat down

at the right hand of God.

And the disciples went out

and proclaimed the good news

everywhere.

And the Lord worked with them

and confirmed the message

by the signs

that accompanied it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 15.12-20,29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After Peter had spoken,

the whole assembly listened in silence

as Paul and Barnabas

told of all the signs and wonders

that God had done

through them

amongst the Gentiles.

When Paul and Barnabas

had finished speaking,

James responded,

saying, 'We have heard today

that God has begun to call,

from amongst the Gentiles, a people

to be known by God's name.

And this was foretold in the scriptures,

where God declares, "I will return, to rebuild

the city of David from its ruins,

that all may seek the Lord, including

the Gentiles I will call by my name."

So I also conclude

that we should not

place burdens

on the Gentiles who are turning to God,

but should write to them, telling them only

to abstain from sexual immorality,

from idolatry.

and from meat with the blood still in it;

and that we impose

upon them

no further burden than these.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 4.11-12,16b,18-21

A reading from the first letter of John.

My brothers and sisters,

as God has loved us,

so we should love one another.

No one has ever seen God;

and yet, if we love one another,

God lives in us.

and God's love

is perfected in us.

God is love,

and those who live in love

live in God, and God lives in them.

There is no fear in love,

for perfect love

casts out all fear.

We love

because God first loved us.

No one can claim

to love the God we cannot see

if they hate the brother or sister they can see.

So we have this command from God:

that those who love God

must also love their brothers and sisters.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 17.6-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven, and said,

'Father, I have made your name known

to those you gave me

from the world.

They were yours,

and you gave them to me;

and they have trusted your word.

They know

that everything I have

comes from you.

I have passed on to them

the words that you gave to me,

and they have received and trusted them.

And they know that I myself

came from you.

I pray for them now;

praying not for the whole world,

but for those you have given to me,

because they are yours,

and they have honoured me.

Now I am departing from the world,

to return to you;

but they will remain in the world.

Father, protect them,

for the honour of your name,

the name that you entrusted to me.

May they be one.

as we are one.

While I have been with them,

I have protected them,

and none has been lost,

(except the son of destruction,

as the scriptures foretold).

And now, I am coming to you.

And my prayer

is that they come to know

within themselves

the fullness of my joy.

The world has hated them

because they do not

belong to the world,

just as I do not

belong to the world.

I am not asking you

to take them out of the world,

but I ask you to protect them

from all evil and harm.

You sent me

into the world;

and now I send them

into the world.

Father, make them holy

in the truth of your word.

It is for their sake

that I offer myself up

entirely to you.

May they also be entirely yours.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Pentecost

First Reading - Acts 2.1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples

were all together in one place,

when suddenly, all around them,

there was a sound

like the rush of a violent wind,

filling the entire house

where they were meeting.

Flames, or tongues of fire, appeared amongst them,

and rested on each of them.

And they were filled with the Holy Spirit,

and began to speak in many languages.

At this sound,

a crowd began to gather,

made up of Jewish believers who were

staying in Jerusalem -

from Asia and Arabia,

Egypt and North Africa,

Judea, Turkey, Syria,

Greece and the Balkans,

Crete, and Rome,

both Hebrews and converts.

They said, 'Surely, these who are speaking

are all from Galilee.

And yet we hear them

declaring the greatness of God,

each

in our own language.

What can this mean?'

But others mocked and said, 'They have had

too much wine.'

Peter, standing with the eleven,

raised his voice,

and addressed the crowd, saying:

'People of Judea,

and all who are here in Jerusalem:

these are not drunk, as you suppose,

for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No; this is what was spoken

through the prophet Joel,

when God declared: "In those days,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

The young will see visions,

your elders will dream dreams,

and your sons and your daughters

will receive and proclaim my word.

There will be wonders and signs

in the heavens, and on the earth:

blood, and fire, and clouds of smoke,

the sun turned to darkness

and the moon blood red,

before the coming

of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord

will be saved."

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.22-26

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

The whole creation

is groaning, as if in labour pains.

And even we.

with the spirit of life within us,

groan inwardly,

as we await

the completion of our adoption

into the full freedom

of the children of God.

We do not yet

see it completed,

but we wait for it

with patience, confidence, and trust.

And the spirit helps us

in our present weakness;

for we do not know

how to pray as we ought,

but the spirit prays within us,

in sighs too deep for words.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 15.26, 16.12-15

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'From the Father,

I will send to you

the Spirit of truth,

to be with you,

and to speak for me.

I have many things

still to say to you -

more

than you can know.

But the Spirit of Truth

will come to you,

and guide you

into all truth;

honouring me,

by taking

what is mine,

and making it known to you;

disclosing to you

the things

that are to come.

All that the Father has

is mine:

and the Spirit of Truth

will take

what is mine,

and make it known to you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Trinity Sunday

First Reading - Isaiah 6.1-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

It was in the year that King Uzziah died

that I saw the Lord,

sitting on a high throne,

in robes

that filled the temple.

Angels, around the Lord,

called out to one another,

saying: 'Holy, holy, holy

is the Lord almighty;

the whole earth is filled

with the glory of the Lord.'

Their voices shook

the very foundations

of the temple,

and the temple was filled with smoke.

I said: 'I am ruined!

For I am a man of unclean lips,

and I live amongst a people

of unclean lips;

yet my eyes have seen the King,

the Lord almighty!'

Then one of the angels flew to me,

and touched my lips

with a burning coal

that had been taken from the altar,

saying, 'Now that this has touched your lips,

your guilt is removed,

and you are forgiven.

Then I heard

the voice of the Lord,

saying, 'Is there anyone I can send?'

And I said, 'Here I am;

send me.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.14-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now that you are led

by the spirit of God,

you are adopted

as children of God.

God receives you

not as slaves,

to fall back into fear,

but as adopted children,

able to address God

as 'Abba' and 'Father'.

And being adopted

as children of God,

we inherit

all things,

alongside

Christ Jesus himself,

including

both his suffering

and his glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 3.1-16

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

The Pharisee Nicodemus

came to Jesus by night,

saying, 'Teacher, we know,

by the signs that we have seen you do,

that you have come from God,

and that God is with you.'

Jesus said, 'To see the kingdom of God,

you must be reborn,

from above.'

Nicodemus said, 'How can anyone

be born

a second time?'

Jesus said, 'To enter the kingdom of God,

you must be born

of both water and spirit.

Flesh is born of flesh,

and spirit

is born of spirit,

so do not be taken aback

when I say, "You must be reborn, from above."

The wind blows where it chooses.

and you hear the sound of it,

but you do not know

where it comes from

or where it goes.

So it is

with everyone

who is born of the Spirit.'

Nicodemus said, 'How can this be?'

Jesus said, 'You are a teacher of Israel,

and yet you do not see,

or hear, or understand.

You do not believe

when I speak

of what you see on earth,

so how will you believe

when I speak of heaven?

No one has ascended into heaven -

but the Son of Man

came down

from heaven.

And the Son of Man

must be lifted up

(as the serpent was lifted up

by Moses in the wilderness),

so that whoever believes

in the Son of Man

may have everlasting life.

God so loved the world

that God gave

the only Son of God,

so that everyone who believes

in the Son of God

will not be lost, but will have

everlasting life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 24 and 28 May (if after Trinity Sunday)

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Hosea 2.14-15a,19-23

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

Even though my people

have been unfaithful,

I will speak to them

with tenderness,

says the Lord.

I will give them

fruitful vineyards

in the wilderness.

I will lead them to a new hope,

and a new beginning,

at the very place

where they first entered

the promised land.

I will renew

my covenant with them,

in faithfulness, mercy, and steadfast love.

I will say to them,

'You are my people'.

And the people will reply,

'and you are our God'.

And the heavens,

and the earth,

and the harvest,

will rejoice together.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4.5-7

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

We do not proclaim ourselves.

We proclaim only

Jesus Christ as Lord,

and ourselves

as your servants

for his sake.

God has said, 'Let light shine

in the darkness';

and any light

that does shine in our hearts

comes from God.

And the purpose of that light

is to make known

the glory of God,

as revealed

in Jesus Christ.

We ourselves

are plain and fragile

clay jars,

containing

this great treasure -

making clear

that the extraordinary power

of the gospel message

comes not from us. but from God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 2.13-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

The disciples

of John the Baptist,

and the disciples

of the Pharisees,

were fasting.

Some were therefore asking

why the disciples of Jesus

were not

also fasting.

Jesus said to them, 'The wedding-guests

do not fast

while the bridegroom

is with them.

But the day will come

when the bridegroom

will be taken away from them;

and then they will fast.'

And he said to them, 'You do not use

new cloth

to patch up

an old garment.

because the new cloth

will pull away from the old,

and the damage

will be worse than before.

And you do not put

new wine

into old wineskins.

because they will burst,

and both the old

and the new

will be lost.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 29 May and 4 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 5.12-15

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Observe the sabbath day

and keep it holy,

as the Lord your God

commanded you.

For six days

you shall labour,

and do all your work;

but the seventh day

is a sabbath

to the Lord your God.

All shall rest

on the sabbath day:

you,

your sons and daughters,

your servants;

the foreigners living in your towns;

even your livestock.

Remember that you were slaves

in the land of Egypt,

and the Lord your God

brought you out from there

with a mighty hand

and an outstretched arm;

therefore

the Lord your God

commanded you

to honour the sabbath day.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4.8-12

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

We face many challenges,

but we are not driven to despair.

We are struck down,

but we are not destroyed.

We are afflicted in every way,

but we are not crushed.

We are persecuted,

but we know that we are not forsaken.

We risk death, continually, in Jesus' service -

so that.

through our fragile, mortal bodies,

the power

of the life of Jesus

might be seen in us

and made known to you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 2.23 - 3.6

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus was walking through a field of corn

on the sabbath day.

As they walked along, his disciples picked

some heads of grain.

The Pharisees said to Jesus, 'What they are doing

is not lawful

on the sabbath.'

Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'Surely

you have read

what David did,

when he and his companions

were hungry, and in need;

David entered

the house of God,

and ate

the sacred bread,

which by law

is reserved

for the priests;

and he gave some

to his companions.

And Jesus said to them, 'The sabbath

was made for the people -

not the people

for the sabbath;

so the Son of Man

is Lord

even of the sabbath.'

When Jesus entered the synagogue,

there was a man who had

a paralysed hand.

The Pharisees watched closely,

to see whether Jesus

would cure him

on the sabbath.

Jesus called the man forward;

then said to the Pharisees.

'Which

is lawful

on the Sabbath:

to do good, or to do evil?

To save life, or to destroy it?'

The Pharisees

gave no reply.

Jesus looked around at them

in anger, grieved

at their hardness of heart.

Jesus said

to the man, 'Hold out your hand.'

The man held out his hand,

and it was healed.

And the Pharisees went out, and

began immediately

to conspire

with the Herodians,

against Jesus,

about how

they might destroy him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 5 and 11 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 3.8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The man and the woman

heard the Lord God

walking in the garden

in the cool

of the evening breeze.

And they hid themselves

from the presence

of the Lord God

amongst the trees

of the garden.

The Lord God

called out, 'Where are you?'

The man said, 'I heard you

in the garden, and I was afraid,

because I was naked;

and I hid myself.'

The Lord God said, 'Who told you

that you were naked?

Have you eaten

the fruit

of the tree

that I commanded you

not to eat?'

The man said, 'The woman you gave

to be

with me -

she gave me

fruit

from the tree,

and I ate.'

The Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this

that you

have done?'

The woman said, 'The serpent

tricked me,

and I ate.'

The Lord God

said to the serpent, 'Because

you have

done this,

you are cursed, all your days,

more than

all other

creatures and animals,

to go about upon your belly,

and eat dust.

And there will be conflict,

between you and the woman,

and between

your offspring

and hers.

They will strike you

on the head,

and you will strike them

on the heel.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4.13-15

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

In the Psalms,

it says, 'I believe, and so I speak,

even though I am afflicted'.

In the same spirit of faith,

even though we are afflicted,

we believe, and so we speak.

We believe

that the one who raised the Lord Jesus

from the dead

will raise up, with Jesus, all who trust in him.

And so we speak,

to make God's grace known to you,

and to countless more,

to the greater

praise and glory of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 3.20-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

The crowd around Jesus at the house

was so large

that Jesus and the disciples

were not able even to eat.

When his family heard of it, they went there, to try

to take him away,

saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.'

Meanwhile, the teachers of the law, from Jerusalem,

were saying, 'He is possessed by the devil!

And that is how he drives out demons!'

But Jesus said to them, 'How can the devil

drive out the devil?

A kingdom that is divided against itself

will fall.

If the devil is divided, and working against himself,

he is already defeated.

To plunder the house of someone powerful

you first have to defeat them.'

And because they had accused him

of working

not by the Holy Spirit,

but by the devil,

Jesus said, 'People will be forgiven all their sins,

and whatever slanders they utter;

but this slander against the Holy Spirit is unforgivable.'

Then his mother and his brothers arrived.

men his mother and his brothers arrived

but they remained outside,

because of the crowds.

Those sitting around Jesus, in the house,

said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers are outside, and they are asking for you.'

Jesus said to them, 'Who are my

mother and my brothers?'

And looking at those around him,

he said, 'Here are my mother, and my brothers!

Whoever does the will of God

is my mother, and sister, and brother!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 12 and 18 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Ezekiel 17.22-24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

I will take a cutting

from the top

of a flourishing tree,

says the Lord.

And I will plant it

high in the mountains

of Jerusalem.

There it will grow,

and put out branches

and bear fruit.

Every kind of bird

will come

and nest

in its branches.

And every tree will know

that I am the Lord,

the one who can make

the green tree

wither

and the dry tree

flourish,

the one who can

take down

the mighty.

and raise up

the lowly.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4.16 - 5.1

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

Our outer nature

is wasting away,

but every day

our inner nature

is renewed.

So we do not

lose heart.

The temporary afflictions

that we suffer

are as nothing

when compared

to the eternal glory

which is to come.

We look

not to the visible, which is temporary,

but to the invisible, which is eternal.

This earthly tent

may be destroyed,

but we know

that in God

we have a secure and eternal home

in the heavens.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 4.26-34

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus said

to his disciples,

'The kingdom of God

is like seed.

that a farmer

scatters on the ground.

The farmer

sleeps.

and rises,

night and day,

knowing

that the seed

will sprout and grow -

though

not knowing

how.

Out from the soil

grows first the stalk,

then the head of grain,

then the grain itself.

And when the grain is ripe,

the farmer comes

to collect

the harvest.

Or the kingdom of God

is like

a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds,

which grows into a great tree;

and the birds of the air

come and nest

in its branches.'

Jesus spoke to the crowds

with these, and many other

parables,

as they could understand.

And he would explain everything

when he had time alone

with his disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 19 and 25 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Job 38.1-13

A reading from the book of Job.

From the storm

and the whirlwind

came the voice

of the Lord.

'It was I, the Lord, and no mortal,

that measured out

the dimensions

of the earth.

and laid

its foundations.

It was I, the Lord,

that set its

cornerstone

in place,

as the morning stars

sang,

and the angels

shouted for joy.

It was I, the Lord,

that enclosed the wild ocean,

when it was created

in storm-clouds

and thick darkness.

And now,

I hear mortals,

questioning my wisdom

with ignorant words.

So prepare yourselves,

for surely,

I shall question you.

For it was I, the Lord, and no mortal,

that defined

the boundaries of the ocean,

saying, "This far and no further!

Here shall your mighty waves be stopped!"

And since your mortal days began,

it was I, the Lord, and no mortal,

that directed the sun

to rise every morning,

renewing the earth,

and shaking

the wicked

away.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 5.6-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

We would rather be

away from

this earthly body,

and fully

with the Lord.

But while we remain here, in this earthly body,

we have courage, and confidence -

for we walk by faith, and not by sight.

And we make it our goal

to be a worthy offering

to the Lord,

knowing

that Christ will be our judge,

and that each

will receive

due reward

for the good

and the harm

that has been done.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 4.35-41

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

As evening began to fall,

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go,

by boat,

across to the other side.'

And Jesus

dismissed the crowds.

And the disciples

took him

into the boat.

Jesus was asleep

at the back of the boat,

when a great storm arose.

Waves

were beating against the boat,

and the boat

was filling with water.

The disciples woke Jesus,

saying, 'Teacher, do you not care

that we are

about to drown?'

Jesus stood up,

and commanded

the wind, and the sea: 'Be silent! Be still!'

At once, the wind stopped,

and the sea was calm.

Jesus said to them, 'Why are you afraid?

Do you have no faith?'

They were overwhelmed,

and said to one another, 'Who is this,

that even the wind and the waves

obey him?'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 26 June and 2 July Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time First Reading - Lamentations 3.22-33 A reading from the book of Lamentations. New every morning are the love and the mercy of the Lord steadfast, and unending. We can place all our hope and trust in the Lord. for our Lord is faithful. The Lord is our inheritance. and all that we need. We may have knelt, alone, in prayer, under persecution and insult, affliction and grief. But the Lord honours those who seek the Lord, and wait patiently for salvation. And we can trust that we shall know, once again, the steadfast love and mercy of the Lord. This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 5.14-15,17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We declare, with confidence,

that Christ died

for all;

so

all have died.

Therefore, let us live

no longer

for ourselves.

but for Christ, who died for us -

and rose again.

For anyone who is in Christ

is a new creation.

The old has passed away,

and everything is new.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 5.21-43

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus was once again teaching by the lake-side,

and a great crowd

had gathered around him.

One of the leaders of the synagogue

came to Jesus, and fell at his feet,

begging him, 'My little daughter

is at the point of death.

Come and lay your hands on her,

that she may be made well, and live.'

So Jesus went with him, and a large crowd followed them, pressing in on them.

In the crowd, there was a woman who had been suffering with bleeding for twelve years.

She had suffered much, under many doctors, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse.

Having heard about Jesus,

she came up behind him in the crowd, and touched his cloak, convinced

that by this alone, she would be made well.

Immediately, her bleeding stopped;

and she felt in her body

that she was healed of her disease.

Aware that power had gone out from him,

Jesus turned around

in the crowd, and said, 'Who touched me?'

His disciples said

that with

the crowd pressing in

all around him, it made no sense

to ask who had touched him.

But Jesus kept looking around.

The woman, knowing that she had been healed, knelt before Jesus, trembling, and told him all that had happened to her.

Jesus said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.'

While Jesus was still speaking,

some people arrived from the leader's house, to tell the leader that his daughter was dead, and that he should trouble the teacher no further.

But overhearing this,

Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid; only believe.'

Jesus now allowed

no one to follow him, except Peter, and the brothers James and John.

When they arrived at the house of the leader of the synagogue,

they saw a commotion,

with people weeping and wailing loudly.

Jesus entered the house, and said to them,

'Why do you make a commotion, and weep?

The child is not dead, but sleeping.'

For this they mocked him.

But he sent them outside; and taking with him only the child's father and mother,

and Peter, James, and John,

he went into the room

where the child was lying.

Then he took her by the hand, and said to her, 'Child, get up!'

And immediately,

the girl (who was twelve years old) got up, and began to walk about.

Everyone was overwhelmed

at what they had witnessed.

But Jesus ordered them

not to let anyone know what had happened.

And he told them

to give her

something to eat.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 3 and 9 July

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Ezekiel 1.28b - 2.5

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The heavens opened,

and I saw

visions of God.

I bowed down,

with my face to the ground.

But a voice said, 'Stand up,

and I will speak with you.'

The Spirit

entered into me,

and set me on my feet.

And the voice said,

'I am sending you

to my people, who have become

a nation

of rebels.

shameless, and stubborn.

For generations,

they have rebelled against me.

I am sending you

to speak to them

in the name of the Lord God.

And whether they hear,

or refuse to hear,

they will know

that there has been

a prophet

amongst them.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 12.2-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

I know someone, in Christ, who,

fourteen years ago,

was caught up

into the third heaven.

Whether this was

in the body, or out of the body,

I do not know; only God can know.

But I know that this person

was caught up into Paradise,

and into an experience

that no words can describe.

and no mortal can tell.

On behalf of such a person, I could boast;

but on my own behalf, I will not boast -

except of my weaknesses.

If I were to boast,

I would not

be a fool,

for I would be

speaking the truth.

But I refrain from boasting,

so that you may judge me

solely

by what you see in me

and hear from me.

For despite

the exceptional character

of the revelations,

and to keep me from vanity,

I was given

a thorn in the flesh,

like a messenger of Satan,

to torment me.

Three times

I appealed to the Lord,

that it would leave me.

but the Lord has said to me, 'My grace

is all that you need',

and, 'My strength

is made perfect

in weakness'.

So I boast all the more gladly

of my weaknesses,

that the power of Christ

may dwell within me.

Indeed.

I am content with weaknesses, insults,

hardships, persecutions, and more,

for the sake of Christ;

for when I am weak,

then I am strong.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 6.1-6

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus went

to his home town

of Nazareth,

and his disciples went with him.

On the sabbath.

he began teaching in the synagogue,

and many who heard him

were amazed.

They said to one another,

'Where did he get these teachings,

and the power to do such works?

Surely this is

the carpenter, the son of Mary.

His sisters

are here with us, and his brothers -

James, Joseph, Simon, and Jude.'

And they took offence at him.

Jesus said to them, 'Prophets

are honoured everywhere -

except

in their home town,

amongst their own people,

and in their own house.'

And he could do

no work of power there.

except that he laid his hands

on some who were sick,

and they were healed.

And he was amazed at their unbelief.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 10 and 16 July Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time First Reading - Amos 7.7-15 In a vision, Amos saw a master-builder, using a plumb-line

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

to inspect the condition of a wall.

And the Lord said to Amos,

'I have also inspected

my people Israel, and found them to be untrue.

And so.

the high places

will be made desolate,

the sanctuaries will lie in ruins,

and I will rise up with the sword

against the king."

So Amos

spoke to the people,

as the Lord had commanded,

saying, 'The king

will die by the sword,

and all Israel

will be sent into exile, away from this land.'

The priest of Bethel

sent a message to the king,

saying, 'The prophet Amos

is conspiring against you,

right here

at the heart

of the house of Israel!'

And the same priest

said to Amos, 'Get away from this place,

to the land of Judah.

Earn your bread there,

and work as a prophet there.

But never again

speak here at Bethel,

for this is the temple

of the kingdom,

and the sanctuary

of the king.'

But Amos said, 'I am no prophet,

and no son of a prophet.

I am a farmer:

I follow the cattle.

and tend fig trees.

But the Lord came to me.

and told me

to speak these words

to the people of Israel.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 1.3-8a

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Let us praise

the God and Father

of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has

blessed us in Christ

with every spiritual blessing,

freely pouring out upon us

the full riches

of God's love and grace.

For God chose us, in Christ,

before

the foundation of the world.

And now,

through the sacrifice

and the life-blood

of Christ.

God has

forgiven our trespasses,

freed us from sin,

and adopted us, in Jesus Christ,

to be holy,

in the presence of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Mark* 6.7-13

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus called the twelve,

and began to send them out, in pairs,

giving them authority

over unclean spirits.

He told them to take nothing

for their journey,

except a staff;

no bread.

no bag,

no money in their belts.

no extra layer of clothes,

and only sandals

on their feet.

He said to them, 'Whenever

you enter a house,

stay there,

until you leave

that place.

And if you are not

welcomed there -

if that place

refuses to hear you -

shake the dust

of that place

off your feet

as you leave.'

So they went out

proclaiming the message

that all should repent.

They cast out many demons,

and anointed with oil

many who were sick,

and they were healed. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 17 and 23 July

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 23.1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds

who destroy and scatter

the sheep of my pasture,

says the Lord.

You are the shepherds of my people,

but you have not attended to them,

says the Lord, the God of Israel;

you have scattered them,

and driven them away.

Now I will attend to you,

for the evil you have done,

says the Lord.

Then I myself

will gather the remnant of my flock

out of all the lands

where I have driven them.

I will bring them back

to their sheep-fold,

and they will flourish,

and become many,

once again.

I will raise up shepherds who will

care for them.

They will no longer be afraid,

and none will be lost.

And the days are surely coming, says the Lord,

when I will raise up

a new son of David, who will

reign as king,

with wisdom,

justice, and righteousness.

Judah will be saved,

and Israel will dwell in safety.

And his name will be: 'The Lord

is our righteousness.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 2.11-22

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Previously,

you did not know Christ.

You were strangers also

to the covenants

that God had made

with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

You were without God,

and without hope in the world.

But now, you who were once

far off

have been brought near.

For Christ is our peace.

In his own body and blood,

he has broken down

the hostility

which had been like

a dividing wall

between us.

He has abolished the law.

with its commandments and decrees,

in order to create, in himself,

one new humanity, in place of the two,

making peace,

reconciling both groups to God,

in his one body,

through the cross.

And so, indeed,

he came and proclaimed peace

to you who were far off,

and peace

to those who were near;

and through him, we all now

have access, in one Spirit, to the Father.

So now, you are no longer strangers,

and foreigners.

but fellow citizens, with the saints;

fellow members of the household of God,

built upon the foundation

of the apostles and the prophets,

with Christ Jesus himself

as the cornerstone.

In Christ, the whole structure is joined together,

and is built up

into a holy temple

in the Lord.

And you also

are now

built into

this holy temple,

this dwelling-place for God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 6.30-34

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

The twelve returned from their mission.

They gathered around Jesus,

and told him all

that they had done and taught.

But many people were still coming and going,

and they had no time,

even to eat.

So Jesus said to them, 'Let us go away,

to a quiet place, by ourselves,

and rest a while.'

And Jesus and the disciples left, by boat,

for an isolated place, where they could be alone.

But many saw them leave,

and realised where they were going.

And people hurried there on foot,

from all the towns and villages around,

and arrived there ahead of them.

So as Jesus went ashore,

he saw a great crowd.

And he had compassion on them,

for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 24 and 30 July

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 2 Kings 4.42-44

A reading from the second book of Kings.

There was a famine

throughout the land.

But in one village, in the mountains,

some barley

ripened.

The farmer made

twenty bread rolls

from the first of the crop,

and took them to Elisha,

as an offering

of the first-fruits,

as required by the law.

When he presented them to Elisha,

Elisha said to his servant, 'Give them

to the people, so that

they may eat.'

But Elisha's servant said, 'How can I serve

twenty

bread rolls

to a hundred people?'

Elisha said again, 'Give them

to the people, so that they may eat,

for the Lord says

they shall eat, and have bread to spare.

So Elisha's servant

gave the twenty bread rolls

to the people,

and they ate, and had bread to spare,

as the Lord had made known to Elisha.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 3.14-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I pray to God, the Father of all,

that your inner strength

will be renewed, through the Holy Spirit,

and by the riches

of God's glory.

I pray that Christ

will dwell in your hearts.

And I pray that you will have

deep roots of faith and love.

Indeed, I pray that you, and all the saints,

will come to know the full

breadth, and length, and height, and depth,

of the love of Christ,

that is beyond our understanding.

For by working

powerfully within us,

God is able to accomplish

far more

than we can ever ask,

or even imagine.

To God be the glory,

in the church, and in Christ Jesus,

through all generations, for ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 6.1-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus crossed to the far side of the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd kept following him,

because they saw the miraculous signs

that he was doing, healing the sick.

Jesus went up on to the hillside,

and sat down there, with his disciples.

It was just before the Hebrew festival of the Passover.

When Jesus looked up, and saw

the large crowd, coming towards him,

he said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread,

for all these people to eat?'

Jesus said this

to test Philip, for Jesus himself

knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered Jesus, 'Six months wages

would not buy enough bread

for each of them to have even a small piece.'

But Andrew (the brother of Simon Peter)

said to Jesus, 'There is a boy here

with five barley-loaves, and two fish;

although that is nothing, amongst so many.'

Jesus said, 'Tell the people to sit down.'

There was grass there,

and the people sat down;

about five thousand in all.

Then Jesus took the five barley-loaves,

and when he had given thanks,

he distributed them

to those who were seated;

and in the same way, the fish,

as much as they wanted.

When they had all had enough to eat,

Jesus told his disciples

to gather up

the pieces left over,

so that nothing would be wasted.

And gathering up the pieces,

they filled twelve baskets.

When the people saw the sign that Jesus had done,

they began to say, 'This is surely

the prophet, who was to come into the world.'

When Jesus realised

that they were about to take him by force

to make him their king,

he withdrew again, to the mountain, by himself.

When evening came,

and it was becoming dark,

Jesus had still not returned.

The disciples went down to the lake, got into

a boat, and set out to cross the lake, in the dark.

The lake became rough, with a strong wind blowing.

When they had rowed about three or four miles,

they saw Jesus, walking on the lake,

towards the boat, and they were overcome with fear.

But Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid.'

And as soon as they received him

into the boat, they found that they had

safely reached the shore.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday	, between	31	July	and	6	August
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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Exodus 16.2-3, 9-15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron,

saying, 'If only we had died,

by the hand of the Lord,

in the land of Egypt, where we ate our fill

of meat and bread.

But you have brought us out

into this wilderness, to die of hunger.'

Aaron gathered the people together,

and said, 'Draw near to the Lord,

for the Lord has heard your complaining.

And the Lord says this:

"In the evening, you will eat meat;

and in the morning,

you will have your fill of bread;

and then you will know

that I am the Lord your God."

As Aaron was speaking to the people,

they looked towards the wilderness,

and the glory of the Lord

appeared in a cloud.

That evening,

quails flew in, and covered the camp.

And in the morning,

there was a layer of dew.

all around the camp.

When the dew lifted,

there on the surface of the wilderness

was a fine flaky substance,

as fine as frost

on the ground.

When the Israelites saw it,

they asked one another what it could be.

Moses said, 'It is the bread

that the Lord

has given you

to eat.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 4.1-6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I urge you

to lead a life

that is worthy

of the high calling

that you have received:

a life of humility, gentleness, and patience,

forgiving and accepting one another in love,

and working always

to live in unity

and peace.

For there is one body, and one Spirit,

one hope to which we are called,

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 6.22-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Some from the crowd

stayed overnight, at the lakeside,

at the place where Jesus

had given thanks over the bread,

and the whole crowd had eaten.

In the morning, when they realised

that both Jesus and the disciples

had left, they went by boat

to Capernaum, to look for Jesus there.

When they found Jesus,

they asked him, 'Teacher, when did you come here?'

Jesus said, 'You have come to find me,

not because you understood the meaning

of the sign

that you witnessed,

but because you ate your fill of bread!

Do not work

for the food that perishes,

but work for the food

that endures

for eternal life -

the food

that the Son of Man will give you;

for it is on

the Son of Man

that God the Father

has set

his seal.'

They said to him, 'What must we do

to be doing

the work of God?'

Jesus said, 'This is the work of God:

that you believe

in the one

that God

has sent.'

So they said to him, 'What sign

are you going to give us,

so that we may see it,

and believe in you?

Our ancestors

ate manna

in the wilderness;

it says, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus said to them,

'It was not Moses who gave you

the bread from heaven;

it is my Father who gives you

the true bread from heaven -

the bread of God

that comes down from heaven

and gives life to the world.'

They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me

will never be hungry,

and whoever believes in me

will never be thirsty.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 7 and 13 August Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 1 Kings 19.4-8

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Elijah went a full day's journey

into the wilderness.

He sat down

in the shade of a single tree,

and asked that he might die:

'It is enough, now, Lord;

take away my life,

for I am no better

than my ancestors.'

Then he lay down,

in the shade of the tree,

and slept.

He was woken by an angel,

saying, 'Get up, and eat.'

And there, at his side,

was some bread, baked on hot stones,

and a jar of water.

He ate, and drank,

and lay down again.

Then he was woken again,

by the angel of the Lord,

saying, 'Get up, and eat,

for you have a great journey ahead of you.'

Elijah got up,

and ate, and drank.

And he went.

in the strength of that food,

forty days and forty nights,

to Horeb, the mountain of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 4.11-16

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Christ himself

gives to the church

apostles and prophets,

evangelists, pastors, and teachers,

to build up

the body of Christ,

to equip the saints

for the work of ministry,

to lead us to unity

of faith and understanding,

and to lead us to maturity.

and the full stature

of Christ.

So we will no longer be like children,

vulnerable to trickery and deception,

but we will grow up, in every way,

in truth, and in love,

into Christ, who is the head,

with each part of the body

joined and connected together,

and working as it should,

growing strong in love.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 6.41-51

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

They began to complain about Jesus, because he said. 'I am the bread

that came down from heaven.'

They were saying, 'This is Jesus,

the son of Joseph.

We know his father,

and his mother.

How can he say

that he

came down from heaven.'

Jesus said, 'Do not complain

amongst yourselves

at what I have said.

The only one who has

seen the Father

is the one who has

come down

from God;

and everyone who comes to me

is drawn to me

by the Father who sent me;

and I will raise them up

on the last day.

It says in Isaiah,

"They shall all

be taught

by God."

Everyone who hears

the word

of the Father.

and learns

from the Father,

will come to me.

And everyone who believes and trusts in me will have eternal life.

I am

the bread of life.

Your ancestors

ate the manna

in the wilderness, and died.

But here is the bread

that comes down from heaven,

that you may eat,

and not die.

I am the living bread

that comes down from heaven.

Whoever eats this bread

will live for ever.

And my body

is the bread

that I give

for the life

of the world.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 14 and 20 August So do not grieve Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time the Holy Spirit. Put away all bitterness, anger, First Reading - Proverbs 9.1-6 dispute, slander, and malice. A reading from the book of Proverbs. Be kind to one another, Wisdom has built her house, and gracious, prepared her feast. forgiving one another, and set out as God, in Christ, has forgiven you. her finest wines. Walk in the way She has sent out her messengers, of godliness and love. And follow the example of Christ, who loved us, announcing, from the highest places in the city: All who seek wisdom, gather here! and in that love. All who seek good judgement, offered up his life for us knowledge, and understanding, Come! to God the Father. Eat my bread, This is the word of the Lord. and drink my wine! Walk in the way of understanding! Gospel - John 6.51-58 Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ Lay aside all foolishness. according to John. and live! Jesus said, 'I am the living bread This is the word of the Lord. that comes down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread Second Reading - Ephesians 4.25 - 5.2 will live for ever. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. And my body Let there be no is the bread dishonesty. that I give Speak only the truth for the life to one another, of the world.' for we are all members They argued of one body. amongst themselves. When you are angry, about how Jesus could describe his body allow no opportunity as bread. for the devil: to eat. take care Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I tell you: unless you eat the body not to fall into sin: of the Son of Man. do not let and drink his blood, the sun you have no life in you. go down Those who eat my body on your anger. and drink my blood Let all have eternal life, do honest work, and I will raise them up and then share on the last day. I will live in them, what they have with the needy. and they Let none will live in me. be a thief. They will live When you speak, as one let your words with me, be gracious just as I live and encouraging as one with the Father who sent me. to all who hear, and never harmful. I am the true and living bread From the day that comes down from heaven. you first Your ancestors ate come to Christ, their bread from heaven, you have the Holy Spirit and they died. But all who eat this within you, marking you bread from heaven as God's own, will live for ever.'

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for the day of salvation.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 21 and 27 August

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Joshua 24.1a, 14-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel,

with their elders, leaders, judges, and officers,

and addressed them, saying:

'Turn away from the gods

that your ancestors served,

and honour the Lord your God

with all your heart;

for it is the Lord your God who has

brought you to this place,

and to this day.

And if you are

unwilling

to serve the Lord your God,

choose this day

the gods you will serve,

whether the gods of your ancestors,

or the gods of those

in whose land you are living.

But as for me and my household,

we will serve the Lord!'

And the people answered,

'Far be it from us

that we should forsake the Lord our God

to serve other gods;

for it is the Lord our God who brought us,

and our ancestors,

out of the house of slavery in the land of Egypt.

It is the Lord our God who gave many

great signs

in our sight,

protected us along the way,

and brought us to this land.

Therefore we also

will serve the Lord,

for the Lord

is our God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 6.10-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Be strong

in the power of the Lord.

Put on

the whole armour of God,

to protect you

from all the tricks of the devil.

For we struggle

not against flesh and blood,

but against

all the powers of darkness,

in this world.

and the world beyond.

Therefore, put on

the whole armour of God,

so that you may be able to stand firm against every assault of the devil.

Put on the helmet of salvation,

Fasten the belt of truth

around your waist.

and the breast-plate of righteousness,

and on your feet, the gospel of peace.

Take up the shield of faith,

to protect you

from the flaming arrows

of the evil one.

And the word of God

will be your sword.

At all times, pray in the Spirit,

making all your requests

known to God.

Stay alert, and persevere

in prayer

for all the believers.

And pray also for me,

that whenever I speak,

I may be given the words

to proclaim, with confidence,

the gospel

for which I remain

an ambassador in chains.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 6.58a,c,60-69

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said, 'I am the true and living bread

that comes down from heaven.

All who eat this bread

will live for ever.'

Many of the disciples said

that this teaching

was difficult to understand.

Jesus said, 'Some of you will see

the Son of Man ascending, back up, into heaven.

The spirit gives life;

the flesh counts for nothing;

and the words that I have spoken to you

are spirit, and life.

The call to follow me

is a gift from the Father;

and yet, still, amongst you,

there are some who do not believe.'

For Jesus knew,

from the beginning, who did not believe;

and he knew who would betray him.

Many of the disciples

now turned away,

and no longer went about with him.

Jesus asked the twelve

whether they also

would now turn away.

Simon Peter said, 'Lord,

there is no other that we could follow.

You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe, and to know,

that you are the Holy One of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 28 August and 3 September

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 4.1a,6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

When you observe

the commandments and teachings

of the Lord our God,

that I have set before you

this day,

other nations will hear of them, and say,

"This is truly a people

of great wisdom

and understanding!"

For no other nation

can call upon

a god who is near to them

like the Lord our God.

And no other nation

has commandments and teachings

to establish justice

and righteousness

like the commandments and teachings

of the Lord our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - James 1.19-27

A reading from the letter of James.

Let everyone be quick to listen,

and slow to speak.

Especially, be slow to anger,

for your anger

does not produce

God's righteousness.

Cleanse yourselves

from all wickedness.

and welcome with humility

the word of God

that is planted in your heart,

for it has the power

to save your soul.

Be doers of the word,

and not merely hearers, who deceive themselves.

Those who are hearers of the word, and not doers -

it is as though they look at themselves in a mirror, and as soon as they turn away,

forget what they have seen.

But those who look into the perfect law -

the law that brings freedom -

and do not forget it, but act upon it -

they will be blessed in all that they do.

In the same way,

if you consider yourself religious,

but do not control your tongue,

your religion is worthless.

The religion that is acceptable

to God, the Father, is this:

to care for orphans and widows in their distress,

and to keep yourself

from being corrupted

by the world.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

When some Pharisees and scribes

came from Jerusalem

to see Jesus.

they noticed that some of his disciples

did not observe

the ceremonial cleansing of hands before eating;

for the Pharisees.

and all who keep the Hebrew law in the tradition of the elders,

always observe

the ceremonial cleansing of hands

before eating;

and after visiting the market;

and there are many other traditions

that they observe,

including the ceremonial cleansing

of vessels, and furniture.

So the Pharisees and the scribes

asked Jesus, 'Why do your disciples

according to the tradition of the elders,

but eat

without the ceremonial cleansing

of their hands?'

Jesus said to them, 'You hypocrites.

You hold to your human traditions

while neglecting

the commandments of God.

As it says in Isaiah, "They honour me

with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

their worship is in vain.

for their teachings

are their own creation."

Then Jesus said to his disciples,

'There is nothing outside a person,

that by going in, can defile;

but the things that come out

are what defile.

For it is from within -

from the human heart -

that evil intentions come:

sexual immorality,

theft, and murder,

greed, and malice,

deceit, and recklessness,

envy, and slander,

arrogance, and foolishness.

All these

evil things

come

from within -

and they

are what defile.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 10 September

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 35.4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Say to those who live in fear,

'Be strong, and do not be afraid!

For God is surely coming,

with justice, to save you.'

On that day,

the blind will see, the deaf will hear.

the lame will run like the deer,

and the voiceless

will sing for joy!

Water will spring up

in the wilderness.

and rivers will flow in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool,

and the thirsty ground an oasis.

And where

the desert wild-animals

once lay in wait,

reeds and rushes will grow.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - James 2.1-9, 14-17

A reading from the letter of James.

My brothers and sisters,

acts of favouritism

have no place

amongst those who have faith

in our Lord Jesus Christ.

If a person in fine clothes

and expensive accessories

comes in,

and you say, 'Have a seat up here',

and another comes in, poor

and in dirty clothes,

and you say, 'Stand there,'

or, 'Sit on the floor,'

your judgement between them

is godless.

For God has chosen the poor in the world

to be rich in faith.

and has honoured them

with the inheritance of the kingdom

that is promised

to those who love God.

But in

your acts of favouritism,

you have dishonoured the poor.

Surely you can see

that it is the rich who oppress you,

and drag you into court,

and dishonour the name of God.

The law

above all other laws

in scripture

is this: 'You shall love your neighbour

as yourself.'

Acts of favouritism

go against this law.

My brothers and sisters,

if you claim to have faith,

but do not act upon it,

it is no benefit to you;

a faith like that

cannot save you.

If someone is dressed in rags,

and has no food,

it does no good

to say, 'keep warm, and eat well,'

unless you also

give them clothing, shelter and food.

Faith

that does not lead

to good works

is no faith at all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 7.31-37

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus was in the region

to the east of Galilee.

They brought to him

a man with no hearing,

and with

an impediment

in his speech.

They begged Jesus

to lay his hand on him,

to heal him.

Jesus took the man aside.

in private, away from the crowd.

He touched the man's ears,

and tongue,

and looked up to heaven,

and said aloud, 'be open.'

Immediately.

the man's ears were opened,

and he could hear:

and his tongue was freed,

and he began to speak clearly.

Jesus asked them

to tell no one:

but the more

he asked them.

the more they told

of all that Jesus did,

saying, 'He even makes the deaf to hear,

and frees the tongue

of the voiceless

to speak.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 11 and 17 September

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 50.4-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God

has taught me wisdom,

so that I may speak

words of comfort

to the weary.

Morning by morning,

the Lord God awakens me,

so that I may learn wisdom

as a servant of the Lord.

When I face

persecution

and violence.

I do not hide my face,

or turn away.

Let my accusers

confront me.

I will set my face like flint.

For I know

that the Lord God

brings justice,

and I will not

be defeated

or ashamed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - James 3.2-5,7-11

A reading from the letter of James.

Every species on earth

has been tamed,

but no one can tame the tongue, which is

recklessly dangerous,

and full of poison.

The tongue is small,

but has great power,

like the bit

in the mouth

of a horse,

or the rudder

of a great ship,

or the spark

that can set a whole forest ablaze.

With the tongue, we praise

our Lord and Father;

and with the same tongue, we curse

our neighbours, who are made

in the image of God.

Fresh and foul water

do not flow

from the same spring.

And vet

from the same mouth

come both blessings and curses.

We all have many faults,

but if only we could control the tongue,

we would soon have perfect self-control

in everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 8.27-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus went with his disciples

towards the villages

north of Galilee.

On the way,

he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say

that I am?'

The disciples replied, 'Some say

John the Baptist;

others say

Elijah, or one of the prophets.'

Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say

that I am?'

Peter said, 'You are

the Messiah.'

Jesus warned the disciples

to say this to nobody.

And he began to teach them

that the Son of Man

must undergo

great suffering:

that he would be rejected by the elders,

the chief priests,

and the teachers of the law,

and be killed.

and after three days,

rise again.

Peter took Jesus aside,

and began to rebuke him.

But Jesus turned,

and looked at his disciples,

and rebuked Peter,

saying: 'Get behind me, Satan;

for your mind

is still set

on the human,

and not the divine.'

Then Jesus

said to the crowd, as well as

to his disciples, 'If any

one of you

wishes to be

my disciple,

you must deny yourself,

take up your cross,

and follow me.

If you try

to save your life,

you will lose it.

But if you lose your life,

for my sake,

and for the sake of the gospel,

you will find it.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 18 and 24 September

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 11.18-20

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Like a lamb, I was led

to the slaughter.

For I did not know

that it was

against me

that they were devising

their evil schemes,

until the Lord

made it known to me.

They were saying, 'Let us destroy

both the tree

and its fruit.

Let us cut him off

from the land of the living,

so that even his name

will be remembered

no more!'

But you, O Lord of hosts -

you are the one who judges righteously.

You examine the heart

and the mind.

Let me see your judgement upon them,

for I have committed my cause

to you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - James 3.13 - 4.3,7b-8a,10

A reading from the letter of James.

It is by a life

filled with good deeds

and with gentleness

that you demonstrate

true wisdom

and understanding.

Bitterness, envy,

and selfish ambition,

do not come

from godly wisdom,

but are earthly,

unspiritual,

even devilish,

bringing disorder

and wickedness

of every kind.

Godly wisdom

is peaceful,

gentle,

and accommodating;

full of mercy

and good deeds,

with no trace

of partiality

or hypocrisy.

And what is planted in peace

brings a harvest

of righteousness.

Your conflicts and disputes

come from unworthy desires

that are at war

within you.

You want something

you do not have,

so you engage in disputes and conflicts

that lead even to murder.

But you do not have,

because you do not ask!

Or you ask wrongly,

seeking only

to fulfil

your unworthy desires.

So resist the devil,

and the devil will flee from you.

Draw near to God,

and God will draw near to you.

Be humble before God,

and God will raise you up.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 9.30-37

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus and his disciples

travelled on

through Galilee.

And Jesus did not want anyone

to know

that they were there;

for he was teaching his disciples,

saying, 'The Son of Man will be betrayed,

and they will kill him.

And after three days,

he will rise again.'

But they did not understand what he was saying,

and they were afraid to ask him.

At the end of the day's journey,

Jesus asked them

what they had been arguing about,

as they had been

walking along.

And they were silent,

for they had been arguing

about which of them

was the greatest.

Jesus sat down,

and called the twelve to him,

and said, 'Whoever wants

the highest place

must take

the lowest place of all,

and be the servant of all.'

Then Jesus called a child

to stand amongst them,

and said to the disciples,

'Whoever welcomes a child, in my name,

welcomes me;

and whoever welcomes me

welcomes the one who sent me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 25 September and 1 October

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Numbers 11.14,16,25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers.

Moses cried out to the Lord

that leading the people

was too great a burden

to bear alone.

So the Lord

instructed Moses

to gather seventy of the elders of Israel

at the Tent of Meeting.

When they were gathered,

the Lord came down, in the cloud,

and spoke to Moses.

And the Lord took some of the spirit

that was on Moses,

and put it on the seventy elders,

and they began to speak

the word of the Lord, as prophets.

Two of the elders

had not gone out

to the Tent of Meeting.

but had remained in the camp;

and the spirit came upon them also;

and they began to speak

the word of the Lord, as prophets,

there in the camp.

When Moses and Joshua

heard of this, at the Tent of Meeting,

Joshua said, 'My lord Moses,

you must stop them!'

But Moses said to Joshua,

'Do not be jealous

on my behalf.

I would prefer

that all the Lord's people

were prophets,

with the spirit of the Lord

upon them!'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - James 5.13-16

A reading from the letter of James.

Those who are suffering

should pray.

Those who are strong

should sing praise.

Those who are sick

should call

for the leaders of the church,

to pray over them,

and to anoint them

with oil

in the name of the Lord.

And the prayer offered in faith

will restore

those who are sick,

for the Lord will raise them up;

and if they have sinned,

they will be forgiven.

So confess your faults to one another,

and pray for one another,

that you may be restored;

for the prayer of the righteous

is powerful, and effective.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 9.38-48

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

John said to Jesus, 'Teacher, we saw someone else

casting out demons

in your name,

and we told them to stop,

because they were

not following us.'

Jesus said, 'Do not stop them;

for no one who does powerful works

in my name

will be able

soon afterwards

to speak evil of me.

Anyone who is

not against us

is for us.

And anyone who gives you

even a cup of water to drink,

in my name,

will receive their reward.

But anyone who causes

even the least

of these who

trust in me

to stumble -

for them.

it would have been better

to be thrown

into the sea

with a millstone

around their neck.

In the same way,

if your hand

causes you to stumble,

it is better

to cut it off,

and enter life with one hand,

than enter hell

with two.

And if your foot

causes you

to do wrong,

it is better to cut it off,

and enter life with one foot,

than enter hell with two.

And if your eye

causes you to do wrong,

it is better to be rid of it,

and enter

the kingdom of God

with one eye

than enter hell with two.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 2 and 8 October

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 2.7-8,15,18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God formed Adam -

the first human being -

from the dust of the earth.

And the Lord God

breathed

into Adam's nostrils

the breath of life.

and Adam became

a living being.

And the Lord God planted

a garden, in Eden, in the east;

and the Lord God placed Adam in the garden,

to tend it, and to keep it.

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good

for Adam to be alone.

I will make a helper, to be alongside Adam.'

So the Lord God formed, from the dust of the earth,

every animal of the field,

and every bird of the air.

And the Lord God brought them to Adam,

and whatever Adam called each living creature,

that was its name.

And so Adam gave names

to the cattle, to the birds of the air,

and to every animal of the field.

But still, no suitable helper was found

to be alongside Adam.

So the Lord God caused Adam

to fall into a deep sleep.

And while Adam slept, the Lord God

opened Adam's side, and took one of Adam's ribs;

and closed up the place, where the rib

had been taken, with flesh;

and formed the rib into a woman.

And the Lord God brought her to Adam.

And Adam said, 'This, at last,

is bone of my bone,

and flesh of my flesh, formed

from my very self. I name her "Woman"."

And so it is

that when two people marry,

they become one body.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 2.6-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

In the psalms, it says,

'What are human beings,

that you remember them,

or mortals.

that you care for them?'

And it continues.

'You have made

mortal human beings

to be, for a little while,

lower

than the angels.

And yet, you have crowned them

with glory and honour,

and you have set them

to rule

over all

that you have made.'

We certainly do not yet

see this

fully accomplished

for us all.

But we do see

Jesus, who,

for a little while,

was indeed

made lower

than the angels.

And, by the grace of God,

having tasted death

for everyone,

Jesus is indeed

now crowned

with glory and honour.

Having shared with us

in our sufferings,

Jesus has become

the pioneer of our salvation;

and he will lead us

to that same

glory and honour;

for Jesus is not ashamed

to call us

his brothers and sisters,

sharing the same Father,

the creator

of all that exists.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 10.13-16

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

People were bringing children

to Jesus,

so that he could bless them.

When Jesus realised

that the disciples

were trying to stop them,

he was indignant,

and said to them,

'Let the children

come to me,

for the kingdom of God

belongs

to such as these.

Indeed.

you can only enter

the kingdom of God

if you receive it

like a child.'

And he put his arms

around them,

and blessed them.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 9 and 15 October Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Amos 5.6-7, 10-15

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Now is the time to seek the Lord, and live.

For the Lord is preparing

to sweep through the nation

like a fire.

For you replace justice with poison, and you trample righteousness to the ground.

You despise those who challenge you, and all who speak the truth.

And you trample on the poor, with taxes on all that they produce.

And so, the Lord says this: you have built fine stone houses, but you will not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you will not drink their wine.

For I know all your offences,

and the number of your crimes:

how you take bribes.

persecute the innocent,

and deny justice to the needy.

The prudent say nothing, for it is indeed an evil time.

You say that the Lord God is with you so turn to pursue good, and not evil, that the Lord God

may indeed be with you, and you may live!

Hate all that is evil, love all that is good, establish justice in your courts, and the Lord God of hosts may yet have mercy upon you!

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 4.12-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The word of God

is living and active.

Sharper than a sword, it pierces

into the soul and the spirit, and judges

the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

None can hide from it, for everything will be seen when we are called to give an account before God.

But we have

a great high priest, who has ascended into heaven,

Jesus, the Son of God.

And he is able to sympathise with our weakness,

for he himself has been tested,

in every way, as we are -

vet without sin.

So let us trust in him,

and approach the throne of grace

with confidence,

trusting that we will find

grace, mercy, and salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 10.17-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus was setting out on a journey

when a man ran up to him.

and knelt down

before him,

asking, 'Good Teacher, what must I do

to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good?

No one is good, but God alone.

And you know the commandments: that you shall not

murder, or commit adultery, or steal,

or bear false witness, or defraud;

and to honour your father and mother.'

The man said to Jesus, 'Teacher,

all these I have kept

since my youth.'

Jesus looked at him with compassion,

and said, 'You lack one thing.

Go, and sell everything you have,

and give the money to the poor;

and you will have treasure in heaven.

Then come, follow me.'

When he heard this, he was dismayed,

for he had many possessions;

and he went away grieving.

Jesus looked around,

and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is

for the rich

to enter the kingdom of God!'

The disciples were taken aback at these words.

But Jesus said to them again, 'How hard it is

to enter the kingdom of God!

It is easier for a camel

to go through

the eye of a needle

than for someone who is rich

to enter the kingdom of God.'

The disciples said to one another, 'Who then can be saved?'

Jesus looked at them, and said, 'For mortals,

it is impossible;

but for God, all things are possible.'

Peter said to Jesus, 'Look,

we have left everything

and followed you.'

Jesus said, 'Truly, I tell you, all who have left

home, mother, father, brothers, sisters, children, livelihood, or inheritance,

for my sake,

and for the sake of the gospel,

will receive them back,

a hundred times over,

even now, in this present age -

though with persecutions -

and in the age to come,

will have eternal life.

But many who are first now, will be last;

and many who are last,

will be first.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 16 and 22 October

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 53.4-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

We counted him as worthless,

as struck down

by God.

Yet truly

he bore our anguish,

and carried our pain.

He was wounded

for our transgressions,

and crushed

for our iniquities.

He bore the punishment

that makes us whole.

And by his wounds,

we are healed.

Like sheep, we have gone astray,

and turned,

each to our own way.

And the Lord has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 5.1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Each high priest of the temple

is chosen

from amongst the people

to represent them before God,

presenting their offerings

and their sacrifices for sin.

Having been chosen

from amongst the people,

the high priest of the temple

is able to deal gently

with the foolish,

and with those who are going astray,

for the high priest himself

is subject to human weakness,

and he offers sacrifices

for his own sins.

as well as those of the people.

He does not presume

to choose for himself

the honour

of serving as high priest,

but serves only

when called by God.

And in the same way,

Christ did not

take upon himself

the honour

of becoming our high priest,

but was appointed

by God, who says, 'You are my Son,

I am your Father,

and I appoint you

high priest for ever.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 10.35-45

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

The brothers James and John

approached Jesus

with a request.

Jesus said, 'What is it

that you would like me

to do for you?'

And James and John said, 'Let us sit,

one at your right hand,

and one at your left,

in your glory.'

Jesus said to them, 'You do not know

what you are asking.

Are you able to drink

the cup that I drink,

and endure

the baptism

with which I am baptised?'

They replied, 'Yes,

we are able.'

Jesus said to them, 'You will indeed drink

the cup that I drink,

and endure

the baptism

with which I am baptised.

But to sit

at my right hand

or my left

is not mine to grant.'

When the other disciples

heard of this,

they were indignant

at James and John.

So Jesus

called them all

to him.

and said, 'In this world,

the ones they call leaders

dominate their people,

and the ones they call great

are the ones

that have power

over them.

But it must not

be so

amongst you;

for the truly great

are those who serve;

and the greatest of all

is the one who is

the servant of all.

For even the Son of Man

came

not to be served.

but to serve,

and to give up his life

for all.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 23 and 29 October

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 31.7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Sing aloud, with joy,

for the nation;

even as you pray, 'Save us, O Lord,

the last

of your people.'

For the Lord says this:

'I will gather them in,

from the lands of the north,

and from far away,

a great multitude;

amongst them

the blind, and the lame,

expectant mothers, and those in labour.

All together, a great assembly,

they will return here.

Weeping, and praying,

they will be gathered in.

And I will lead them

by streams of water,

on a level path,

where they will

stumble

no more.

For I am the father

of all my people.

and I care

for the young

and the weak

like I care

for my first-born.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 7.23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The former high priests

were many in number,

because they were prevented by death

from continuing in office.

But Jesus

lives for ever,

and his priesthood

does not

come to an end.

He is able to intercede,

for all time,

on behalf of those who

approach God

through him.

He is holy,

righteous,

undefiled:

set apart now

from sinners,

exalted

above the heavens.

The former high priests

offered sacrifices

day after day,

for their own sins

and for the sins of the people;

but Jesus offered himself,

once for all.

The old law

appointed

high priests who were

subject

to human weakness;

but the new law

appoints

a Son, who is

made perfect

for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 10.46b-52

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus and his disciples

were leaving Jericho,

and crowds

of people

were following them.

Bartimaeus, a blind beggar,

was sitting by the roadside.

When he heard

that Jesus of Nazareth

was passing by,

he began to shout out:

'Jesus, Son of David,

have mercy on me!'

Many told him to stop,

but he cried out

all the more:

'Jesus, Son of David,

have mercy on me!'

Jesus stopped,

and said, 'Call him.'

So they said

to the blind man, 'Get up,

come forward,

he is calling you.'

Leaving his cloak,

he stood up,

ne stood up,

and came forward to Jesus.

Jesus said, 'What do you want me

to do for you?'

The blind man said, 'Teacher,

let me see again.'

Jesus said, 'Go on your way.

Your faith has made you well.'

And immediately,

he regained his sight.

And he joined the crowds

following Jesus

along the road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 30 October and 5 November Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Fourth Sunday before Advent All Saints Sunday First Reading - Deuteronomy 6.1-9 A reading from the book of Deuteronomy. Hear O Israel, the commandments, laws, and decrees, that the Lord your God has commanded me to teach to you. You are to keep these commandments, laws, and decrees, in the land that you are now to enter, so that you, and your children, and your children's children, may honour the Lord your God, all the days of your life, and your days may be long, and you may prosper, and multiply greatly in this land: this land, flowing with milk and honey, as promised to you by the Lord. the God of your ancestors. the Lord your God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

So hear this commandment, O Israel: Take these words. that I am commanding you today, and keep them in your heart. Teach them to your children. Recite them at home, and when you travel. Recite them at the end of the day,

Mark them on your hand, and on your forehead; on your doorposts,

and in the morning.

This is the word of the Lord.

and on your gates.

Second Reading - Hebrews 9.11-14

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Christ is the high priest

of the new and eternal covenant.

He has entered

the most holy sanctuary,

greater by far

than any

made

by human hands.

And he has entered.

not with the blood of sacrificed animals,

but with his own blood,

offering himself to God,

perfect and without sin,

securing for us

everlasting

forgiveness

and salvation.

Where once

the blood of a sacrificed animal

was used

for purification.

so much more, now, the blood of Christ

purifies our hearts

from all that leads

to sin and death,

that we may truly serve and worship

the living God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 12.28-34a

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

One of the scribes

approached Jesus.

and asked, 'Which is the greatest,

of all the commandments?'

Jesus said, 'The greatest commandment

is this: "Hear, O Israel,

the Lord your God is one Lord;

and you shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart, with all your soul,

with all your mind,

and with all your strength."

And the second commandment

is this: "You shall love your neighbour

as yourself."

There is no commandment

greater than these.'

The scribe said to Jesus, 'Well spoken, teacher;

for indeed, God is one, and there is no other;

and to love God

with all your heart, understanding, and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself -

these two commandments

are more important

than any burnt-offerings or sacrifices.'

Recognising the wisdom in this answer,

Jesus said to the scribe, 'You are not far

from the kingdom of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 6 and 12 November

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Third Sunday before Advent

Remembrance (or the Sunday before Remembrance)

First Reading - 1 Kings 17.8-16

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord directed Elijah

to go to the coastal town

of Sarepta, in Lebanon,

saying, 'I have commanded a widow there

to feed you.'

As Elijah approached the town,

he saw a widow, gathering sticks.

Elijah asked her for a cup of water,

and as she went,

he called after her, asking also

for a piece of bread.

She turned and said to Elijah,

'As the Lord your God lives,

I have nothing baked.

I have only a handful of flour, in a jar,

and a little oil, in a jug.

I am gathering these sticks

so that I may go home,

and prepare all that remains,

for myself and my son,

that we may eat it,

and die.'

Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid.

Go, and do as you have said.

But first.

make something, and bring it to me;

and afterwards

make something

for yourself and your son.

For the Lord, the God of Israel, says this:

The jar of flour will not be empty,

and the jug of oil will not run dry,

until the day

that the Lord

sends rain on the earth.'

She went and did as Elijah had said,

and she, and Elijah, and her household,

ate for many days;

and the jar of flour was not empty,

and the jug of oil

did not run dry.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 9.24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The earthly high priest

enters a sanctuary

made by human hands,

a mere copy

of the true one

in heaven.

But Christ enters into heaven itself,

to appear in the presence of God

on our behalf.

Again and again,

the earthly high priest

enters the holy place,

with the blood of a bull, or a goat,

to offer sacrifice.

But Christ, entering heaven, does not

have to offer himself again and again:

for Christ appears once, at the right time,

to remove all sin, by the one sacrifice

of himself.

Mortals die once,

and face judgement.

And Christ,

having been sacrificed once, for the sins of many,

will appear, on that day,

to welcome many

into salvation.

And we trust in him

for that day.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 12.38-44

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

Jesus was teaching in the temple,

and a large crowd

was listening to him.

Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes!

They like to walk around in long robes,

and have people bow down to them in public.

They like to have the best seats in the synagogues,

and places of honour

at banquets.

Yet they cheat widows out of their property,

while for the sake of appearances,

they say long prayers.

They will be judged

most harshly.'

Jesus sat down

opposite the place

where money was offered,

and watched the crowd

putting in

the offerings they had brought.

Many rich people

were giving large sums.

A poor widow came,

and put in

two small coins.

Jesus called his disciples,

and said to them, 'Truly,

this poor widow

has put in more

than all those others.

For they have given

from riches

they had to spare;

but she, in her poverty,

has put in

all she had

to live on.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 13 and 19 November

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Second Sunday before Advent Remembrance (or the Sunday after Remembrance)

First Reading - Daniel 12.1-3

A reading from the book of Daniel.

When the nation faces its greatest distress -

greater than any

since the nations

first came into being -

Michael, the great prince,

the protector of your people, will arise.

And your people will be saved;

all those whose names

are recorded in the book.

Many who have died

will awake to judgement -

some to shame and disgrace,

and some to everlasting life.

Those who have been wise

will shine

with the brightness of heaven.

And those who have led others

in the ways of righteousness

will shine, for ever, like the stars.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 10.11-14, 19-24

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The priest in the earthly temple

offers the same sacrifices, day after day,

that can never take away sin.

But when Christ offered, for all time,

a single sacrifice for sin,

he sat down at the right hand of God,

and his enemies

became his footstool.

For by his one offering

of himself,

he completed the work

of taking away sin,

in full, and for all time,

so that we can now

enter the most holy place

with confidence.

Christ himself

is the new and living way

into the most holy place,

where once.

only the high priest could enter.

So with Christ as our high priest,

let us approach God with a true heart,

and the full assurance

of our faith,

knowing that we are purified

by his sacrifice.

And then let us continue

to encourage one another, to love,

and to good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 13.1-13

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

As Jesus was leaving the temple,

one of his disciples

said, 'Look at these huge stones,

and magnificent buildings!'

Jesus said, 'The day will come

when not one stone

will be left upon another.'

Later, when they were sitting

opposite the temple

at the Mount of Olives,

Peter, James, John, and Andrew

asked him privately, 'When will this happen?

And what will be the warning?

How will we know?'

Jesus said, 'Take care

that no one misleads you.

Many will come

claiming my name,

and many will be led astray.

And when you hear of wars,

and rumours of wars,

do not be alarmed.

for all this must take place -

but the end is not yet.

Nation will rise against nation,

and kingdom against kingdom;

there will be famines,

and earthquakes;

and these

are only the beginnings

of the pains

of new birth.

You will be handed over

to the courts

to be beaten.

and dragged before

governors

and kings;

but do not be afraid,

for the Holy Spirit

will give you

the words to say.

You will be hated

because of my name;

brother

will betray brother

to death.

and a father

will betray his child.

Children will rise against parents,

and have them put to death.

But the good news

will be proclaimed

to all nations.

And the one who endures to the end

will be saved.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 20 and 26 November

Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Last Sunday before Advent Christ the King

First Reading - Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14

A reading from the book of Daniel.

As I watched,

thrones were set in place.

Then,

with hair like wool,

and in robes of

dazzling white,

the Eternal One

appeared,

and was seated

on a throne

of flames.

surrounded

by a great multitude

of attendants,

with even more

standing by.

Then the court assembled,

and the books

were opened.

And as I watched,

one like a Son of Man

appeared

in the clouds of heaven,

and was presented

to the Eternal One,

to receive glory and honour,

and the service

of every nation, people, and language;

glory that will last for ever,

and a kingdom

that will never

pass away.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 1.4-8

A reading from the book of Revelation.

From John, to the seven churches in Asia.

Grace to you, and peace,

from God, who was.

and is, and is to come.

Grace to you, and peace,

from the seven-fold spirit

before the throne of God.

Grace to you, and peace,

from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,

the first-born from the dead,

the king

far above all

the kings of the earth, who

loves us,

and by his sacrifice

has freed us from our sins,

and has made us to be

a royal priesthood, serving

his God and Father.

To him be honour and glory

for ever!

And look! He is appearing

in the clouds of heaven!

Every eye will see him -

even those who pierced him!

All the nations of the earth

will cry out to him!

'I am the Alpha and the Omega',

says the Lord God,

'the first and the last,

the beginning and the end,

the almighty, who was,

and is, and is to come.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 18.33b-37

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you

the King of the Jews?'

Jesus said, 'Do you ask this for yourself,

or as something that others have said to you?'

Pilate replied, 'I am a Roman, not a Jew.

Your own people,

and their chief priests,

have handed you over to me.

What is it

that you have done?'

Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not

of this world,

or I would have guards,

fighting to protect me.

My kingdom is not here.'

Pilate said, 'So you are a king!'

Jesus said, 'You have said it.

I was born, and I came into the world,

to bear witness to the truth.

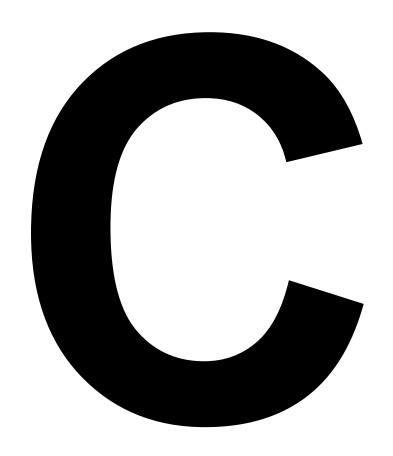
And everyone who seeks the truth

hears my voice.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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Sunday between 27 November and 3 December First Sunday of Advent

First Reading - Jeremiah 33.14-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

when I will fulfil

the promise I made

to the people of Israel

and the house of Judah.

For I will raise up

a new Son of David, who will bring

justice and righteousness

to the land.

In those days,

Judah will be saved,

and Jerusalem

will live in safety.

And they will declare

that the Lord

is their justice,

their righteousness,

and their salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 3.6-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

Timothy has brought us the good news

of your continuing

faith and love;

and tells us

that you long to see us again,

just as we long to see you.

This news has given us

great encouragement

through difficult times.

It renews our strength,

to know

that you stand firm in the Lord.

So every day now, with great joy,

we give thanks to God

for you,

and we pray

that we will see you soon,

to teach and encourage you in your faith

once again.

May our God and Father, and our Lord Jesus,

direct our way to you soon.

And until then, may the Lord

make your love for one another

and for everyone

continue to grow,

even as we have

such great love for you.

And may the Lord strengthen your hearts

in holiness,

that you may be ready

to meet our God and Father,

at the coming of our Lord Jesus,

with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

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Gospel - Luke 21.25-28,34-36
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Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus said,

'In those days, even

the powers of the heavens

will be shaken:

the sun

and the moon

and the stars.

On the earth.

there will be distress

amongst the nations;

and in the oceans,

the thundering

of the waves.

And people

will be in fear

for all

that is coming

upon the world.

Then they will see

the Son of Man,

coming

in a cloud,

with power

and great glory.

When these things

begin to take place,

stand up,

and raise your heads,

because your salvation

is drawing near.

These things

will come upon

all who live

on the face

of the whole earth -

so be ready.

Do not

let your hearts

be weighed down

by the excesses

and worries

of this present age,

for that day

to catch you

unexpectedly.

Be alert

at all times,

praying

that you will have the strength

to escape

all these things,

and to stand.

on that day,

in the presence

of the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 10 December

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading - Malachi 3.1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger

ahead of me.

to prepare the way,

says the Lord of hosts.

And indeed, the one you seek,

the one you desire,

the messenger of the covenant -

I am, myself, coming to my temple, says the Lord.

But who can

endure that day?

And who can stand

when the Lord appears?

For the Lord will come

like a refiner's fire,

to purify the people,

refining them

like silver and gold,

until their offerings

are once again

pleasing

to the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 1.3-6,8-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I give thanks to God

every time I remember you,

and I am joyful

in my prayers for you,

because of the way

you have shared

in the work of the gospel

from the time

you first

heard the word.

And I am confident

that the one who began a good work amongst you

will bring it to completion

on the day of Jesus Christ.

With all the compassion of Christ Jesus,

I pray for you earnestly.

I pray that you may be

so filled with love

that your love overflows

to all around you.

I pray that you may grow

in knowledge, and insight, and discernment.

I pray that through Jesus Christ,

you may produce

a full harvest

of righteousness

to the praise and glory of God.

And I pray

that you may be found

pure and blameless

on the day of Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 3.1-6

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year

of the reign

of the emperor Tiberius,

when Pontius Pilate

was governor of Judea,

and Herod

was ruler over Galilee,

the word of God

came to John.

the son of Zekariah,

in the wilderness.

John went out

through all the region

of the Jordan,

proclaiming

a baptism

of repentance

for forgiveness;

as it is written

in the book

of the prophet Isaiah:

'A voice cries out

in the wilderness,

Prepare

the way of the Lord!

Fill the valleys,

level the hills.

straighten the paths,

and make

the rough ways

smooth.

And all who live

shall see

the saving power

of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 11 and 17 December

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading - Zephaniah 3.14-20

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O Zion!

Rejoice with all your heart, O Jerusalem!

For the Lord has

taken away

the judgements

made against you.

The Lord has

turned away

your enemies.

No more harm

will come to you.

Stay strong,

and do not fear;

for the Lord your God

is with you

as a mighty saviour.

The Lord says, 'I will delight in you,

and sing, and rejoice.

I will hold you

in my constant love.

I will free you

from all

your oppressors.

I will rescue the lame,

and gather in

all who were driven away.

I will gather you together

and bring you home.

And instead of shame,

you will have praise,

and honour,

in all the earth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 4.4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord - always!

I say again, rejoice!

And let your

gracious gentleness

be known to everyone.

The Lord is near,

so do not worry

about anything.

But in everything, with prayer,

and thanksgiving,

let your requests

be made known

to God.

And the peace of God,

which surpasses

all understanding,

will protect

your hearts

and your minds

in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 3.7-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

When the crowds

came to the Jordan

to be baptised by John,

John addressed them,

saying: 'You brood of vipers!

Who warned you

to flee

from the judgement

that is coming?

Bear fruit

that is worthy

of repentance!

And do not begin to say,

"but we have Abraham as our father",

for I tell you,

God could turn these stones

into children of Abraham!

The axe is ready,

and any tree

that does not bear good fruit

will be cut down

and thrown into the fire!'

The crowds asked John.

'What should we do?'

He said to them, 'Whoever has

two coats

must share

with whoever has none.

And whoever has food

must do likewise.'

Tax collectors came to be baptised,

and they asked him, 'Teacher,

what should we do?'

He said to them, 'Collect only

what you have been ordered to collect.'

Soldiers also asked him, 'And what should we do?'

He said to them, 'Do not extort money

using threats, and false accusations,

but be content with what you are paid.'

The people were filled with expectation,

wondering

whether John might even be the Messiah.

John answered them, saying,

'I baptise you

with water,

but after me

comes another who is

more powerful;

and I am not worthy

even to be his servant.

He will baptise you

with the Holy Spirit, and with fire,

and he will separate

the wheat from the chaff.'

With these, and many other

words and challenges,

John proclaimed the good news

to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 18 and 24 December	And so,				
Fourth Sunday of Advent	it is by God's will				
	that we have now been				
First Reading - Micah 5.2-5a	sanctified				
A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.	through the offering				
You, O Bethlehem,	of the body				
are one of the smallest	of Jesus Christ,				
of all	once for all.				
the clans	This is the word of the Lord.				
of Judah.					
And yet from you	Gospel - Luke 1.39-55				
will come	Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ				
the one who is to rule	according to Luke.				
for me	Mary set out				
in all Israel,	and went with haste				
whose origin	to a town				
is long ago, in ancient days,	in the hill country of Judah,				
says the Lord.	where she entered the house of Zekariah,				
Israel will be desolate	and greeted Elizabeth.				
until the mother	And Elizabeth,				
brings forth this child.	filled with the Holy Spirit, said to Mary,				
But then all Israel	'Blessed are you				
will be gathered together.	amongst women!				
And this child	And blessed is the child				
will stand tall, and tend the flock,	that you will bear! And blessed am I, that the mother of my Lord				
	should come to me!				
as a good shepherd, in the strength of the Lord,	For as soon as I heard your greeting,				
and in the majesty	the child in my womb leapt for joy!				
of the name	Blessed indeed are you, for trusting				
of the Lord God.	that the message spoken to you				
And the people	by the Lord				
will dwell	would be fulfilled.'				
in peace.	And Mary said, 'My soul				
This is the word of the Lord.	gives praise				
	to you, O Lord.				
Second Reading - Hebrews 10.1,4-7,10	My spirit rejoices in you, my God and Saviour.				
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.	For you have looked				
The old law	with favour				
contained only a shadow	on your lowly servant.				
of the good things	All generations				
that were yet to come.	will call me blessed,				
Under that law, the same sacrifices	for you have done				
were offered continually, year after year,	great things for me.				
demonstrating	Holy is your name!				
that they can never make perfect	Your mercy is on all who honour you,				
those who offer them;	in every generation.				
that it is impossible	You have				
for the blood	revealed your power,				
of bulls	and scattered the proud				
and goats	in their vanity.				
to take away sin.	You have brought down the powerful,				
So when Christ	and lifted up the lowly.				
comes into the world, he says,	You have filled the hungry with good things,				
'Sacrifices and offerings	and sent the rich away empty.				
you have not desired.	In your everlasting mercy				
In burnt-offerings, and sin-offerings,	you have come to the help				
you have taken no pleasure.	of your lowly people,				
But a body you have given me. See. O God.	fulfilling the promise you made to our ancestors, to Abraham				
JEE. U UUU.	io oui ancesiois, io Abialialli				

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and his descendants, for ever.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

I have come to do your will.'

Midnight Mass

and suitable for other services after midday on 24 December

First Reading - Isaiah 9.2,6-7a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light.

On those who dwell

in the land of deep darkness -

on them, the light will shine.

For a child is born to us,

a son to rule over us.

and he will be called

Wonderful Counsellor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

and Prince of Peace.

From the throne of David.

he will extend for ever

his kingdom of righteousness,

justice, and peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul

to the Philippians.

Let Christ Jesus

be your example.

He did not regard

his equality with God

as something

to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a servant.

Born in human form,

he humbled himself,

in faithful obedience,

even to death on the cross.

And now, God has highly exalted him,

and has given him the name

that is above every name,

so that

at the name of Jesus,

all shall bow down,

in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,

and declare

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory

of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 2.1,3-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

An order went out, from the emperor,

that all the world

should be registered.

each in their own town.

Joseph, a descendant of David,

was engaged to Mary, who was expecting a child,

so they travelled together

to the city of David,

Bethlehem, in Judea.

While they were there,

the time came

for the child

to be born.

and Mary gave birth

to her firstborn, a son.

She wrapped the child in bands of cloth,

and laid him in a manger,

because there was no room for them

at the inn.

Out in the fields, there were shepherds,

keeping watch

through the night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them,

and the glory of the Lord

shone around them,

and they were afraid.

The angel said, 'Do not be afraid.

I bring good news

of great joy

for all people.

Today, in the city of David,

there is born a Saviour,

the Messiah,

the Lord.

This will be the sign for you:

you will find the child

wrapped in bands of cloth,

and lying in a manger.'

A vast choir of angels appeared, proclaiming,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Peace on earth,

and God's blessings on all people!'

The shepherds made their way quickly

to Bethlehem,

where they found Mary and Joseph,

and the child, lying in the manger.

When the shepherds made known

the message of the angels,

all who heard it

were amazed.

And Mary treasured all these words, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned,

glorifying and praising God

for all

that they had

seen and heard.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Christmas Day

25 December

First Reading - Isaiah 52.7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Those who keep watch

are shouting out

with joy.

For they see, on the mountains,

the messenger

approaching,

bringing good news

of salvation, and peace;

good news

of the triumph

of our God.

Join in their song,

O ruins of Jerusalem!

For all the world

will see the Lord

returning to Zion,

with mercy and strength,

declaring

that your freedom

has been won.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 1.1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago,

God spoke to our ancestors,

in many and various ways,

by the prophets,

but in these last days,

God has spoken to us

by a Son,

appointed by God

as inheritor

of all things,

the reflection

of God's glory,

the exact imprint

of God's very being.

Present with God

at the creation of the universe,

and sustaining

all creation

by his powerful word,

he has

reconciled us to God,

and is seated now,

higher even than the angels,

at the right hand

of God's Majesty

on high.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 1.1-12,14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

In the beginning

was the Word,

and the Word

was with God.

and the Word

was God.

The Word

was in the beginning

with God.

Through the Word,

all things

came into being.

And in the Word

was life -

the life

that was the light

of all people.

That light

now shines

in the darkness.

and the darkness

has not

overcome it.

There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John.

John himself was not

the light,

but came

to bear witness to the light.

The true light,

bringing light to all,

was coming

into the world.

He was in the world -

the world that came into being through him -

and yet the world

did not

know him.

He came to his own,

and his own

did not

receive him.

But all who

did

receive him -

all who believed in his name -

he called

to become

children of God.

And the Word

became flesh,

and dwelt amongst us.

And we have seen his glory -

the glory

of the Father's only Son,

full of grace

and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 26 December and 1 January Saint John the Evangelist

First Reading - 1 Kings 19.9a,11-13a

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Elijah arrived at the mountain of God;

and entered a cave, where he spent the night.

Then the word of the Lord

came to Elijah, saying, 'Go out,

and stand on the mountain,

for the Lord is about to pass by.'

And there came a great wind, so strong

that it was breaking rocks, from the mountains,

into pieces:

but the Lord was not

in the wind.

And after the wind.

there was an earthquake;

but the Lord was not

in the earthquake.

And after the earthquake, a fire;

but the Lord was not

in the fire.

And after the fire.

a still, small voice,

like a breath, or a whisper.

When Elijah heard it,

he wrapped his cloak around his face,

and went out,

and stood at the entrance of the cave;

and then came the voice of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 4.9-12,16b

A reading from the first letter of John.

God's love for us

is revealed in this:

that God sent

God's only Son into the world

to draw us

to fullness of life

in him.

And this is love:

not that we loved God,

but that God loved us,

and sent God's Son

to be the atoning sacrifice

for our sin.

My brothers and sisters,

as God has loved us,

so we should love one another.

No one has ever seen God;

and yet, if we love one another,

God lives in us.

and God's love

is perfected in us.

God is love,

and those who live in love

live in God,

and God lives in them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 1.1-12,14,16-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

In the beginning

was the Word,

and the Word

was with God.

and the Word

was God.

The Word

was in the beginning

with God.

Through the Word,

all things

came into being.

And in the Word

was life -

the life

that was the light

of all people.

That light

now shines in the darkness,

and the darkness

has not

overcome it.

There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John.

John himself was not

the light,

but came

to bear witness to the light.

The true light,

bringing light to all,

was coming

into the world.

He was in the world -

the world that came into being through him -

and yet the world

did not know him.

He came to his own,

and his own

did not receive him.

But all who

did receive him -

all who believed in his name -

he called

to become children of God.

And the Word became flesh,

and dwelt amongst us.

And we have seen his glory -

the glory of the Father's only Son,

full of grace and truth.

From these riches of grace and truth,

we have all received, grace upon grace.

For while the law was given through Moses,

grace and truth

came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

but the only Son, who is

close to the Father's heart,

has made God known.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 2 and 6 January only

The Epiphany

First Reading - Micah 4.1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The time will come

when the mountain

of the temple

of the Lord

will be established

as the greatest

of all mountains,

high above the hills.

People of all nations will say,

'The teaching of the Lord

comes from Mount Zion,

and the word of the Lord

from Jerusalem.

So let us go up

to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house

of the God of Jacob,

to learn there

how to walk

in the right path.'

Then the Lord

will bring justice and peace

to the nations.

They will take their weapons of war,

their swords and their spears,

and they will re-work them

into ploughs

and pruning-hooks.

No longer

will nation

lift up sword

against nation;

neither will they

learn war

any more.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

By the grace of God,

I have been commissioned

to make known to you

a glorious truth

that was unknown

to former generations.

But now, by the Holy Spirit,

this glorious truth

has been revealed

to God's apostles and prophets:

that people of all nations

are our brothers and sisters

in Christ Jesus -

members of the same body,

and inheritors

of the same promise.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 2.1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod,

after Jesus was born

(in Bethlehem of Judea),

Magi from the East

came to Jerusalem,

saying, 'We are looking for the child

who is born

to be king of the Jews.

For we observed his star, at its rising,

and we have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this,

he was troubled.

and all Jerusalem with him.

He called together

the chief priests and the scribes,

and enquired of them

where the Messiah

was to be born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea;

for it is written in the prophets:

"You, O Bethlehem,

in the land of Judah,

are not the least

amongst the ruling cities

of Judah; for out of you

will come a leader, who is

to shepherd

my people Israel."

Then Herod called secretly for the Magi,

and learned from them

the exact time

at which the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem,

saying, 'Go and search for the child;

and when you have found him,

bring me word,

so that I may also go

and pay him homage.'

So the Magi set out;

and there, ahead of them,

went the star

which they had seen

at its rising;

until it stopped

over the place

where they would find the child;

at which

they were filled with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child,

with Mary his mother,

and they knelt down, and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure-chests,

they offered him gifts of gold,

frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream

not to return to Herod,

by another road.

they left for their own country

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 7 and 13 January

First Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 43.1b-3a,4a,5-7

A reading from prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says, 'Do not be afraid.

I have called you by name, and you are mine.

When you pass through deep waters,

I will be with you, and the rivers will not overwhelm you.

When you walk through fire,

you will not be burned, and the flames

will not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Do not be afraid,

for I am with you.

I will gather you, and your descendants,

from the East, and from the West,

my sons and daughters

from the North and from the South.

From the ends of the earth

I will gather together

all I created for my glory

and called by my name.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 2.14-15,17-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Jesus, by sharing in our human flesh and blood,

has, through his death,

destroyed the power of death;

and has freed

those who were held captive

by the fear of death.

By becoming like us, in every respect,

Jesus was able to serve

as a faithful and merciful high priest,

offering sacrifice to God

on behalf of the people.

And having been tested himself,

by what he suffered,

he is able, now, to help

those who face the same trials.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 2.22-40

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

In the law of the Lord, it is written

that every firstborn male

must be dedicated to the Lord.

So on the fortieth day after his birth,

Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord,

and to offer a sacrifice,

in accordance with the law of the Lord,

'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was, in Jerusalem,

a man named Simeon, who was

righteous, and devout.

And it had been revealed to Simeon,

by the Holy Spirit,

that he would not see death

until he had seen

the Lord's Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit,

Simeon came to the temple that day.

And when Mary and Joseph

brought in the child Jesus,

Simeon took the child in his arms,

and praised God, saying, 'Now, Lord,

you dismiss your servant in peace,

fulfilling the word that you have spoken.

For my own eyes have now seen

the salvation, which you have prepared

in the sight of all,

to be the light that enlightens all nations,

and to be the glory of your people Israel.'

The child's father and mother

were amazed

at what was being said about the child;

and Simeon blessed them.

Then Simeon said to Mary, 'This child

will cause the falling

and the rising

of many in Israel,

and will be a sign

that many will oppose.

The inner thoughts

of many hearts

will be revealed.

And a sword

will pierce

your own soul, also.'

There was also

a prophetess, Anna,

the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.

She was of a great age,

having lived with her husband

for seven years, after her marriage,

and then having lived

as a widow, to the age of eighty-four.

She never left the temple,

but worshipped there, night and day,

with fasting and prayer.

She also approached, and began

to praise God, and to speak about the child

to all who were

looking for the salvation

of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary

had fulfilled

everything required

by the law of the Lord,

they returned to Galilee,

to their own town of Nazareth.

And the child grew,

and became strong.

and filled with wisdom.

And the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 14 and 20 January

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 1.4-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord came to me,

saying, 'Before you were even born,

I chose you,

and I appointed you

to be a prophet

to the nations.'

And I said, 'O Lord, I do not know

how to speak, for I am only a child.'

But the Lord said to me, 'Do not be afraid,

and do not say

that you are only a child,

for I am with you

to protect you,

and you will speak my word

to many nations.'

Then the Lord touched my lips,

and said, 'Now I have put my words

into your mouth.

See, today I appoint you

over kingdoms and nations,

to uproot, and overthrow,

destroy, and tear down,

build up, and plant anew.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12.4-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

There are many different gifts,

but only one Spirit.

There are different kinds of ministry,

but all serving the same Lord.

There are different activities,

but in all of them, and in everyone,

it is the same God at work.

And the work of the Spirit, in each individual,

is given

for the good of all.

Through the Spirit,

one person receives the gift of wisdom.

Another, by the same Spirit, receives the gift

of knowledge.

In the same Spirit, another receives the gift of faith.

Another receives gifts

of healing.

and another receives the gift

of the working of miracles.

Others, in the same Spirit,

receive the gifts

of prophecy, discernment,

languages, and interpretation.

All these gifts

are the work of the one Holy Spirit, who

distributes

these gifts

as the Holy Spirit wills.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 2.41-52

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Every year,

Jesus' parents

went to Jerusalem

for the festival of the Passover.

When Jesus was twelve years old,

they went to Jerusalem

as usual

for the festival.

At the end of the festival.

when they left Jerusalem, to return to Nazareth,

the boy Jesus

stayed behind in Jerusalem,

but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travellers,

they went a day's journey,

then started to look for him

amongst their relatives and friends.

When they did not find him,

they returned to Jerusalem

to search for him.

After three days.

they found him in the temple,

sitting amongst the teachers.

He was listening to the teachers,

and asking them questions.

And all who heard him

were amazed

at his understanding, and his answers.

When his parents saw him,

they were overwhelmed.

And his mother said to him, 'My child,

why have you done this to us?

Your father and I

have been searching for you

in great distress.'

But Jesus said to them, 'Why were you

searching for me?

Surely you knew that I must be

in my Father's house.'

But they did not understand

what Jesus said to them.

Then Jesus returned

with them

to Nazareth.

and he was obedient to them.

And his mother

treasured all these things

in her heart.

And Jesus grew in wisdom, and in stature;

and in favour with God,

and with the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 21 and 27 January

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 7-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

On the first day

of the seventh month,

all the people gathered together

in the public square

next to the city's main well.

Ezra the priest

stood on a wooden platform

which had been built, specially for the day,

and read

from the book of the law of Moses,

the law

which the Lord had given

to the people of Israel,

from early morning,

until midday.

All the people

gave their full attention

to the reading of the book of the law.

And the Levites

gave the interpretation, and the meaning,

so that the people could understand

all that was being read.

And the people wept

when they heard and understood

the words of the law.

But Nehemiah the governor,

and Ezra the priest,

and the Levites who taught the people,

said to the people,

'Do not mourn or weep,

for this day is holy

to the Lord your God.

Make a feast

of the best food and wine,

and send portions

to any who have nothing to prepare,

for this day is holy to the Lord.

Do not grieve,

for the joy of the Lord

is your strength.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12.12-20,27-31

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

Just as the body

is one body, with many parts,

so we, though many,

are one body, in Christ.

For in the one Spirit

we were all baptised

into one body -

whether Hebrews or Greeks.

slaves or free.

And we all receive

the same Holy Spirit.

And this body

does not consist of one part,

but of many.

The foot is no less

a part of the body

than the hand.

And the ear is no less

a part of the body

than the eye.

If the whole body were an eye,

it would not be able to hear.

And if the whole body were an ear,

it would have no sense of smell.

But God has arranged

that many parts make up

the whole body.

Now you are the body of Christ,

and each individually a part of it.

God has appointed in the church

apostles, prophets, and teachers;

then works of power, gifts of healing,

roles of support and leadership,

and different ways of speaking.

Not all are apostles, prophets, or teachers;

not all work miracles,

or have gifts of healing, speaking or interpretation.

But all should strive for the greater gifts -

and the greatest gift is love.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 4.14-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Filled with the power of the Spirit,

Jesus returned, from the wilderness, to Galilee,

and news about him

spread throughout the region.

He began to teach in the synagogues,

and everyone spoke well of him.

In Nazareth, where he had been brought up,

he went to the synagogue, as usual,

on the sabbath day.

He stood up to read, and the scroll

of the prophet Isaiah

was handed to him.

He found the place where it is written,

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

for the Lord has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives,

and recovery of sight to the blind;

to free the oppressed,

and to proclaim the year

of the Lord's favour."

He rolled up the scroll,

gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

The eyes of everyone in the synagogue

were fixed on him.

And he said to them, 'Today,

this scripture

is being fulfilled.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 28 January and 3 February

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 1.17-19

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

'Make yourself ready

to stand up and proclaim

the whole

of the message

that I give to you.

Do not be afraid,

for I will make you strong

like a fortified city,

like a pillar of iron, like a wall of bronze,

to challenge the whole

of the land of Judah:

to challenge the kings, and the princes,

the priests, and the people.

They will fight against you;

but they will not

prevail against you,

for I am with you,

and I will deliver you,' says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12.31b - 13.13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Let me show you now

the most excellent gift of all.

If I speak in the languages of both earth and heaven,

but do not have love.

I am only a noisy gong, or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the power of prophecy,

and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge,

and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,

but do not have love,

I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions,

and if I hand over my body to martyrdom,

but do not have love,

I gain nothing.

Love is patient, and kind;

not envious, or arrogant, or boastful, or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way.

Love is not easily angered, or resentful.

Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing.

Love rejoices in the truth.

Love has strength, and faith, and confidence,

that endure, and never fail.

Love never ends.

But our voices will fall silent.

Our prophecies and our knowledge

will come to an end.

For they are only partial;

and when completion comes,

the partial

will vanish away.

When I was a child, I spoke,

and thought, and reasoned, like a child;

but when I became an adult,

I put an end to childish ways.

In the same way:

now, we see partially, as though looking through darkened glass;

but then, we shall see face to face.

Now, I know only in part;

but then, I will know fully, even as

I am fully known.

And through

all this change, these three things

endure:

faith, and hope, and love.

And the greatest of these

is love.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 4.21-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

In the synagogue at Nazareth,

after reading from the prophet Isaiah,

Jesus said to them, 'Today,

this scripture

is being fulfilled.'

All the people

spoke well of him,

and of the gracious words that were now being spoken

by the son of Joseph.

Jesus said to them, 'I know you will quote to me

the proverb that says, "Doctor, cure yourself," and ask me to do here, in my home town,

the things that I did at Capernaum.

But no prophet

has ever been accepted

in their home town.

There were many widows

in Israel.

during the famine,

in the time

of the prophet Elijah;

but Elijah was not sent

to any of the widows in Israel,

but to a widow

in Sarepta, in Lebanon.

And there were many people with leprosy,

in Israel.

in the time

of the prophet Elisha;

but the only person healed

was Naaman, the Syrian.'

When those who were gathered in the synagogue heard this,

they were filled with indignation.

They rose up together

and forced Jesus

out of the town,

and all the way

to the edge of the hill

on which the town was built.

as if to throw him off.

But he passed through the crowd

and went on his way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 10 February (if before Ash Wednesday)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 6.1-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

It was in the year that King Uzziah died

that I saw the Lord,

sitting on a high throne,

in robes

that filled the temple.

Angels, around the Lord,

called out to one another,

saying: 'Holy, holy, holy

is the Lord almighty;

the whole earth is filled

with the glory of the Lord.'

Their voices shook

the very foundations

of the temple,

and the temple was filled with smoke.

I said: 'I am ruined!

For I am a man of unclean lips,

and I live

amongst a people

of unclean lips;

yet my eyes have seen the King,

the Lord almighty!'

Then one of the angels flew to me,

and touched my lips

with a burning coal

that had been taken from the altar,

saying, 'Now that this has touched your lips,

your guilt is removed,

and you are

forgiven.'

Then I heard

the voice of the Lord,

saying, 'Is there anyone I can send?'

And I said, 'Here I am;

send me.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15.1-10a

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Let me remind you again,

my brothers and sisters,

of the good news

that you received, which is now

your firm foundation,

and in which you are saved:

that Christ died for our sins, and was buried;

and that he was raised on the third day -

and all this

in fulfilment of the scriptures.

After he was raised from the dead,

he appeared to Peter, then to the twelve,

then to more than

five hundred brothers and sisters

at one time.

Then he appeared to James;

then to all the apostles.

And last of all,

he appeared also to me,

as to one

untimely born,

unfit to be called

even the least of the apostles,

because I persecuted

the church of God.

But by the grace of God,

I am what I am.

And God's grace towards me

has not been in vain.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 5.1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus was standing by the sea of Galilee,

and the crowd was pressing in on him

to hear the word of God.

There were two boats by the shore, belonging to fishermen, who were washing their nets.

Jesus climbed into the boat belonging to Simon,

and asked him

to put out a little way from the shore.

Then Jesus sat down

and taught the crowds from the boat.

When Jesus had finished speaking to the crowds.

Jesus said to Simon, 'Take the boat out

to the deep water,

and let down the nets, for a catch.'

Simon answered, 'Master,

we worked all night, and caught nothing;

but at your word, I will let down the nets

once more.'

And they did so; and they caught so many fish

that their nets

were beginning to break.

They signalled to their partners,

James and John (the sons of Zebedee),

to come and help them,

and they filled

both boats

with so great a catch of fish

that they began to sink;

and they were all

overwhelmed

at the great catch of fish

that they had taken.

Simon Peter

fell to his knees before Jesus,

saying, 'Leave me, Lord,

for I am a sinful man!'

But Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid.

From now on,

you will be fishing for people.'

And when they had brought their boats to shore,

they left everything,

and followed Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 11 and 17 February (if before Ash Wednesday)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 17.5-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Tragedy awaits

those who place their trust

in mortals,

for they take human flesh as their strength,

and they turn their hearts

away from the Lord.

They are like

dried out plants in the desert.

They will not live to see the day

of relief and prosperity.

But blessed

are those who place their trust

in the Lord.

They are like

trees planted by water,

with roots in the flowing stream.

They need not fear

the scorching heat,

for even in the year of drought,

their leaves will be green,

and their fruit will be plentiful.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15.12-20

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

We proclaim that Christ

is risen from the dead.

And yet still

some of you say

that there is no

resurrection

of the dead.

But if there is no

resurrection of the dead,

then Christ

has not been raised.

And if Christ

has not been raised,

our preaching

has been in vain,

and your faith

has been in vain;

and we are even found

to be misrepresenting God,

for we proclaim

that God raised Christ from the dead!

So: if there is no resurrection,

then Christ has not been raised;

and if Christ has not been raised,

your faith is futile,

and you are still lost in sin;

and those who have died in Christ

have perished.

Truly, if we have trusted in Christ

for this life only,

we should be pitied.

But Christ has been

raised from the dead!

And the Risen Christ

is the first fruits

of all those who have died -

the first fruits

of all those who will indeed

be raised again to life!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 6.17-26

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus came down from the mountain,

with the twelve apostles.

They met there, at the foot of the mountain,

with a great crowd of disciples.

And an even greater multitude had gathered,

from as far away as

Judea and Jerusalem, in the south,

and the coastal districts of

Tyre and Sidon, in Lebanon, in the north,

to hear Jesus.

and to be healed of their diseases.

Those who were troubled with unclean spirits

were healed;

and all those in the crowd

were trying to touch him,

for power came out from him, and healed them.

Jesus looked at them,

and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,

for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now,

for you will be full.

Blessed are you who weep now,

for you will laugh.

Blessed are you

when people hate you, avoid you,

insult you, and slander you,

on account of the Son of Man.

Their ancestors

did the same

to the prophets,

to the prophet

so rejoice

when they do this to you,

for surely

your reward is great in heaven.

But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your comfort.

Woe to you who are full now,

for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who are laughing now,

for you will mourn and weep.

And woe to you

when all speak well of you,

for that is how their ancestors

spoke of the false prophets.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 18 and 24 February (if before Ash Wednesday)

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 1 Samuel 26.7-13,22-24

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

That night, David went, with his nephew,

to the place where Saul

and his army

had set up camp.

They found Saul, asleep, within the camp, with his spear, stuck in the ground, beside him, and his chief military officer, and his soldiers, sleeping around him.

David's nephew

said to David, 'God has given your enemy into your hands. Let me pin him to the ground, with one stroke of his own spear. I will not need to strike him twice.'

But David said to his nephew, 'Do not kill him, for you would bear the guilt of raising your hand against the Lord's anointed.

Let it be the Lord who strikes him down, when his day comes to die; or let him go into battle, and perish there.

Let us take his spear,

and his water jar, and go.'

And no one saw it, or knew of it;

and no one awoke,

for the Lord had made a deep sleep fall upon them.

The following morning,

David stood

on top of a hill,

on the other side of the valley.

and across that great distance,

David called out to Saul,

'Here is your spear, O king!

Let one of the young men

come over and retrieve it!

The Lord gave you into my hand today, but I would not raise my hand

against the Lord's anointed.

The Lord rewards

the righteous and the faithful.

And as I valued your life today,

so may the Lord value my life,

and deliver me

from all danger and distress.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15.35-37a,42-44,49

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Some ask, 'How will the dead be raised,

and what kind of body will they have?'

Consider a seed, from a plant:

first it must die;

then it is planted in the ground, and it comes to life again.

What you sow in the ground is not

the plant

that the seed will become.

What you sow in the ground

is only the dry seed.

And this is how it is

with the resurrection of the dead.

What is sown is mortal, but what is raised will live for ever.

Sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

sown a physical body,

it is raised a spiritual body.

We have lived

in the image of Adam, who came from the earth, from the dust;

we shall rise

in the image of Christ, who comes from heaven.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 6.27-38

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus said to them, 'Love your enemies.

Do good to those who hate you.

Bless those who curse you.

Pray for those who abuse you.

If someone strikes you on the cheek,

offer the other as well.

If someone takes away your coat,

offer your shirt as well.

Give to everyone who asks,

and if anyone takes what belongs to you,

do not demand it back.

Do to others

as you would have them do to you.

Even sinners love those who love them.

Even sinners do good

to those who are good to them,

and lend when they expect a return.

But I say to you: love your enemies.

And do good, and lend,

expecting nothing in return.

And your reward will be great,

for you will be like children of the Most High.

For God is generous,

even to the ungrateful, and the wicked.

So be merciful, as your Father is merciful.

Do not judge others,

and you will not be judged.

Do not condemn others,

and you will not be condemned.

Forgive others,

and you will be forgiven.

Give, and you will receive -

a good measure,

pressed down, shaken together, running over,

will be poured into your lap -

for the measure you give

will be the measure you receive.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Year C ssra.uk

Sunday between 25 February and 3 March [not Sunday 3 March in a leap year] (if before Ash Wednesday)

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 55.10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The rain and the snow

come down from heaven,

and do not return there

until they have watered the earth,

making it fruitful with grain,

producing bread to eat,

and new seed to sow.

In the same way, says the Lord,

the word that I speak

will not return to me

without accomplishing

all that I intend, and succeeding

in the purpose for which I sent it.

And where once

there were thorns and brambles,

tall and blossoming trees

will grow;

and this will be a memorial,

an everlasting sign,

to honour the name of the Lord.

And you will go out with joy,

and return in peace;

and the trees of the field

will clap their hands,

and the mountains and the hills

will break into song.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15.51b-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

Those of us who are still alive

when the last trumpet sounds

will not die, but will be transformed,

in that moment, in the blink of an eye.

The trumpet will sound,

and the dead will be raised,

and we will be changed,

as the mortal

is transformed

to immortality.

And the word of the prophet

will have been fulfilled.

for death itself will have been defeated:

'swallowed up in victory'.

The power of death

was in sin,

and the power of sin

was in the law.

But thanks be to God, who has defeated

all the powers of death,

and has won for us the victory,

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 6.39-49

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus taught them in parables,

saying, 'They are like

the blind

leading the blind.

The one who is learning

can do

no better

than the one who is teaching.

And the one who

completes their learning

will become

like their teacher.

You should not

be trying

to remove a speck

from someone else's eye

while you still have a log

in your own.

You know a tree

by its fruit:

you do not find figs

on a thorn bush,

or grapes

on a bramble;

a good tree

produces good fruit,

and a bad tree

produces bad fruit;

in the same way,

a good person

produces good words and deeds

from the goodness

stored up in their heart:

while a wicked person

produces wicked words and deeds

from the wickedness stored up in their heart.

And in the same way,

if you call me Lord,

you should surely act

on what I say;

for if you come to me,

and hear my words,

and act on them,

you are building a house on

deep foundations,

dug right down to the rock,

so that when the flood comes.

it will stand secure.

But those who hear my words,

and do not act

on what they hear -

they are building a house

without foundations,

and it will fall

when the floods

rise against it.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 7 March [plus Sunday 3 March in a leap year] (if before Ash Wednesday) Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time First Reading - 1 Kings 8.41-43 A reading from the first book of Kings. From the prayer of Solomon, at the dedication of the temple. 'People of other nations will hear of your great name, O Lord. They will hear of your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm, and they will come to this temple to pray. When people of other nations come to this temple, hear their prayers, in heaven, your dwelling-place, and answer them, O Lord, so that your name will be known, and you will be honoured, not only in Israel, but in all the nations of the earth.' This is the word of the Lord. Second Reading - Galatians 1.1-5 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians. From Paul, made an apostle not by any human authority, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Christ from the dead. And from all the

brothers and sisters in Christ who

are with me.

To the churches of Galatia,

in Asia Minor.

Grace to you, and peace,

from God our Father,

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ

gave himself up for us,

because of our

trespasses,

to rescue us

from the evils

of this present age,

fulfilling the will

of our God and Father.

Glory to God

for ever!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Luke 7.2-10*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

A centurion's

most precious servant

had become ill;

and was close to death.

When the centurion

heard about Jesus,

he sent

some of the Jewish elders

to ask Jesus

to come and heal

his servant.

The elders

appealed to Jesus, saying,

'This centurion

is worthy

to have you

do this,

for he loves our people,

and built

our synagogue.'

Jesus went with them;

but as they approached the house,

the centurion sent out friends

to say to Jesus, on his behalf,

'Lord, do not trouble yourself;

for I am not worthy

to have you

come under my roof;

indeed

I did not

consider myself worthy

even to approach you;

but I know

that if you

only

say the word,

my servant

will be healed.

For I am under the authority of others,

and I also have soldiers under my authority,

such that

I only have to

say the word,

and it is done.'

When Jesus heard these words,

he was amazed.

and turning to the crowd that was following,

he said, 'I tell you,

not even

in all Israel

have I found

such faith as this.'

When the centurion's friends

returned to the house,

they found the servant

fully receivered and

fully recovered, and in good health.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Ash Wednesday

First Reading - Daniel 9.3-6,17-19

A reading from the book of Daniel.

With Jerusalem lying in ruins,

I, Daniel, turned to the Lord God

to plead in prayer,

with fasting,

and in sackcloth

and ashes.

And I prayed

to the Lord my God,

making confession, and saying,

'O Lord, great and awesome God,

you keep your covenant, in steadfast love,

towards those who

love you, and keep your commandments.

But we have sinned, and done wrong.

We have acted wickedly, and rebelled.

We have turned aside

from your commandments and decrees.

We have not listened to your servants

the prophets, who have spoken in your name, in every generation.

O Lord our God, hear the prayer of your servant;

and for your own sake, O Lord,

look with pity

upon the desolate ruins

of your holy temple.

Hear my cry, O Lord our God,

and look upon the desolation

of the people, and the city,

that bear your name.

In this our plea, we trust not

in our righteousness,

but in your great mercy.

Hear, O Lord, and forgive;

and for your own sake, O Lord my God,

act, and do not delay;

for the city, and the people,

bear your name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 2.12-15

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I know that you have

continued to trust

in all that I was able to teach you

while I was with you,

and that you continue

to commit yourselves

to walking in the way of salvation.

Always do so with humility, honouring

both the power

and the majesty of God.

For it is God who is

at work within you:

it is God who gives you

both the desire

and the strength

to do God's will.

So avoid

complaint and dispute,

and you will be innocent and uncorrupted

children of God,

shining as lights

in the darkness of this

wicked and corrupt

generation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 8.2-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Early in the morning,

Jesus came again to the temple.

All the people

gathered around him,

and he sat down, and began to teach them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees

brought to him

a woman who had been

caught in adultery;

and making her stand there,

in front of all the people,

they said to Jesus,

'Teacher, this woman was caught

in the very act

of committing adultery.

In the law, Moses commanded us

to stone

such women.

What do you say?'

They said this

to test Jesus,

so that they might have some charge

to bring against him.

Jesus bent down,

and wrote, with his finger, on the ground.

As they kept on questioning him,

he straightened up

and said to them,

'Let the one who is

without sin

cast the first stone.'

And once again,

he bent down

and wrote on the ground.

Having heard these words

they went away,

one by one,

beginning with the eldest,

until Jesus was left alone

with the woman standing there.

Jesus straightened up

and said to her, 'Where are they?

Has no one

condemned you?'

She said, 'No one, sir.'

And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you.

Go on your way,

and do not sin again.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

First Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Deuteronomy 26.4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

When the priest

takes your harvest offering

of the first-fruits of the land,

and places it before the altar

of the Lord your God,

there you shall say:

'My ancestors

were homeless travellers

from Aram.

Few in number,

we lived in Egypt, as foreigners.

There, we grew in number, and in strength,

to become a great nation.

But the Egyptians

treated us harshly,

and afflicted us,

imposing hard labour upon us.

We cried to the Lord, the God

of our ancestors.

and the Lord heard our voice,

and looked upon our affliction,

our toil and oppression.

And the Lord

brought us out of Egypt,

with a mighty hand,

and an outstretched arm,

and acts of great power,

and brought us

to this place,

and gave us this land,

a land rich

with milk and honey.

So now I bring to you, O Lord,

the first-fruits

of the harvest

of the land

that you have given to me.'

And you shall bow down

before the Lord your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 10.8-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Scripture says:

'The word is near to you;

it is on your lips,

and

it is in your heart'.

And this is now

the word of faith

that we proclaim -

that if you confess with your lips

that Jesus is Lord,

and if you believe in your heart

that God raised him from the dead,

you will be saved.

Scripture also declares that no one

believing in the Lord

will be put to shame.

And in this, there is no distinction

between the descendants of Jacob

and all the other people of the world.

For the same Lord

is Lord of all,

and is gracious to all.

And everyone who calls on

the name of the Lord

will be saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 4.1-13a

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,

returned from his baptism in the river Jordan,

and was led, by the Spirit, into the wilderness.

There, for forty days,

he was tempted by the devil.

He ate nothing during those days,

and while he was experiencing great hunger,

the devil said to him,

'If you are the Son of God,

command this stone

to become bread."

Jesus answered, 'The scripture says,

"Life is not sustained

by bread alone."

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place

and showed him, in one instant,

all the kingdoms of the world.

And the devil said to him, 'I can give you

the glory and the power

of all these kingdoms.

If you will worship me,

they will all be yours.'

Jesus answered, 'The scripture says,

"Worship and serve

the Lord your God,

and no other."

Then the devil took Jesus

to Jerusalem, and placed him

on the highest point of the temple,

saying, 'If you are the Son of God,

throw yourself down from here,

tillow yourself down from here,

for the scripture says, "The Lord Most High will send angels to protect you,

to raise you up

in their hands,

so that you will not even

hurt your foot

against a stone."

Jesus answered, 'The scripture also says, "Do not put the Lord your God

to the test."

And having completed all these temptations,

the devil departed from Jesus

until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Genesis 15.12-14,18 A reading from the book of Genesis. As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness fell upon him. The Lord said to Abram, 'For four hundred years, your descendants will live as foreigners in a land that is not their own; and they will be slaves there, and they will be oppressed. But I make this covenant with you this day: that I will bring judgement on the nation that enslaves them, and your descendants will leave that place with great possessions, and I will restore them to this land.' This is the word of the Lord. Second Reading - Philippians 3.18 - 4.1 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians. My brothers and sisters, I write with tears in my eyes, as I say again that there are many who live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their minds are set on earthly things. Greed is their god. They glory in their shame. And their end is destruction. But we belong not to earth. but to heaven. And we look to the day when our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord, with authority over all creation. will transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body.

So, my beloved brothers and sisters -

my joy and crown -

This is the word of the Lord.

stand firm in the Lord.

according to Luke. Jesus went up on the mountain to pray, taking with him Peter, James, and John. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face was changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. And there with him, in glory, were Moses, and Elijah. And they were speaking together about his departure, which was soon to be fulfilled at Jerusalem. Peter, James, and John had been weighed down with sleep; but became fully awake when they saw his glory, and Moses and Elijah standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were preparing to depart, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what he was saying. While Peter was speaking, a cloud came, and covered them; and they were afraid. And a voice spoke from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen. Listen to him.' When the voice had spoken, they looked. and saw only Jesus, alone. And in those days they told no one of what they had seen. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 9.28-36

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Isaiah 55.6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Turn away

from your wicked ways,

and turn to the Lord,

for the Lord is ready to welcome you.

Turn away

from your plotting for injustice,

and call upon the Lord,

for the Lord is near.

Return to the Lord your God,

for God will have mercy,

and freely forgive.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10.1-6,9-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

Our ancestors

passed through the Red Sea,

and were then

guided through the wilderness

by the cloud

that went before them.

It was as though they were

baptised into Moses,

first in the sea, and then in the cloud.

There in the wilderness, they ate spiritual food,

and they drank spiritual drink,

from the rock that was surely Christ.

And still, they rebelled against God,

and were struck down.

And this becomes a warning

for us, in our own time,

not to pursue evil as they did;

and not to put Christ to the test,

or complain, as they did,

for it led to their destruction.

So when you are

most confident

that all is well, and that you are standing firm,

it is then

that you should

take the most care

that you do not fall.

And when you are most fully aware

of your trials and your weaknesses,

it is then

that you can be reassured

that any temptation or adversity that comes upon you

has been suffered by others before.

God is faithful, and will not

let you be tested

beyond your strength;

but will ensure, in every situation,

that there is always a way through,

and that you will have the strength

to endure.

This is the word of the Lord.

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Gospel - Luke 13.1-9
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Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

A report

reached Jesus

and the disciples

that some Galileans

had been killed,

by Pilate,

while they were

offering sacrifices

in the temple.

Jesus said, 'Do not be thinking

that these

were the worst sinners

in Galilee;

for unless

you repent,

you will all

surely perish

in the same way.

And you know about

the eighteen who were killed

when the tower of Siloam

fell on them.

Do not be thinking

that they

were the worst sinners

in Jerusalem;

for unless

you repent,

you will all

surely perish

in the same way.'

And he told them

this parable:

'The owner of a vineyard

had a fig tree,

and came looking for fruit on it,

but there was none.

The owner of the vineyard

said to the keeper

of the vineyard,

"For three years now, I have come

looking for fruit

on this fig tree,

but found none.

Cut it down!

It is a waste of good land!"

But the keeper of the vineyard

pleaded, "Allow it one more year,

while I dig around it,

and put manure on it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

If it finally

bears fruit.

let it be;

and only

if it then

still bears

no fruit.

cut it down."

Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Joshua 5.9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua.

After crossing the river Jordan,

to enter the promised land,

the people camped at Gilgal,

in the plains of Jericho.

And there, they kept the Passover, on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month.

The next day, there was no

miraculous food on the ground;

because now, they were able to eat

the ordinary produce

of the promised land.

That first day, they ate the produce

of the promised land

as flat-breads, and roasted grain.

And the Lord said to Joshua: 'Today, I have taken away

the disgrace

you suffered in Egypt.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 5.17-20

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

By God's grace,

we have been reconciled to God, in Christ.

And now, God has entrusted to us

the message of reconciliation.

God has made us ambassadors for Christ,

to proclaim this message to the world:

'God no longer counts your trespasses against you!

Be reconciled to God!' Anyone who is in Christ

is a new creation.

The old has passed away,

and everything is new.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 15.1-3, 11-32

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus were collectors of the Roman taxes,

and other notorious sinners.

Jesus welcomed them,

and would even sit and eat with them.

For this, the Pharisees and the scribes complained against Jesus.

So Jesus told them this parable:

'There was a man who had two sons.

The younger son said to his father, "Give me

my share of the property."

So the father divided his property

between his two sons.

A few days later, the younger son

gathered his belongings,

and travelled to a distant country,

and there

began to squander all his wealth.

When he had spent

all that he had,

a severe famine spread throughout that country.

So he went and hired himself out

to one of the farmers in that country, who sent him to feed the pigs.

And he was so hungry

that he would gladly have eaten

the waste

that the pigs were eating.

Eventually, he said to himself, "Here I am,

dying of hunger, while my father's

hired workers

have enough to eat, and more to spare.

I will go back to my father, and say, 'Father,

I have sinned against heaven, and before you;

I am no longer worthy to be called your son;

treat me as one of your hired workers."

So he set off, and went to his father.

While he was still far off, his father saw him,

and was filled with compassion. His father ran,

and put his arms around him, and kissed him.

The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven,

and before you; I am no longer worthy

to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants, "Go quickly,

and bring, for my son, the finest clothes,

a ring for his finger, and sandals for his feet!

Take the fatted calf, and kill it,

and let us celebrate with a feast,

for this son of mine was dead, and is alive again;

he was lost - and now he is found."

And the celebration began.

All this time, the elder son was working in the field.

When the elder son approached the house.

he heard music and dancing.

He called one of the servants.

and asked what was happening.

The servant explained, "Your brother

has returned, alive, and your father

has killed the fatted calf, to celebrate."

On hearing this, the elder son

became angry, and refused to go in.

His father came out and pleaded with him,

but he said, "For all these years,

I have worked for you like a slave,

and I have never disobeyed your command.

And you have never given me

even a young goat

to celebrate with my friends.

But this son of yours

has come back, having squandered your wealth with the shameless, and you have killed

the fatted calf for him!"

His father said, "Son, you are always with me,

and all that I have is yours.

And we must celebrate,

because this brother of yours was lost, and now he is found;

he was dead, and now he is alive again."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Isaiah 43.15-21

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord, your Redeemer,

the Holy One of Israel, says:

I am the Lord your God,

the Creator of Israel,

your King.

I made a path for you

through the mighty waters

of the sea.

I drew out the Egyptians behind you,

chariots and horses, an army of warriors;

but now they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished,

quenched.

like a wick.

Yet now I say:

recount this history no more,

nor dwell on events of the past,

for now I begin something new;

indeed, it is already begun.

Even the wild animals

will honour me.

I will make

a safe route

through the wilderness,

and rivers

will flow in the desert,

to refresh my chosen people,

the people I formed for myself;

and they will declare my praise anew.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 3.4-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone

had reason

to be confident.

I had more.

I was a descendant of Jacob,

in the tribe of Benjamin,

a Hebrew.

born of Hebrews.

In the observation of the law, I was a Pharisee.

In zeal, I was a persecutor of the church.

In righteousness according to the law,

I was blameless.

And yet I regard

all these things

as worthless now,

for nothing

has any value at all

compared to knowing

Christ Jesus as my Lord.

For the sake of Christ,

I have lost everything.

But I count this loss as nothing,

for what I have gained

is Christ.

United with Christ, I depend

no more

on a righteousness of my own,

derived from the law,

for I have instead

a righteousness

that comes from God.

through faith in Christ.

And so, leaving behind

all that has gone before,

I now press on towards the goal

of knowing Christ more fully,

and the power of his resurrection;

sharing in his sufferings, and even

becoming like him in his death,

if somehow then

I may share

in his resurrection from the dead.

All this I choose, just as Christ

has chosen me.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 12.1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Six days before the Passover,

Jesus came to Bethany,

to the home of Lazarus.

Lazarus was the one

Jesus had raised

from the dead.

There, they gave a dinner for Jesus.

Martha served,

and Lazarus was at the table, with Jesus.

Mary took a pound

of costly perfume,

and used the perfume

to anoint

Jesus' feet,

wiping his feet with her hair.

And the house was filled

with the fragrance

of the perfume.

Judas Iscariot

(the disciple who was about to betray Jesus)

complained, saying, 'This perfume

could have been sold

for a whole year's wages,

and the money given to the poor!'

(He said this

not because he cared about the poor,

but because he was a thief.

He looked after the disciples' funds,

and would steal from them.)

Jesus said, 'Let her alone.

She has kept this perfume

for the day of my burial.

You will always have the poor with you,

but you will not always have me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Palm Sunday

Palm Procession - Luke 19.35-40

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The disciples

brought the foal to Jesus,

and threw their cloaks across it.

As Jesus set off,

riding the foal,

down the Mount of Olives.

people spread their cloaks

on the road

in front of him.

As they approached Jerusalem,

the whole crowd of disciples

began to praise God

joyfully

for all the deeds of power

they had seen,

shouting out,

'Blessed is the king

who comes

in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory

in the highest!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd

said to Jesus,

'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.'

Jesus said, 'I tell you,

if the people were silent,

the stones would shout out.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Main Liturgy

First Reading - Isaiah 50.4-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God

has taught me wisdom,

so that I may speak

words of comfort

to the weary.

Morning by morning,

the Lord God awakens me.

so that I may learn wisdom

as a servant of the Lord.

When I face

persecution and violence,

I do not hide my face,

or turn away.

Let my accusers

confront me.

I will set my face like flint.

For I know

that the Lord God brings justice,

and I will not

be defeated

or ashamed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let Christ Jesus

be your example.

He did not regard

his equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a servant.

Born in human form,

he humbled himself.

in faithful obedience.

even to death on the cross.

And now, God has highly exalted him,

and has given him the name

that is above every name,

so that

at the name of Jesus.

all shall bow down.

in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,

and declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory

of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Passion - Luke 22.14 - 23.56

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

When the time came

for the Passover meal,

Jesus took his place, at the table,

with the apostles.

Jesus said to them, 'I have longed

to eat this Passover

with vou

before I suffer;

for I will not eat it again

until it is fulfilled

in the kingdom of God.'

Then Jesus took a cup,

and after giving thanks,

he said, 'Take this,

and divide it amongst yourselves;

for I will not drink

the fruit

of the vine

again

until the kingdom of God

has come.'

Then Jesus took bread,

and when he had given thanks,

he broke the bread,

and gave it to them,

saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

And in the same way, after supper,

he took the cup,

saying, 'This cup

is the new covenant, in my blood, which is

poured out for you.

And see. Now Simon, Simon, listen! the one who betrays me Satan has demanded is here with me. to sift all of you His hand like wheat, is on the table but I have prayed for you, Simon, with mine. that your faith For the Son of Man departs may not fail. as it has been And when you return, determined. strengthen your brothers.' But woe to the one who betrays him!' Simon Peter replied, 'Lord, I am ready to go with you, And they began to question to prison, and to death!' amongst themselves, Jesus said, 'I tell you, Peter, which one of them the cock it could be will not crow that would do this. this day. until you have denied three times They also began to dispute that you know me.' amongst themselves, which one of them Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'You know should be considered that when I sent you out the greatest. without purse, or bag, or sandals, But Jesus said to them, 'The rulers you lacked nothing. of the nations But now, lord it over them; take your purse, and those and your bag. with great authority And if you have no sword, sell your cloak and buy one. are called benefactors. The scripture says, "He was counted But it shall not amongst the lawless"; be so and now this is being fulfilled in me.' with you. The greatest amongst you The disciples said, 'Lord, here are two swords.' And Jesus replied, 'It is enough.' must become like the least. and the leader Then they went out must become to the Mount of Olives, Jesus leading, and the disciples following. like one who serves just as I am amongst you And when they had reached the place, as one who serves. Jesus said to them, 'Pray, You are the ones who have that you may not stood by me have to enter in my trials. the time of temptation, testing, and trial.' And I grant you And Jesus withdrew from them, a kingdom, about a stone's throw, just as my Father and knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, has granted a kingdom if you are willing, remove this cup from me; to me. You will eat and drink yet not my will, but yours, at my table be done.' in my kingdom, and sit on thrones, Then an angel, from heaven, and serve justice. appeared to him, and gave him strength. And he prayed with greater anguish; and his sweat became like great drops of blood, falling to the ground.

When Jesus got up from prayer, Then they he came to the disciples, seized Jesus, and found them sleeping, and led him away exhausted by grief. to the house Jesus said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? of the high priest. Get up, and pray Peter followed. that you may not at a distance. have to enter the time of temptation, testing, and trial.' The guards lit a fire, in the middle of the courtyard, While Jesus was still speaking, and sat down together. a crowd appeared. Peter sat amongst them. Amongst them In the light were the chief priests, from the fire. the temple guards, Peter was noticed and the elders. by one of the women who worked there. And Judas. She observed him carefully. one of the twelve, then said. 'This man was leading them. was with him.' But Peter denied it, Judas approached Jesus, saying, 'Woman, as if to greet him I do not know him.' with a kiss. A short time later, another said to him, 'You are one of them!' And Jesus said, 'Judas. But Peter said, 'I am not!' do you betray About an hour later, another was insisting, the Son of Man, 'Surely this man was with him, with a kiss?' for he is a Galilean.' When those who were But Peter said, 'I do not around Jesus know saw what was happening, what you mean.' they asked Jesus At that very moment, whether they should while Peter was still speaking, use their swords. the cock One of them crowed. struck And the Lord turned. and looked at Peter. the servant of the high priest, cutting off And Peter remembered that the Lord had said to him, his right ear. But Jesus said, 'Before the cock crows, today, 'No more of this!' you will deny me three times.' And Jesus And Peter went out, and wept bitterly. touched the servant's ear. and it was healed. The guards who were detaining Jesus Then Jesus said began to mock him; to those who had blindfolding him, come to arrest him, and beating him; and saving, 'Day after day. I was in your temple, 'If you are a prophet, teaching, tell us who struck you;' and you did not and many other arrest me. insults And now you come out against him. with swords and clubs. to arrest me like an outlaw. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.'

When daylight came, When Herod saw Jesus, he was glad, the chief priests and the scribes because he had been assembled, wanting to see Jesus and they had for some time, Jesus having heard about him, brought before them. and was hoping to see him They said to him, 'If you are perform some sign. the Messiah, tell us.' Herod questioned Jesus at length, Jesus said, 'If I were but Jesus gave no answer. to tell you, The chief priests and the scribes you would not believe. And if I were continued to question you, accusing Jesus. you would not answer. Herod But soon. and his soldiers the Son of Man began will be seated to treat Jesus at the right hand with contempt. of the power of God.' Mocking him, They said, 'Then you are they put an elegant robe on him, the Son of God?' and sent him back Jesus said to them, 'You say that I am.' to Pilate. They said, 'We need And Herod and Pilate no further witnesses. became friends that day. where previously We have heard it ourselves. there had been from his own lips.' hostility The assembly arose, between them. and they took Jesus to Pilate. Pilate now called together There. the chief priests, they made their accusations against him: the rulers. 'We found this man and the people, subverting our nation, and said to them, 'You brought me this man, forbidding the payment of taxes accusing him to the emperor, of subverting the people. and declaring himself I have examined him in your presence, and I have found nothing to be the Messiah - the anointed king.' Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you that makes him guilty the King of the Jews?' of the accusations Jesus replied, you have made against him. 'You have said it.' Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. But Pilate said, He has done nothing to the chief priests, and to all those assembled, deserving death. 'I find no basis I will have him for an accusation against this man.' flogged, But they were insistent. and release him.' saying, 'He stirs up the people, teaching But they all shouted out, throughout Judea, 'Away with him! from Galilee, where he began, Release Barabbas!' and now here, in Jerusalem.' (Barabbas When Pilate heard this, had been imprisoned for insurrection. he enquired whether Jesus was Galilean, and for murder.) as this would place Jesus under Herod's jurisdiction. On hearing that Jesus was indeed Galilean, Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, who was

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in Jerusalem at that time.

Two criminals Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, appealed to them again; were also being but those who were gathered led away, began shouting out to be put to death with him. that Jesus should be crucified. And when they came A third time, Pilate said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? to the place I find no reason for his death. called The Skull. they crucified him there, I will have him flogged, and release him.' with the criminals. But they continued one on his right, and one on his left. shouting out their demand that he should be Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; crucified. for they do not know what they are doing.' And their voices prevailed; and Pilate declared And they cast lots to divide his clothing. that their demand should be granted; and Pilate released Barabbas, as they had demanded -The people the one who had been imprisoned stood watching. for insurrection and for murder and Jesus. But the rulers he delivered up mocked him, to their will. saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is As they led Jesus away, God's anointed, they seized God's chosen one!' Simon, from North Africa, who was travelling into Jerusalem. The soldiers also mocked him, And they approaching him laid the cross on him, to offer sour wine. and saying, 'If you are and made him carry it, behind Jesus. the King of the Jews, save yourself!' For the inscription, written above him, A great number of people followed behind, said, 'The King of the Jews.' including women, who were One of the criminals weeping for him. But Jesus turned to them crucified alongside him and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, also do not weep for me, mocked him, saying, 'If you are the Messiah, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. save yourself - and us!' For the days are coming But the other criminal when many said to him, 'Have you will declare no fear of God? the childless woman We are being punished for our crimes, fortunate, and blessed. And people will long but this man for the mountains and the hills has done to fall on them no wrong.' and cover them. Then he said, 'Jesus, For if this is remember me, when you come into your kingdom.' what they do when the wood is green, Jesus replied, 'Truly, I tell you, today what will they do you will be when it is dry.' with me in Paradise.'

It was now about noon. And for three hours, darkness came over the whole land. For the light of the sun failed. And the curtain of the temple sanctuary was torn in two. Then Jesus cried out, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' And saying this, he breathed his last.

The centurion, seeing all that had taken place, praised God, saying, 'Surely, this was a righteous man.'

And all those who had gathered to witness these things now returned home, beating their breasts.

And all those who knew Jesus, and the women who had followed him from Galilee, looked on at these things, from a distance.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, from Arimathea, who was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. He was a member of the Hebrew council, but he had not consented to their plan or action. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in an unused tomb, which had been carved out from the rock.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed behind, and saw the tomb where the body was laid.

They returned, and prepared spices and ointments; but it was evening, and the sabbath was beginning, and for the sabbath day, they rested, in accordance with the commandment.

The Passion of the Lord.

Maundy Thursday First Reading - Genesis 14.18-20a A reading from the book of Genesis. King Melchizedek of Salem was a priest of God Most High. And he brought out bread, and wine. And he blessed Abram, saying, 'Blessed be Abram, by God Most High, the maker of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered you from the hands of your enemies.' This is the word of the Lord. The teaching I received from the Lord is the teaching I pass on to you: that the Lord Jesus. on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said. 'This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way,

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. after they had eaten, he took the cup, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' So whenever you eat this bread, and drink

this cup.

you proclaim

the Lord's death,

This is the word of the Lord.

until he comes.

Gospel - John 6.22-35 Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Some from the crowd stayed overnight, at the lakeside, at the place where Jesus had given thanks over the bread, and the whole crowd had eaten. In the morning, when they realised that both Jesus and the disciples had left, they went by boat to Capernaum, to look for Jesus there. When they found Jesus, they asked him, 'Teacher, when did you come here?' Jesus said, 'You have come to find me, not because you understood the meaning of the sign that you witnessed, but because you ate your fill of bread! Do not work for the food that perishes, but work for the food that endures for eternal life the food that the Son of Man will give you; for it is on the Son of Man that God the Father has set his seal.' They said to him, 'What must we do to be doing the work of God?' Jesus said, 'This is the work of God: that you believe in the one that God has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us, so that we may see it, and believe in you? Our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness: it says, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Jesus said to them,

'It was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven:

it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven -

the bread of God

that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Good Friday

First Reading - Isaiah 53.3-5

He was despised

and rejected.

He knew anguish

and pain.

We counted him as worthless,

as struck down

by God.

We turned our faces

from him.

Yet truly

he bore our anguish,

and carried our pain.

He was wounded

for our transgressions,

and crushed

for our iniquities.

He bore the punishment

that makes us whole.

And by his wounds,

we are healed.

Second Reading - Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-10a

We have

a great high priest, who has

ascended

into heaven.

Jesus, the Son of God.

And he is able to sympathise

with our weakness,

for he himself

has been tested,

in every way, as we are -

yet without sin.

So let us trust in him,

and approach the throne of grace

with confidence,

that we may receive

mercy,

and find

grace to help

in time of need.

In the days of his earthly life,

Jesus offered up prayers,

with loud cries, and tears,

to the one who was

able to rescue him

from death.

And his prayer was heard,

in his reverent submission

to the will of the Father.

Even as

the Son,

he grew

in devotion

through all

he learned

and endured.

And when he had

accomplished and completed

all things,

he was declared by God

to be

the eternal high priest,

and has become

the source

of eternal salvation

for all who trust in him.

Good Friday Passion Readings begin on the next page

Good Friday	Simon Peter,
Passion Reading Part 1	and another disciple,
John 18.1-27	followed Jesus.
	The other disciple
Jesus went	was known
with his disciples	to the high priest, and was able
to a garden	to follow Jesus
on the far side	all the way into the courtyard.
of the Kidron valley.	But Peter was left standing outside the gate,
Judas	until the other disciple
also knew the place,	went out
because Jesus	and spoke to the woman who was
would often meet there	guarding the gate.
with his disciples.	The woman said to Peter, 'Are you also
So Judas led	one of his disciples?'
the soldiers and the temple guards there,	Peter said, 'I am not.'
with weapons and torches.	The temple guards and servants
Jesus, knowing what was happening,	had made a charcoal fire
stepped forward, and asked them, 'Who is it	in the courtyard,
that you are looking for?'	and they were standing around it
They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'	to keep warm.
Jesus said, 'I am he.'	Peter went
And they stepped back	and stood with them.
and fell to the ground.	Inside, Jesus was being questioned
Jesus asked them again, 'Who is it	_ ·
	about his disciples and his teaching.
that you are looking for?'	<u> </u>
And again they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'	Jesus said, 'I have always spoken openly.
Jesus replied, 'I say again, I am he.	I have taught
Now let these others go.'	in the synagogue,
In this way,	and in the temple,
he fulfilled the words	where people gather.
he had spoken earlier	I have said nothing in secret.
in prayer:	You do not need
'I have protected those	to question me.
you entrusted to me.'	You can ask
Simon Peter	those who heard me.'
now drew his sword,	One of the temple guards
and struck	struck Jesus on the face,
the servant	saying, 'That is not
of the high priest,	how you answer
cutting off	the high priest.'
his right ear.	Jesus said, 'If what I have said
Jesus said, 'Put your sword away,	is untrue, then say so;
for I must surely drink	but if it is true, why strike me?'
from the cup	Annas now sent Jesus, bound,
that the Father	to Caiaphas, the high priest.
has given me.'	Simon Peter
Then the soldiers	was still standing
and the temple guards	with the temple guards,
arrested Jesus,	by the charcoal fire, in the courtyard.
and bound him.	Those who were standing there
They took him first to Annas,	asked Peter, 'Are you also
the father-in-law	one of his disciples?'
of Caiaphas, who was the high priest	Peter again denied it,
that year.	saying, 'I am not.'
•	• •
Caiaphas was the one who had said	One of the servants of the high priest (a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off)
	,
that it was better	said to Peter, 'Did I not
to have one person die	see you with him, in the garden?'
for the people.	Again Peter denied it;
	and at that very moment,
	the cock crowed.

Good Friday Passion Reading Part 2

John 18.28 - 19.16

At first light, they took Jesus from the court of Caiaphas, the high priest, to the headquarters of Pilate, the Roman governor.

But they did not go in,
as that would have been
a ritual defilement, preventing them
from eating the Passover.

So Pilate went out to them, and asked, 'What charges do you bring against this man?'

They answered, 'If he were not an offender, we would not have brought him to you.'

Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves, and judge him by your own law.'

They replied, 'It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.'

Pilate went back inside his headquarters.

There, he summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

Jesus said, 'Do you ask this for yourself, or is it something that others have said?'

Pilate replied, 'I am a Roman, not a Jew. Your own people, and their chief priests have handed you over to me.

What is it

that you have done?'

Jesus said, 'My kingdom

is not

of this world,

or I would have guards,

fighting to protect me.

My kingdom is not here.'

Pilate said, 'So you are a king!'

Jesus said, 'You have said it.

I was born, and I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth

hears my voice.'

Pilate said, 'And what is truth?'

Pilate then returned

to those who were waiting outside, and said, 'I find no case against him.

But you have a custom

that I release a prisoner for you at Passover.

Do you want me to release to you

the King of the Jews?'

And they shouted, 'Not him,

but Barabbas!'

And Barabbas

was a common criminal.

Pilate took Jesus.

and had him flogged.

The soldiers made a crown, out of thorns, and put it on his head; and they dressed him in a purple robe.

They came up to him,

saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and struck him on the face.

Pilate returned to those who were waiting outside,

and said, 'I am bringing him out to you

to let you know

that I find no case against him.'

Jesus came out,

wearing the crown of thorns

and the purple robe.

Pilate said, 'Behold the man!'

As soon as the chief priests, and the temple guards, saw him,

they shouted, 'Crucify!'

Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him.

I find no case against him.'

They said, 'By our law, he must die,

for he claims to be

the Son of God.'

When Pilate heard this,

he was greatly concerned.

He entered his headquarters again,

and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?'

But Jesus gave no answer.

Pilate said, 'Do you refuse to speak to me?

Do you not see

that I have the power to release you,

or to crucify you?'

Jesus said, 'You would have had

no power over me,

had it not been given to you.

The one who handed me over to you

is guilty of a greater sin.'

On hearing this, Pilate again

sought to release Jesus,

but the chief priests

and the temple guards

said, 'If you release him, you are no friend

of the emperor,

for he sets himself against the emperor,

by calling himself a king.'

Pilate took Jesus outside,

and sat on the judgement seat,

at the stone pavement.

It was about midday

on the day of preparation

for the Passover.

Pilate said, 'Here is your king!'

They cried out, 'Away with him!

Crucify him!'

Pilate asked them, 'Shall I

crucify your king?'

They answered, 'We have no king

but the emperor!'

And Pilate handed Jesus over to them,

and they led him away

to be crucified.

Good Friday Passion Reading Part 3 John 19.17-end With Jesus carrying his own cross, they led him out

to The Place of the Skull (which in Hebrew is Golgotha). There, they crucified him, between two others,

one on his right, and one on his left. Pilate had an inscription

placed on the cross: 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.'

Many people were able to read this, as the place of the crucifixion was near the city. and the sign was written in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

The chief priests complained to Pilate, insisting that the inscription should not be

'The King of the Jews', but 'This man claimed to be the King of the Jews'.

But Pilate said, 'What I have written, I have written.'

The soldiers who crucified Jesus divided his clothes between them.

But his tunic was woven as a single piece, so rather than tear it. they cast lots for it.

As it says in the psalm, 'They divided

my garments amongst themselves, and for my clothing, they cast lots.'

Standing by the cross of Jesus

were his mother. and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw the beloved disciple standing beside his mother, Jesus said to his mother, 'Here is your son', and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'

And from that time on,

the disciple took her into his own home.

Knowing that everything was now completed, and in order to fulfil the scripture, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'

From a jar that was standing there,

they filled a sponge with sour wine, fixed it

on a branch of herbs. and lifted it to his mouth.

When Jesus had received it, he said, 'It is finished,'

And he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit. The temple authorities did not want the crucifixions continuing into the sabbath, so they asked Pilate to order that the legs of the crucified be broken. and the bodies removed.

The soldiers came and broke the legs of the two who had been crucified alongside Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus, seeing that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but pierced his side with a spear; and blood and water flowed out.

This account is given by one who was there, who witnessed these things, so that you may know it to be true.

And so it is that the scriptures were fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken,' and,

> 'They will look upon the one they have pierced.'

After all these things had taken place, Joseph of Arimathea sought and received from Pilate

permission to take away the body of Jesus.

Joseph was a disciple of Jesus,

but secretly, for fear of the religious authorities.

Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus by night,

brought linen cloths,

and ointment, with myrrh, and fragrant oils.

And together,

they anointed and wrapped

the body of Jesus for burial.

In a garden,

close to the place of crucifixion,

there was a new tomb.

in which no one had ever been laid.

And as the sabbath

was soon to begin, and the tomb was nearby,

they laid the body of Jesus there.

Easter Day

First Reading - Isaiah 65.17-19

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I will create

new heavens, and a new earth,

says the Lord.

And the former things

will be remembered

no more.

Be glad

and rejoice

for ever

in my new creation.

And I myself

will rejoice in Jerusalem,

and delight in my people.

And the sound of weeping

will be heard no more.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15.20-26

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Christ

has indeed

been raised

from the dead,

the first fruits

of those who have died.

Just as death

came through

a human being,

so the resurrection

of the dead

has come

through a human being;

for all die

in Adam;

but in Christ,

all will be

made alive:

Christ

as the first fruits,

and at

the coming of Christ,

those who

belong to Christ.

And when all

is completed.

Christ will hand over the kingdom

to God the Father,

having overcome

every other

ruler, authority, and power;

for Christ will reign,

and all enemies

will be defeated:

and the final enemy

that will be destroyed

is death itself.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 20.1-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb,

and saw that the stone

had been removed.

She hurried back to Simon Peter.

and the disciple Jesus loved, and said,

'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,

and we do not know

where they have laid him.'

Peter and the other disciple

set off running

towards the tomb.

The other disciple outran Peter,

reaching the tomb first.

Bending down to look in, he could see

the linen wrappings, lying there,

but did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him,

and went into the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings; and he saw

the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, rolled up separately, in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple also went in,

and saw, and believed;

(for until this point,

they had not understood the scripture,

that he must rise from the dead).

When these two disciples returned to their homes,

Mary stayed, weeping, outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

and she saw two angels, in white robes, sitting one at the head, and one at the feet,

sitting one at the nead, and one at the let

of where the body of Jesus had been.

The angels said to Mary, 'Why are you weeping?'

Mary said, 'They have taken away my Lord,

and I do not know where they have laid him.'

When she had said this, she turned around,

and saw Jesus standing there,

but she did not know

that it was Jesus.

Jesus asked her, 'Why are you weeping? Who is it

that you are looking for?'

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,

'Sir, if you have carried him away,

tell me where you have laid him,

and I will take him away.'

Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

Mary turned, and said to him, 'Teacher!'

Jesus said, 'Do not hold me,

for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go, and tell my brothers

that I am ascending

to my Father and your Father,

to my God and your God.

Mary Magdalene went

and said to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord';

and she told them the words

the Lord had spoken to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 9.1-11a, 15, 17-19a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Saul continued, with his every breath, to make murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord.

From the high priest, he obtained letters authorising him to go to the synagogues in Damascus, to search for disciples there, to arrest them, and to bring them to Jerusalem.

On this journey, as he was approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly surrounded him.

He fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

Saul asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

And the reply came, 'I am Jesus,

the one you are persecuting.

Now get up, and enter the city,

and you will be told what you must do.'

The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless,

because they heard the voice, but saw no one.

When Saul got up from the ground,

though his eyes were open, he could see nothing;

so those who were travelling with him led him, by the hand, into Damascus.

And for three days, Saul was without sight, and he neither ate nor drank.

Now in Damascus, there was a disciple called Anan-ias.

The Lord directed Anan-ias, in a vision,

to go to the place where Saul was staying.

The Lord said, 'Go to him, for I have chosen him to proclaim my name, to people of every nation, and to their kings, and to the people of Israel.'

So Anan-ias went, and entered the house where Saul was staying, and said,

'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me to you, to pray that you will regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'

And when Anan-ias laid his hands on Saul to pray, immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes; and his sight was restored.

And Saul got up, and was baptised; and after taking some food, Saul regained his strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 1.9-13,17-19

A reading from the book of Revelation.

As your brother in Christ Jesus,

I, John, share with you, with patient endurance, through suffering and persecution, in the promise of God's kingdom.

I was in exile on the island of Patmos, for speaking openly of Jesus, and for preaching the word of God.

I was in the Spirit, on the Lord's day, and I heard, behind me, a loud voice, like a trumpet, saying: 'Write, in a book, what you see, and send it, to the seven churches of Asia.' I turned to see whose voice it was, that spoke to me.

And on turning, I saw seven golden lampstands;

and there, with them, one like the Son of Man, in a long robe, with a golden sash across his chest.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet, as though dead.

But he placed his right hand on me,

saying, 'Do not be afraid;

I am the first and the last, the living one.

I was dead, and see, I am alive for evermore;

and I hold the keys of death and the underworld.

Now write down all that you have seen,

all that is now, and all that is still to take place.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 20.19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

The disciples met together, on the evening of the first day of the week,

with the doors locked,

because they were afraid.

And Jesus came, and stood amongst them, and said, 'Peace be with you.'

He showed them his hands, and his side.

And the disciples were filled with joy at seeing the risen Lord.

Jesus said to them, 'Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

And breathing on them,

he said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone, they are forgiven.

If you fail to forgive, sin remains.'

Now one of the twelve, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them

when Jesus came.

When the other disciples told Thomas that they had seen the Lord,

Thomas said to them, 'Unless I see and touch

the marks

of the nails

in his hands,

and put my hand

in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later, Thomas was with the disciples when they gathered.

And again, though the doors were locked, Jesus came, and stood amongst them, and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Jesus said to Thomas, 'See and touch my hands, and place your hand in my side.

Do not doubt, but believe.'

Thomas replied, 'My Lord, and my God!'

Jesus said to Thomas, 'You have seen me,

and you have believed.

Blessed are those who do not see, and yet believe.'

Jesus did many other signs, in the presence

of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

But these are written

that you may believe

that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing, may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 9.19b-20,23,25-28

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After several days with the disciples in Damascus, Saul began to proclaim, in the synagogues there, that Jesus is the Son of God.

The leaders of the synagogues in Damascus began to plot against Saul, even to kill him,

but the disciples took Saul, by night, and let him down through an opening in the city wall, lowering him in a basket.

Saul returned to Jerusalem,

and there he attempted to join the disciples;

but they were all afraid of him,

for they did not believe that he was now a disciple.

So Barnabas took Saul to the apostles,

and described for them

how, on the road, Saul had seen the Lord, and the Lord had spoken to Saul,

and how, in Damascus,

Saul had spoken boldly, in the name of Jesus.

So Saul was accepted

by the disciples in Jerusalem.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 5.11-14

A reading from the book of Revelation.

As I looked, I heard the voices

of thousands of angels, all around the throne, and the four living creatures, and the elders, all singing in full voice:

'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive all wisdom, and power;

all glory, and honour, and praise!'

Then I heard

every creature, in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and in the sea,

singing to the one who was

seated on the throne,

and to the Lamb:

Blessing and honour and glory and power,

be yours for ever and ever!'

And the elders fell down and worshipped.

And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!'

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 21.1-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Some of the disciples gathered by the sea of Galilee: Simon Peter, Thomas the Twin,

Nathaniel, the sons of Zebedee, and two others.

Simon Peter decided to go fishing,

and the others went with him -

but all night, they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach;

but the disciples did not know

that it was Jesus.

Jesus asked them whether they had any fish, and they said 'no'.

He said to them, 'Cast your net

to the other side of the boat, and you will find some.'

So they cast it, and now they were not able

to haul it in, because there were so many fish.

'The disciple Jesus loved'

said to Simon Peter, 'It is the Lord!'

On hearing this, Peter jumped into the lake,

and headed towards the shore.

The other disciples followed in the boat,

dragging the net full of fish.

Going ashore, they saw

a charcoal fire, with fish on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them,

'Bring some of the fish

that you have caught.'

So Simon Peter went back to the boat,

and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish,

a hundred and fifty-three of them;

and even though

there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them,

'Come and have breakfast.'

None of the disciples doubted;

they knew it was the Lord.

Jesus took the bread, and gave it to them;

and then the fish.

This was now the third time

that Jesus appeared to the disciples

after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating,

Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John,

do you love me, more than these?'

Simon Peter said to Jesus, 'Yes, Lord;

you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.'

Then a second time, Jesus said to him, 'Simon,

son of John, do you love me?'

Simon Peter said to Jesus, 'Yes, Lord;

you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to him, 'Take care of my sheep.'

Then a third time, Jesus said to him, 'Simon,

son of John, do you love me?'

Peter was distressed that Jesus asked him

a third time, 'Do you love me'.

Peter replied to Jesus, 'Lord, you know everything;

you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to Peter, 'Feed my sheep.

Truly, I tell you,

when you were young,

you would fasten your own belt,

and go wherever you wished.

But when you are old,

you will stretch out your hands,

and someone else will fasten a belt around you

and take you

where you do not wish to go.'

(Jesus said this to indicate

the kind of death

by which Peter would glorify God.)

Then Jesus said to Simon Peter,

'Follow me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 11.19-23,25-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The disciples who fled

from the persecution in Jerusalem

travelled as far as Lebanon,

Syria, Antioch, and Cyprus,

preaching the word,

at first, only in the synagogues.

But amongst these disciples

were some who came originally

from Cyprus, and from North Africa.

On arriving in Antioch,

these disciples proclaimed the Lord Jesus

not only in the synagogues,

but also

amongst the wider population.

The hand of the Lord was with them,

and a great number became believers,

turning to the Lord.

News of this

reached

the church in Jerusalem;

and they sent Barnabas,

from Jerusalem, to Antioch,

to report back to them.

On arriving in Antioch,

Barnabas was delighted to see

the grace of God at work,

and Barnabas encouraged everyone in Antioch

to remain committed and faithful to the Lord.

Then Barnabas travelled on to

Tarsus,

to look for Saul.

And when Barnabas found Saul,

Barnabas brought Saul

back to Antioch.

And so it was, that for an entire year,

Barnabas and Saul

stayed with the church in Antioch,

and taught a great many people.

And it was in Antioch

that the disciples

were first called Christians.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 7.9-13a,14b-17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I looked,

and saw a great multitude,

that no one could count,

from every nation, tribe,

people, and language,

standing before the throne,

and before the Lamb.

robed in white,

waving palm branches,

and declaring, with one voice,

'Salvation belongs to our God,

and to the Lamb!'

The angels

around the throne

bowed down

and worshipped God,

singing, 'All blessing and honour,

all glory and power,

all majesty, virtue, wisdom and praise,

belong to our God for ever!'

One of the elders said, 'These, in white robes,

are the ones who have come out

of the great ordeal.

They have purified their robes

in the life-blood of the Lamb.

Now they are before

the throne of God,

serving continually in God's temple.

And God will protect them:

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

and they will hunger and thirst no more.

The Lamb, on the throne, will be their shepherd,

and will guide them

to the spring

of the water of life.

And God will wipe away

every tear from their eyes.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 10.22-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

It was the time of the winter festival

of Hanukkah,

and Jesus was in the temple.

The religious leaders gathered around Jesus,

and said to him, 'How long

will you keep us in suspense?

If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

Jesus said, 'I have told you already.

And you have seen

all that I do

in my Father's name.

And yet, still, you do not believe -

because you do not

belong to my sheep.

My sheep listen to my voice.

I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life,

and they will never perish.

No one will snatch them

out of my hand.

My all-powerful Father

has given them to me.

No one can snatch them

out of the Father's hand -

and I and the Father

are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 16.9-15a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

During the night, Paul had a vision

of someone standing

and pleading with him, saying,

'Come over to Macedonia, and help us.'

We immediately tried

to cross over

to Macedonia, convinced

that God had called us

to proclaim the gospel there.

We sailed direct from Troas

to the island of

Samo-thraki;

then the following day

to the coastal port

of Neapolis.

From there, we went inland

to Philippi, which is

the largest city

in Macedonia, and

a Roman colony;

and we remained there

for several days.

On the sabbath,

we went

out of the city,

to a place of prayer,

by the river,

and we sat down,

and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

Amongst them was Lydia,

a worshipper of God;

a dealer in purple cloth

from the city of Thya-tira.

The Lord opened

Lydia's heart

to receive

Paul's message.

She

and her entire household

were baptised.

And she invited us

to stay

at her home.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 21.1-7

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I saw

a new heaven, and a new earth;

for the first heaven, and the first earth,

had passed away.

And I saw the holy city,

the new Jerusalem,

coming down, out of heaven, from God,

prepared as perfectly

as a bride

adorned

for her husband.

And I heard

a loud voice, from the throne, saying,

'See, the home of God

is amongst mortals.

They will be my people,

and I will dwell amongst them.

I will wipe away

every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning

and crying and pain

will be no more.

See, I am making all things new.

Write this.

for these words

are trustworthy and true.

It is done!

I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty,

I will give water,

from the spring

of the water of life.

Those who conquer

will inherit these things,

and I will be their God,

and they will be my people.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 13.31a,33-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

As soon as Judas had left the supper,

legue said to his disciples:

Jesus said to his disciples:

'The time has come

for the Son of Man

to be glorified.

I will be with you

only a little longer;

and where I am going,

you cannot come.

And now I give you a new commandment:

that you love one another

as I have loved you.

It is by this

that all will know

that you are my disciples -

if you have love

for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 16.16-34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On one occasion, on our way to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who was possessed by a demon.

She brought her owners a significant income by fortune-telling, and casting spells.

She followed us around, crying out,

'These men are servants of God Most High!

They proclaim the way of salvation!'

This went on for many days,

until Paul, in exasperation, turned and said, 'I order you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of her;' and the spirit that had possessed her immediately left her.

When her owners saw

that their hope of making money was gone,

they seized Paul and Silas,

and dragged them into the market-place, and before the magistrates,

saying, 'These men are disturbing our city.

They are Hebrews, and they are promoting customs that are not lawful for us, to accept or to practice, as Roman citizens.'

The crowd joined in the protest, until the magistrates had Paul and Silas flogged, and imprisoned, ordering the jailer to keep them securely.

The jailer put Paul and Silas in the innermost cell, and fastened their feet in chains.

About midnight,

Paul and Silas were praying, and singing hymns, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and all the doors of the prison were opened, and everyone's chains came undone.

The jailer awoke,

and saw that the prison doors were wide open.

Assuming that the prisoners had escaped,

he drew his sword, and was about to kill himself.

But Paul shouted out,

'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'

The jailer called for lights, and rushed in,

falling down trembling before Paul and Silas.

Then he led Paul and Silas outside,

and asked them, 'What must I do to be saved?'

Paul and Silas answered, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you, and all your household.'

The jailer took Paul and Silas

to his house,

and washed their wounds, and set food before them.

And Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord to the jailer,

and to all who were in his household.

And the jailer, and all his household,

were baptised, that very night,

and were filled with joy

in their new faith.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 21.10,22-27; 22.1-2

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In the spirit, the angel carried me away

to a great high mountain,

and showed me the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down, out of heaven, from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty, and the Lamb, are themselves its temple.

The city has no need for light

from sun or moon,

for the glory of God

and the glory of the Lamb

are its light.

All nations will walk

by the light of that holy city.

The kings of the earth

will bring to that city

the glory and honour of all nations.

The gates of the city

will always be open by day

to receive those gifts of glory and honour -

and there will be no night.

There will be

no evil or falsehood there,

for the ones who enter will be

those whose names are written

in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me

the river

of the water of life, as bright as crystal,

flowing through

the centre of the city,

from the throne of God, and of the Lamb.

And by the river, I saw the tree of life,

with its fruit

for every month of the year,

and its leaves

for the healing of the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 14.23-27

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I speak only the words

of the Father who sent me.

Those who love me

will live by my words.

And my Father will love them,

and we will come to them,

and make our home with them.

I say these things

while I am still with you.

But the Father will send to you, in my name, the Holy Spirit, to be with you, who will

teach you all things, and remind you

of all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you - a peace that the world cannot give.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

and do not be afraid.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Ascension Day

First Reading - Acts 1.3-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After his suffering

and death,

Jesus

presented himself alive

to the apostles,

with many

convincing proofs,

appearing to them

during forty days,

and speaking

of the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to them,

'Do not

leave Jerusalem,

but wait here

for all that is promised

by the Father.

John baptised with water,

but you will be

baptised

with the Holy Spirit

not many days from now.'

The apostles

asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time

when you will restore

the kingdom of Israel?'

Jesus replied, 'You cannot know

every time or season

in the purposes

of the Father.

But you will receive power

when the Holy Spirit

comes upon you.

And you will be my witnesses

in Jerusalem, in all Judea,

in Samaria,

and to the ends of the earth.'

Then, as they were watching,

he was taken up,

and a cloud

hid him

from their sight.

And as they looked intently

into the sky,

two figures in white robes appeared,

saying, 'Men of Galilee,

why do you stand here

looking into the sky?

This Jesus

has been

taken up

from you

into heaven,

and will return

in the same way

you saw him go.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 1.17-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

The power of God

has raised Christ

from the dead,

to God's right hand on high,

far above all earthly powers -

above every other name,

in this world, or the next.

God has made Christ

the head of the church:

and has made the church

the body of Christ.

So now may your hearts be filled

with the same power of God, which is

the gift of God

to all who believe.

May your hearts be filled

with all the glorious riches

that God gives to you, and to all the saints;

and with confidence

for the future

to which God has called you.

And may the God of glory,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

give you a spirit of wisdom

and insight,

that you may continue to grow

in the knowledge of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 24.44-53

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus opened the minds of the disciples

to understand the scriptures, saying to them:

'Everything that is written about me,

in the law of Moses, in the prophets,

and in the psalms, must be fulfilled:

that the Messiah must suffer,

and rise from the dead on the third day;

and then repentance, and forgiveness,

will be proclaimed, to all nations,

in his name, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses to these things.

And now I am sending you

the gift that my Father promised;

so stay here in the city

until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out of Jerusalem

to Bethany,

and there, lifting up his hands,

he blessed them.

And while he was blessing them,

he withdrew from them,

and was taken up into heaven.

And they worshipped him.

They returned to Jerusalem

filled with joy.

And they were continually in the temple,

praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 17.16-34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On arriving in Athens, Paul was disturbed to find that the city was full of idols.

Daily, in both the synagogue and the market-place, he set out the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

Some of the philosophers accused him of speaking nonsense, or promoting foreign gods, but some wanted to hear more.

Indeed all those who gathered in Athens were keen to hear all that was new.

So Paul stood before them, and said,

'People of Athens,

I see how extremely religious you are, in every way; for as I walked through the city, and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found amongst them an altar with the inscription: "To an unknown god."

That which you worship as unknown,

I now proclaim to you.

The God who made the world, and everything in it, the Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in any shrine made by human hands, or depend (like your idols) on human care, but is the one who gives to us life, and breath, and all that we have.

From just one ancient ancestor,

God made all nations, to inhabit the whole earth, determining their various times and places in history;

so every nation equally can search for God,

reach out for God, and find God; and indeed God is not far away from any one of us.

For, as your own poets have said,

"we are all children of God," and "it is in God that we live, and move, and have our being".

As children of God, we should not think of God as an image,

in gold, or silver, or stone, created by human art or imagination!

God has graciously overlooked

the times of human ignorance, but God now calls upon

all people everywhere to repent.

And God has set the date

on which the world will be judged, in righteousness, by a human being God has appointed - and has raised from the dead, so that all may believe.'

Some now mocked, when Paul spoke of the resurrection of the dead.

But others said, 'We will hear you again, about this.'

And some followed Paul,

and became believers,

including

at least one member of the council, and a woman, named Damaris,

and others with them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I heard a voice from heaven, saying: 'See, I am coming soon, bringing my reward for each, according to their deeds.

I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Blessed are those who wash their robes, and enter the city by its gates, and find the tree of life.

I, Jesus, sent my angel to you

with this vision, and this message, for the churches.

I am both the root and the branch of David, and the bright morning star.

And now, the Spirit and the bride say, "Come". Let everyone who hears them say, "Come".

Let all who are thirsty

come to receive

the free gift

of the water of life.

See, I am coming soon.'

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

And may the grace of the Lord Jesus

be with all the saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 17.20-26

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven, and said, 'Father, I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word.

May they all be one.

As you live in me,

and I live in you,

may they live in us.

And through this, may the world come to believe that you sent me.

The glory that you gave to me, I have given to them.

May they be one, as we are one.

As I live in them, and you live in me,

may the world know

that you sent me,

and that you have loved them

as you have loved me.

Father, I pray also

that those you have given to me will continue to be with me,

to see the glory that you have given to me,

having loved me

since before the foundation of the world.

Most Holy Father,

the world does not know you,

but I know you:

and these know

that you have sent me.

I have made you known to them,

and I will continue to make you known to them,

so that the love, with which you have loved me,

may be in them, as I live in them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Pentecost

First Reading - Acts 2.1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples

were all together in one place,

when suddenly, all around them,

there was a sound

like the rush of a violent wind,

filling the entire house

where they were meeting.

Flames, or tongues of fire, appeared amongst them,

and rested on each of them.

And they were filled with the Holy Spirit,

and began to speak in many languages.

At this sound,

a crowd began to gather,

made up of Jewish believers who were

staying in Jerusalem -

from Asia and Arabia,

Egypt and North Africa,

Judea, Turkey, Syria,

Greece and the Balkans,

Crete, and Rome,

both Hebrews and converts.

They said, 'Surely, these who are speaking

are all from Galilee.

And yet we hear them

declaring the greatness of God,

each

in our own language.

What can this mean?'

But others mocked and said, 'They have had

too much wine.'

Peter, standing with the eleven,

raised his voice,

and addressed the crowd, saying:

'People of Judea,

and all who are here in Jerusalem:

these are not drunk, as you suppose,

for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No; this is what was spoken

through the prophet Joel,

when God declared: "In those days,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

The young will see visions,

your elders will dream dreams,

and your sons and your daughters

will receive and proclaim my word.

There will be wonders and signs

in the heavens, and on the earth:

blood, and fire, and clouds of smoke,

the sun turned to darkness

and the moon blood red,

before the coming

of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord

will be saved."

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.14-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now that you are led

by the spirit of God,

you are adopted

as children of God.

God receives you

not as slaves, to fall back into fear,

but as adopted children,

able to address God

as 'Abba' and 'Father'.

And being adopted

as children of God,

we inherit all things,

alongside Christ Jesus himself,

including

both his suffering

and his glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 14.8-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord,

show us the Father.'

Jesus said, 'Philip,

have I been with you, all this time,

and still, you do not know me?

Whoever has seen me

has seen the Father,

for I am in the Father,

and the Father is in me.

The words that I speak

are the words

of the Father

within me.

And now, those who

trust in me

will do all that I have done,

and more,

because I am returning

to the Father.

And I will do

whatever you ask

in my name;

and in this way also,

I will bring glory

to the Father.

And if you love me,

and live by all

that I have taught you,

I will ask the Father,

and he will send you

the Holy Spirit,

to be with you -

the Spirit of truth,

unknown to the world,

but known to you,

to be alongside you,

amongst you,

and within you.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Trinity Sunday

First Reading - Proverbs 8.1-3, 22-31 A reading from the book of Proverbs. Wisdom calls out. and Understanding raises her voice. On the hills, along the road, and at the meeting of the ways, she takes her stand. At the city gates, she declares: 'I was created as the first of the works of the Lord. Before the beginning of the earth, I was established. Before the mountains and the hills had been formed, before there were springs of water, before there was even dust upon the ground, Wisdom was brought forth. When the Lord established the heavens, I was there. When the Lord drew a circle on the face of the deep, made firm the skies above. and set the boundaries of the oceans. I was the skilled apprentice at the Master's side. I was daily the Lord's delight, rejoicing in the presence of the Lord, and rejoicing in the whole of creation, and the whole human race. So now, my children, hear me for blessed are those who walk in the ways of Wisdom. Hear my teaching, and be wise; do not refuse it. For those who lack wisdom do themselves harm, but blessed are those who learn Wisdom, attending every day to my teaching. To hate Wisdom is to love death but those who find Wisdom find life, and the favour of the Lord. This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 5.1-5 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. We have been reconciled with God, by faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now we stand, with joyful confidence, in the grace, and the peace, and the glory of God. We rejoice even in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces confidence. And we know that this confidence will not be disappointed because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is the word of the Lord. Gospel - John 16.12-15 Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Jesus said to his disciples: 'I still have many things to say to you more than you can know. But the Spirit of Truth will come to you, and guide you into all truth; honouring me, by taking what is mine, and making it known to you;

disclosing to you the things

that are to come.

All that the Father has

is mine;

and the Spirit of Truth

will take what is mine,

and make it known to you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 24 and 28 May (if after Trinity Sunday)

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 55.10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The rain and the snow

come down from heaven,

and do not return there

until they have watered the earth,

making it fruitful with grain,

producing bread to eat,

and new seed to sow.

In the same way, says the Lord,

the word that I speak

will not return to me

without accomplishing

all that I intend, and succeeding

in the purpose for which I sent it.

And where once

there were thorns and brambles,

tall and blossoming trees

will grow;

and this will be a memorial,

an everlasting sign,

to honour the name of the Lord.

And you will go out with joy,

and return in peace;

and the trees of the field

will clap their hands,

and the mountains and the hills

will break into song.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15.51b-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul

to the Corinthians.

Those of us who are still alive

when the last trumpet sounds

will not die, but will be transformed,

in that moment, in the blink of an eye.

The trumpet will sound,

and the dead will be raised,

and we will be changed,

as the mortal

is transformed

to immortality.

And the word of the prophet

will have been fulfilled,

for death itself will have been defeated:

'swallowed up in victory'.

The power of death

was in sin,

and the power of sin

was in the law.

But thanks be to God, who has defeated

all the powers of death,

and has won for us the victory,

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 6.39-49

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus taught them in parables,

saying, 'They are like

the blind

leading the blind.

The one who is learning

can do

no better

than the one who is teaching.

And the one who

completes their learning

will become

like their teacher.

You should not

be trying

to remove a speck

from someone else's eye

while you still have a log

in your own.

You know a tree

by its fruit:

you do not find figs

on a thorn bush,

or grapes

on a bramble;

a good tree

produces good fruit,

and a bad tree

produces bad fruit;

in the same way,

a good person

produces good words and deeds

from the goodness

stored up in their heart;

while a wicked person

produces wicked words and deeds

from the wickedness stored up in their heart.

And in the same way,

if you call me Lord,

you should surely act

on what I say;

for if you come to me,

and hear my words,

and act on them,

you are building a house on

deep foundations,

dug right down to the rock,

so that when the flood comes,

it will stand secure.

But those who hear my words,

and do not act

on what they hear -

they are building a house

without foundations.

and it will fall

when the floods

rise against it.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 29 May and 4 June (if after Trinity Sunday) Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - *1 Kings 8.41-43* A reading from the first book of Kings. From the prayer of Solomon,

at the dedication of the temple.

'People of other nations

will hear

of your great name, O Lord.

They will hear

of your mighty hand,

and your outstretched arm,

and they will come

to this temple to pray.

When people

of other nations

come to this temple,

hear their prayers,

in heaven, your dwelling-place, and answer them, O Lord,

so that your name will be known,

and you will be honoured,

not only in Israel,

but in all

the nations

of the earth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Galatians 1.1-5

A reading from the letter of Paul

to the Galatians.

From Paul, made an apostle

not by any human authority,

but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who

raised Christ from the dead.

And from all the members

of God's family, who are with me.

To the churches of Galatia,

in Asia Minor.

Grace to you, and peace,

from God our Father,

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ

gave himself up for us,

because of

our trespasses.

to rescue us

from the evils

of this present age,

fulfilling the will

of our God and Father.

Glory to God

for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Luke 7.2-10*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

A centurion's

most precious servant

had become ill;

and was close to death.

When the centurion

heard about Jesus,

he sent

some of the Jewish elders

to ask Jesus

to come and heal

his servant.

The elders

appealed to Jesus, saying,

'This centurion

is worthy

to have you

do this,

for he loves our people,

and built

our synagogue.'

Jesus went with them;

but as they approached the house,

the centurion sent out friends

to say to Jesus, on his behalf,

'Lord, do not trouble yourself;

for I am not worthy

to have you

come under my roof;

indeed

I did not

consider myself worthy

even to approach you;

but I know

that if you

only

say the word,

my servant

will be healed.

For I am under the authority of others,

and I also have soldiers under my authority,

such that

I only have to

say the word,

and it is done.'

When Jesus heard these words,

he was amazed.

and turning to the crowd that was following,

he said, 'I tell you,

not even

in all Israel

have I found

such faith as this.'

When the centurion's friends

returned to the house,

they found the servant

fully recovered, and in

good health.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 5 and 11 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 1 Kings 17.17-24

A reading from the first book of Kings.

There was a famine throughout the land,

and the prophet Elijah

was staying with a widow

at Sarepta, in Lebanon.

The son of the widow

became ill, with an illness so severe that there was no breath left in him.

The widow said to Elijah, 'What do you have against me?

Have you come to accuse me of sin,

and to punish me

with the death of my son?'

Elijah took her son from her arms,

carried him up to his room,

laid him down,

and cried out to the Lord,

saying, 'O Lord my God, must you bring

such adversity,

even upon the widow

in this house where I am staying,

by killing her son?'

And weeping upon

the body of her son,

Elijah cried out, three times, to the Lord:

'O Lord my God, let his life

return to him.'

And the Lord listened

to the voice of Elijah; and the life of the son

returned to him.

And Elijah took the son

down into the house,

and gave him to his mother,

saying, 'See, your son is alive.'

And the woman said to Elijah, 'Now I know

that you are a prophet of God,

and that the words you speak

are truly from the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Galatians 1.11-16,18,22-24

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

My brothers and sisters,

I received the gospel

that I now proclaim

not from any human source,

but by direct revelation

from Jesus Christ.

You will have heard

how I was once

so zealous

for the traditions

of my ancestors

that I was actively

persecuting

the church of God,

and seeking to destroy it.

But God had determined.

before I was even born,

that I was to proclaim, to all nations,

the good news

of the Son of God.

When, by God's grace,

the Son of God

was revealed to me,

I did not, at first, confer with anyone else.

It was only after three years

that I went up to Jerusalem, to visit Peter,

and stayed with him for fifteen days.

News spread to the churches of Judea

before I had even visited them,

and they gave glory and praise to God

when they heard

that I was no longer

persecuting the church,

but that I was, instead, proclaiming

the very faith

that I had once sought

to destroy.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 7.11-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus was approaching a town called Nain,

just south of Nazareth,

with his disciples, and a large crowd, following.

As they approached the town,

a funeral procession

was coming out

through the town gate,

with a large crowd

surrounding the mother

of the man who had died.

She was already a widow,

and she had no other son.

When the Lord saw her,

he had compassion for her,

and he said to her, 'Do not weep.'

Then he approached

the wooden frame

on which

the body was being carried,

and he touched it,

saying, 'Young man, I say to you, arise!'

And the one who had been dead

sat up,

and began to speak.

And Jesus presented him

to his mother.

All were astounded;

and they glorified God,

saying, 'God is with us',

and, 'A great prophet

has arisen amongst us.'

And the news about Jesus

spread throughout Judea

and all the surrounding country.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 12 and 18 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 2 Samuel 12.1-5,7-9,13a

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

The prophet Nathan said to king David,

'There were two men

in a city, one rich and one poor.

The rich man had many sheep and cattle,

but the poor man

had only one small lamb, which he had bought.

The poor man's only lamb

grew up alongside his own children,

eating and drinking

from the little that they had,

like another member of the family.

Now a traveller came to visit the rich man.

And the rich man did not take

any of his own sheep or cattle

to prepare, as a meal for the traveller,

but instead, took the poor man's lamb,

and prepared that, as a meal

for the guest who had come to him.'

On hearing this, David became angry

against the rich man,

and said to the prophet Nathan, 'As the Lord lives,

the man who has done this

deserves to die!'

And the prophet Nathan

said to David, 'You are that man!

And now the Lord, the God of Israel, says this:

I anointed you king over Israel,

and I rescued you from the hand of Saul;

I gave you your master's possessions, and household,

and the whole of Israel and Judah:

and if that had been too little,

I would have added as much again.

And yet you have despised the word of the Lord,

and done what is evil in the sight of the Lord!

For you have taken for yourself

the wife of Uriah the Hittite,

and you have had

Uriah himself

struck down and killed

by the sword of the enemy!'

And King David said to the prophet Nathan,

'I have sinned against the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Galatians 2.16,19-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

We know that we are reconciled to God

not by keeping the law,

but through faith in Jesus Christ.

Through the law, I died

to the law.

And now, instead, I can be fully alive

to God.

I have been crucified with Christ;

and it is no longer I who live,

but Christ who lives in me.

The life I now live in this body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who

loved me, and gave himself for me.

If reconciliation with God

could be achieved through the law.

then Christ would have died in vain -

but we know that reconciliation with God

is achieved, not by any law,

but by God's grace alone.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 7.36-50

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Simon the Pharisee invited Jesus to eat with him;

so Jesus entered the house

of Simon the Pharisee, and took a place at the table.

A notorious woman of that city

heard that Jesus was there,

and entered the house, bringing an alabaster jar

of fragrant oils.

She knelt at Jesus' feet, weeping,

and began to bathe his feet with her tears,

and to dry them with her hair.

She kissed his feet, and anointed them

with the perfume.

When Simon the Pharisee saw it, he said

to himself, 'If this man was a prophet,

he would know what kind of woman

this is, who is touching him.'

Jesus said to Simon the Pharisee,

'A money-lender had two clients, who could not pay.

One owed fifty coins. The other owed five hundred.

And he cancelled both their debts.

Which of them will love him more?'

Simon answered. I suppose the one who was

forgiven the greater debt.'

Jesus said to him, 'You are right.'

And turning towards the woman,

Jesus continued, 'When I entered your house,

you gave me no water, for my feet,

but this woman

has bathed my feet with her tears,

and dried them with her hair.

You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet.

You did not anoint my head with oil,

but she has anointed my feet with perfume.

Her many sins

have been forgiven, so she has shown great love.

But the one who has been forgiven less,

has shown less love!'

And he said to the woman,

'Your sins are forgiven.'

Those who were at the table with Jesus

began to say amongst themselves,

'Who is this, who even declares

the forgiveness of sin?'

And Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 19 and 25 June (if after Trinity Sunday)

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 65.2-5,8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I call out, even to a people

that does not call to me, says the Lord.

I hold out my hand to them, even though

they are a people in rebellion against me.

They walk in wicked ways; they provoke me continually, sacrificing in gardens, burning incense on bricks, dwelling amongst the tombs, eating forbidden foods, then claiming to be

so holy

that others

must not come near.

They irritate like smoke in my nostrils from a fire that burns all day long!

And yet, for the sake of the good that remains in them, I will not destroy them, says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Galatians 3.21,23-29

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians. The law can bring neither life, nor righteousness.

Yet the law served as our guardian, until the time when Christ came to reconcile us to God not by law, but by faith.

And now, we are no longer subject to the law as a guardian,

for by faith in Christ Jesus,

we are made children of God.

And indeed, all those who are baptised into Christ are equally adopted as children of God.

There is neither Hebrew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female;

for all are one in Christ Jesus.

And all become inheritors, together,

of the promises made

to Abraham.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 8.1-3,26-39

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus travelled on, through towns and villages, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.

Amongst those travelling with Jesus and the twelve were some women who had been healed, or freed from tormenting spirits.

The women included

Mary Magdalene, who had been

freed from seven demons,

and Joanna, who was the wife

of a leading member of Herod's court.

There was also Susanna;

and there were many others.

These women helped to provide for Jesus, and all the disciples,

out of their own resources.

Jesus and the disciples travelled by boat to the eastern side of the sea of Galilee.

As Jesus stepped ashore,

he was met

by a man from the city who was tormented by demons.

The man was kept under guard, and in chains,

but he would break out,

and live wild amongst the tombs.

When Jesus commanded

the unclean spirit

to come out of him.

the man fell down at Jesus' feet,

and shouted out, 'Why are you here, Jesus,

Son of God Most High?

I beg you, do not torment me!'

Jesus asked, 'What is your name?'

And the man replied,

'Legion';

for many demons had entered him;

and they begged Jesus

not to order them

into the abyss.

A large herd of pigs

was feeding on the hillside,

and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these instead,

and Jesus permitted them.

So the demons

came out of the man,

and entered

into the pigs.

And the entire herd

rushed down

the steep bank

into the lake.

and was drowned.

When those who were responsible for the pigs saw what had happened,

they fled,

telling everyone,

in the city,

and in the surrounding countryside,

what had happened.

When people came to see,

they found the man,

sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and calm.

Overcome with fear,

they asked Jesus to leave.

Jesus returned to the boat

in which he had arrived.

The man who had been freed from the demons begged to join those

travelling with Jesus,

but Jesus said, 'Return to your home,

and tell them there

and tell them there

of all that God has done for you.'

And he went and told, throughout the city, of all that Jesus had done for him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 26 June and 2 July

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 1 Kings 19.15a, 16b, 19-21

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord said to the prophet Elijah,

'You are to go

to the wilderness of Damascus,

to anoint Elisha to be my prophet, in your place.'

So Elijah travelled to the wilderness of Damascus,

and found Elisha, ploughing in a field,

with twelve pairs of oxen

working ahead of him.

Elijah walked past Elisha,

and as he did so, he threw his cloak over him.

Elisha left the oxen,

and ran after Elijah,

saying, 'Let me bid farewell

to my father and mother,

and then I will follow you.'

Elijah replied, 'Go back to them then.

I have done what I had to do.'

Returning to the field,

Elisha slaughtered the oxen, and used

the wooden equipment

to light a fire,

on which he cooked the oxen.

Elisha gave

the cooked meat

to the people,

and they ate.

Then Elisha

set out, and followed Elijah.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Galatians 5.17-25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

The works of the flesh,

in opposition to the spirit,

are hatred and conflict, jealousy and anger;

arguments, rivalries, and factions;

sexual immorality, drunkenness, idolatry,

sorcery, and excesses of all kinds.

I say again: those who live in this way

are not inheriting the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the spirit is

love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

There is no law

against

these fruits of the spirit -

so if you are truly led by the spirit,

you are not

subject

to any law!

Those who belong to Christ Jesus

have crucified the flesh,

with its passions and desires,

and live now,

not by the flesh, but by the spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 9.51-62

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The time was drawing near

for Jesus

to be lifted up.

and he set his face

towards Jerusalem.

He sent

messengers

ahead of him.

And the messengers

entered a village

in Samaria.

But the villagers

would not receive him,

because

his face was set

towards Jerusalem.

The disciples James and John

said, 'Lord,

do you want us

to call down

fire

from heaven

to destroy them?'

But Jesus turned and rebuked them,

and they went on

to another village.

As they were travelling along the road,

someone said to Jesus,

'I will follow you

wherever you go.'

Jesus said, 'Foxes have holes,

and birds have nests,

but the Son of Man

has nowhere

to lay his head.'

When Jesus called another

to follow him,

the reply was, 'Let me first go

and bury my father.'

But Jesus said, 'Let the dead

bury

their own dead;

you,

go and proclaim

the kingdom of God!'

Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord;

but let me first

bid farewell

to my household.'

Jesus said, 'If you put your hand to the plough,

and then look backwards,

you are not yet ready

for the kingdom of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 3 and 9 July

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 66.10-14a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Sing for joy with all Jerusalem!

All who love her, rejoice!

Mourn no longer,

for she will be great once again!

And you will be comforted,

like a child in a mother's embrace!

For the Lord will grant her

peace like a river,

and the glory of the nations!

As a mother comforts her child,

so the Lord will comfort you, in Jerusalem.

You will be carried on her arm,

and held in her lap.

When you see it,

your heart will rejoice,

and you will flourish like the tender grass.

And all who serve the Lord

will know

that the hand of the Lord

is with them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 1.3-4,9-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

We joyfully give thanks to God,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

whenever we pray for you,

for we have heard

of your great faith in Christ Jesus,

and the love that you have

for all the saints.

We pray that God will fill you

with the knowledge of God's will,

and with spiritual wisdom and understanding.

And we pray that God will fill you

with all of the glorious power of God:

with strength, and endurance,

with patience, and with perseverance

to lead lives which are worthy of the Lord,

and fully pleasing to the Lord,

so that you can bear fruit,

in every good work, as you grow

in the knowledge of God;

and so that

with us

you can

joyfully give thanks

to God the Father, who has

rescued us

from

the power of darkness

to dwell, forgiven,

with the saints, in light,

in the kingdom

of his beloved Son.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 10.1-11, 17-20, 23-24

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The Lord appointed seventy

to go ahead of him, in pairs, to every

town and place

where he himself

intended to go.

As he sent them on their way,

he said to them,

'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few -

so ask the Lord of the harvest

to send more workers for the harvest.

And yet I send you out

like lambs amongst wolves.

Carry no purse, no bag, no shoes, as you go.

Do not delay your journey

by greeting all those

you meet along the way.

When you enter a house,

offer a greeting of peace.

If your hosts

are people of peace,

your peace

will rest upon them -

and if they are not,

your peace

will return to you.

Remain in the same house, eating and drinking

whatever they provide,

for a worker

deserves to be paid.

When you enter a town, and they welcome you,

eat whatever they offer you,

heal the sick,

and say to them, "The kingdom of God

has come near to you."

When you enter a town, and they do not welcome you,

stand in their streets and say,

"We wipe the dust of this place off our feet

in protest against you.

But still know this: that the kingdom of God

has come near to you."

But the seventy returned with joy,

saying, 'Lord, even the demons obey

when we speak in your name.'

Jesus said, 'I watched Satan fall

like a flash of lightning; for I have given you authority

over all the power of the enemy,

and nothing can harm you.

But the greatest joy

is this: that your names

are written in heaven.

And blessed are the eyes

that see

what you see.

For prophets and kings

longed to see

what you now see,

and to hear

what you now hear.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 10 and 16 July

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 30.10-14

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Return to the Lord your God,

with all your heart,

and with all your soul.

Trust in the Lord your God,

and observe the commandments and decrees

that are written

in this book of the law.

The commandment of the Lord

that I bring to you, today,

is not

too hard for you.

Neither is it

too far away,

as though you would

need someone

to cross the ocean, or go up to heaven,

to bring it to you.

No, for the commandment of the Lord

is very near to you;

it is already

on your lips, and in your heart.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 1.15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image

of the invisible God;

and the firstborn

from before all creation.

In Christ,

all things were created,

both in heaven

and on earth,

both the visible

and the invisible (by which we mean

dominions, authorities, and powers).

All things were created

through Christ,

and for Christ.

Christ existed

before all things;

and now it is in Christ

that all things

hold together.

Christ is then also

the head of the body

which is the church;

its beginning,

as the firstborn from the dead.

Christ has first place

in everything.

And so it is, that in Christ,

all things.

in heaven and on earth,

can be reconciled, and at peace,

through the sacrifice of the cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 10.25-37

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do

to receive eternal life?'

Jesus said to him, 'What is written in the law?

And what is your understanding of it?'

The lawyer answered, 'You shall love

the Lord your God, with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind,

and with all your strength.

And you shall love your neighbour

as yourself.'

Jesus said to him, 'You have given a good answer.

Do this, and you will live.'

Still wanting to justify himself,

the lawyer asked Jesus, 'But who is my neighbour?'

Jesus replied,

'A man was travelling on the road

from Jerusalem to Jericho,

when he was set upon

by robbers, who took everything he had,

and beat him, and left him for dead.

Now by chance, a priest

was going down the same road;

and when the priest saw the wounded man,

he passed by on the other side.

In the same way, a Levite

came to the place, and seeing the wounded man,

he also passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, travelling that way,

saw the wounded man,

and was moved with pity.

The Samaritan

went to the wounded man,

and poured oil and wine

on his wounds,

and bandaged them.

Then the Samaritan

put the wounded man

on his own horse,

brought him to an inn,

and took care of him.

The next day, the Samaritan took out

two silver coins,

and gave them to the innkeeper,

saying, "Take care of him;

and whatever more you spend,

I will pay you

when I return."

Which of these three, do you think,

was a neighbour,

to the man who was set upon

by the robbers?'

The lawyer said,

'The one who showed him mercy.'

Jesus said to the lawyer,

'Go and do likewise.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 17 and 23 July Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 18.1-10a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

This is how the Lord appeared to Abraham at Hebron.

As Abraham sat

at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day,

he looked up

and saw three figures standing near by.

He ran to them,

and bowed down,

saying, 'My Lord,

if I have found favour in your sight,

do not pass by,

but rest here

in the shade,

and let me bring water

to wash your feet,

and bread,

that you may eat,

and be restored,

before you continue

on your way.'

Abraham hurried back to the tent,

and asked Sarah

to prepare three measures

of the finest flour,

and knead it quickly

to make bread.

He went out

to the cattle,

and took the best calf,

and gave it to the servant,

to prepare it.

Then he took butter,

and milk,

and the meat of the calf,

and set it before the three visitors.

And he stood by them,

in the shade of the tree,

while they ate.

They said to Abraham,

'Where is Sarah, your wife?'

Abraham said, 'She is there,

in the tent.'

And one of them said,

'I will surely return to you

when the time is right,

and Sarah, your wife,

will have a son.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 2.12-14, 3.1-2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Once, we were dead

in our trespasses.

But now, we have been raised up

to new life in Christ.

All our trespasses are forgiven;

the account that stood against us

has been erased:

all of its demands have been

nailed to the cross.

In our baptism, first we were

buried with Christ;

then, we were raised up

to new life with Christ;

and all this

through our faith in the power of God, who

raised Christ from the dead.

So now that we have been raised up

to new life in Christ,

let us set our minds no longer

on the things of earth,

but on the things of heaven, where

the risen Christ

is in the presence of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 10.38-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus and his disciples

entered a village

as they continued on their way.

In that village, a woman called Martha

welcomed Jesus into her home.

Martha had a sister called Mary,

and Mary sat at the Lord's feet,

listening

to his words.

But Martha was distracted

by her many tasks;

and she said to Jesus, 'Lord,

do you not care

that my sister

has left me

to do all the work

by myself?

Tell her

that she is

to help me!'

But the Lord answered her, 'Martha,

you are anxious

and distracted

by many things,

but there is need

of only one.

Mary has chosen

that one good thing,

and it will not

be taken away from her.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 24 and 30 July Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 18.23-32

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Abraham approached the Lord and said, 'Will the Lord destroy the righteous

along with the wicked?

If there are fifty righteous in the city, will the Lord destroy the whole city, including the fifty righteous

within it?

Surely the Lord will not

do such a thing,

to slay the righteous

along with the wicked.

Surely the Judge of all the earth

will do what is right.'

And the Lord said, 'If I find fifty righteous

in the city,

I will spare the whole city

for their sake.'

Abraham said,

'Let me dare to speak again to the Lord, even though I am but dust and ashes.

If there are only forty-five righteous in the city,

will the Lord destroy the city

for the lack of five?'

And the Lord said, 'I will not

destroy the city,

if I find forty-five righteous there.'

Again, Abraham spoke to the Lord, for forty,

and thirty, and twenty, righteous.

And Abraham said, 'Oh do not

let the Lord be angry,

if I speak one more time.

If only ten righteous are found,

will the Lord destroy the city?'

And the Lord answered, 'For the sake of ten

righteous, I will not

destroy the city.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 3.12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

You are now

God's chosen ones,

holy, and loved by God.

So clothe yourselves

with compassion, and kindness;

and with humility, gentleness, and patience.

Be gentle with one another.

And if any one amongst you

has a complaint against another,

forgive one another,

as the Lord has forgiven you.

Above all, let there be love, which is

the bond of perfect unity.

And let the peace of Christ

rule in your hearts,

for to this we are called,

as one body in Christ.

Let the word of Christ dwell richly within you, so that in wisdom

you may teach and encourage one another.

And with grateful hearts, sing to God

with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

And whatever you do, in word or deed,

do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,

always giving thanks to God the Father

through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 11.1-13

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

One of the disciples

said to Jesus, 'Lord,

teach us to pray,

as John

taught his disciples.'

Jesus said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, holy is your name;

may your kingdom come.

Give us, each day, our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we ourselves forgive

everyone who trespasses against us.

And do not bring us

to the time of trial.'

Then he said to them, 'If you go to a friend,

at midnight, saying, "Lend me some bread,

for a guest has arrived,

and I have nothing prepared,"

your friend may answer, from within,

"Do not bother me;

for the door is locked, and we are all in bed."

But I tell you, while your friend may not

get up and give you anything

because of your friendship,

eventually, because of your persistence,

your friend will get up and give you

whatever you need.

So I say to you:

ask, and it will be given;

search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened.

For everyone who asks receives,

and everyone who searches finds,

and for everyone who knocks,

the door will be opened.

If your child asks

for a fish, or an egg,

you do not

give a snake, or a scorpion.

Even the wicked

know how to give

good gifts

to their children.

How much more

will our heavenly Father

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

give the Holy Spirit

to those who ask!'

Sunday between 31 July and 6 August

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Ecclesiastes 1.12-14; 2.18-26a

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

When I, the Teacher,

was king, over Israel, in Jerusalem,

I applied my mind

to understand, by wisdom,

all that is done

under heaven.

I saw all the deeds that are done

under the sun.

And look, this is what I saw: that it is

a tiresome burden

that God has given

to occupy humankind;

that all of it

is vanity,

like chasing after the wind.

I came to despise

all that I had done,

and all that I had laboured to achieve,

seeing that I must leave it all

to those who come after me.

not knowing

whether they will be

wise, or foolish.

Yet they will be master

over everything

for which I laboured -

everything to which

I applied my wisdom.

So I gave up my heart to despair

concerning all my work,

because even one who has laboured

with wisdom, and knowledge, and skill,

must leave it all

to be enjoyed

by another, who did not work for it;

and this is a great injustice.

For mortals gain nothing

for all their labour under the sun.

Their days are full of pain,

and each task is a burden.

Even at night,

their minds do not rest.

But then I saw this,

from the hand of God:

that there is nothing better for mortals

than to eat, and drink,

and find enjoyment in their work;

for no mortal

can eat.

or drink, or find joy,

without God.

And while the sinner labours

to store up wealth

that will only be taken away,

to the one who pleases God, God gives

wisdom, and knowledge, and joy.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 10.32-36

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

When you first received the light of Christ,

you endured great suffering,

with public slanders, and persecutions.

And you supported

those who were suffering in the same way.

You had compassion

on those who were in prison.

And you cheerfully accepted

the loss of your possessions,

knowing that you have

a greater possession

that does not pass away.

Never let go

of that faith and confidence,

for it holds a great reward.

And then, when you have persevered

in doing the will of God, you will receive

all that God has promised.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 12.13-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Someone in the crowd

said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide his inheritance with me.'

But Jesus said, 'Watch out,

and be on your guard,

against every kind of jealousy and greed!

For the richness of your life

is not found

in the quantity

of your worldly possessions!'

And Jesus told them this parable.

'After another great harvest,

a wealthy land-owner

said to himself,

"I have run out of space

to store all my crops.

I will have to

pull down my barns,

and build larger ones,

to store all my grain,

and all my possessions.

Then, having enough

to last many years,

I will relax,

eat, drink, and be merry."

But God said

to him, "You fool!

This very night, your life

is being taken from you.

And all the things you have acquired -

whose will they be?"

And Jesus said to them, 'This is how it will be

for those who store up

treasure for themselves on earth,

but in God's eyes

have no riches at all.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 7 and 13 August
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 12.1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, 'You are to leave your country, your people, and your father's house,

and go to the land

that I will show you.

And I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you.

I will make your name great,

and you will be a blessing to many.

I will bless

those who bless you.

and I will rebuke

those who dishonour you.

And in you,

all the nations of the earth

will be blessed.'

So Abram set out.

as the Lord had directed.

And Abram departed from Haran,

with his wife Sara,

and his nephew Lot,

and all their household,

and all their possessions,

as the Lord had directed.

They came to the land of Canaan;

and they passed through the land,

and its people,

to a great oak, in the centre of the land.

There, the Lord appeared to Abram,

saying, 'To your offspring,

I will give this land.'

And Abram built an altar there,

to the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 11.1, 8-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Faith

is the assurance of things hoped for; and confidence, in things not yet seen.

It was by faith

that Abraham trusted, and obeyed,

when he was called to set out to a place

that would become his inheritance.

It was by faith

that he set out

before he even knew the destination.

It was by faith

that he lived there,

like a stranger in a foreign land,

without any settled home;

as did Isaac, and Jacob, after him.

For by faith,

they could look forward, in confident expectation,

to the city with a sure foundation,

designed and built by God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 12.22-34

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples,

'Do not worry

about what you will eat,

or what you will wear,

for life is more than food,

and the body is more than clothing.

Look at the birds:

they do not plant

or harvest;

they have no storehouse, or barn,

and yet God feeds them.

And you are more valuable

than the birds.

Look at the wild flowers,

how they grow:

they do not

weave or sew,

and yet

not even Solomon

in all his glory

was clothed

as finely as these.

If this is how

God clothes

the grass, which is alive today,

and dried up tomorrow,

then how much more

will God clothe you!

So have faith!

Do not worry, as others do,

about what you will eat,

or what you will drink.

Worrving

will not add

a single hour

to your span of life.

And your heavenly Father knows

that you need these things.

So work instead

for the kingdom of God,

and all these other things

will be given to you

as well.

Do not be afraid,

for your Father longs

to give you

the kingdom.

So sell what you have,

and give

to those in need.

Store up your treasure in heaven,

where nothing decays,

and no thief

can come near.

And where your treasure is,

there

your heart will be

also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 14 and 20 August

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 23.25-29

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

I have heard

the false prophets, who speak

lies and delusions

in my name,

says the Lord.

Like those who went before them,

they make my people

forget my name,

by the lies

that they tell

one another.

Let the prophets who have delusions

tell their delusions -

but let the prophets who have my word

proclaim it with confidence.

They differ

like straw

from grain,

for my word

is like fire.

or like a hammer

that breaks a rock

into pieces,

says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 12.1-3

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Inspired by these people of great faith,

from every generation,

let us run with perseverance

the race that is now set before us,

throwing off

every burden

that would hold us back,

and looking to Jesus,

the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Confident in the greater joy

that lay beyond,

Jesus endured the cross,

disregarding its shame.

And now he is seated in glory,

at the right hand of God.

May his patient endurance

of such hostility from sinners

be our inspiration,

that we may never

grow weary

or lose heart.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 12.49-56

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I have come

to bring fire

to the earth,

and how I long

to see it burning.

I have a baptism

to undergo,

and I am distressed

until

it is completed.

You think

that I have come

to bring peace

to the earth.

But I tell you -

not peace

but division.

Even households

will be divided,

three

against two,

and two

against three;

father

against son,

mother

against daughter,

members

of the household

against

each other.

When you see

clouds

in the west,

you know

that

rain

is on its way.

And when you see

wind

from the south,

you know

there

will be

scorching heat.

You know

how to interpret

the appearance

of earth

and sky,

and yet you do not know

how to interpret

this present time!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 21 and 27 August

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 58.9-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

If you remove the heavy burdens

from the weary amongst you,

if you offer food to the hungry,

and address the needs

of those who are suffering,

and if you refrain from pointing the finger

and speaking wickedness,

then

your light

will rise in the darkness,

your gloom

will become

like the brightness

of the midday sun,

and when you cry for help,

the Lord will answer.

Then the Lord will guide you,

provide for you, and strengthen you.

Then you will flourish

like a garden, by a stream that never runs dry.

Then you will rebuild the city from its ruins,

restoring its walls

and its homes.

If you honour the sabbath,

and call the Lord's day

a delight,

not trampling its dignity

by serving your own interests,

or pursuing your own affairs,

then

you will find your joy in the Lord,

and in all the gifts

that the Lord has given.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 12.22-24,28-29

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

We come now

to Mount Zion,

the city of the living God,

the heavenly Jerusalem.

We come to the place

where angels, beyond number, gather to rejoice;

the place where those who have gone before us are welcomed into heaven.

and the spirits of the righteous

are made perfect.

We come to God, the judge of all;

and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant;

and to redemption by his blood.

As we enter now

into a kingdom

that cannot be shaken,

let us offer our worship

with thanksgiving, reverence, and even holy fear,

for our God is still 'a consuming fire'.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 13.10-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus was teaching

in one of the synagogues

on the sabbath.

A woman was there, who had suffered

a disabling weakness

for eighteen years.

She was bent over, unable

to stand upright.

Jesus saw her, and spoke to her,

saying, 'You are set free

from your illness.'

As he spoke,

he laid a hand upon her;

and immediately,

she stood fully upright;

and she began

praising and glorifying God.

But the leader of the synagogue

was indignant

because Jesus had healed her

on the sabbath.

The leader of the synagogue

said to the crowd,

'There are six days

on which work should be done.

Let healing be done

on those days,

not on the sabbath.'

But the Lord answered him,

saying, 'You hypocrite!

Every one of you, on the sabbath,

would untie your donkey,

and lead it to water.

This woman

is a daughter of Abraham,

kept bound

by Satan

for eighteen years.

And you would refuse to release her,

just because

it is the sabbath!'

All his opponents

were put to shame

by these words.

And the entire crowd

was rejoicing

at the wonderful things

that he was doing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 28 August and 3 September

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 16.9-12

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Seven weeks after the first cut of the harvest,

you are to keep a festival to the Lord your God.

From the bounty of your harvest,

you are to make

a free-will offering,

and celebrate.

in the presence of the Lord,

with your sons and daughters,

and your servants,

and the Levites in your towns,

and also the foreigners,

and the orphans.

and the widows, who are amongst you.

You are all to celebrate together

in the place

that the Lord your God

will choose

as a dwelling for God's holy name.

You must carefully

observe these commands,

for you must never forget

that you were once, yourselves,

in slavery, in Egypt.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 13.1-9a,15-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Keep on loving one another

as brothers and sisters in Christ.

And show hospitality

to whoever comes to you,

for by doing this, some have hosted

angels, without knowing it.

Remember those who are in prison,

as though you were

in prison alongside them.

Remember all who are

mistreated, as though you yourself

were suffering with them, as one body.

Let marriage be held in honour

by all.

Keep your lives free

from the love of money.

Find contentment

in what you have.

For God has said, 'I will never

leave you, nor forsake you.'

So we can say with confidence:

'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.'

Remember the leaders who

first brought

the word of God to you,

and the good

that they achieved

by their way of living,

and follow their example of faith.

Do not be led astray

by every new idea,

for Jesus Christ is the same

yesterday, today, and for ever.

And now. let us be

continually

offering to God, through Christ,

worthy and acceptable sacrifices

of both words and deeds,

by praise and proclamation of God's name,

and by doing good works - including

sharing all that we have.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 14.1,7-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

One sabbath day, Jesus was dining

in the house

of one of the leaders of the Pharisees.

He saw

how the guests

chose the places of honour,

and he told them this parable.

'When you are invited

to a wedding feast,

do not sit down

straight away

at the highest table,

for you may then be told

to give up that place

to another guest,

and the only place left

might be

the furthest away.

But go and sit first

in a humble place,

and your host

might say, "Friend, come up and sit closer,"

and in this way, you will be honoured

in front of all the other guests.

For those who place themselves

above others

will be brought down.

But those who choose to be humble

will be lifted up.'

And to the one who had

invited him, Jesus said:

'When you host a meal,

do not invite your friends, or your relatives,

or your wealthy neighbours,

for they will invite you

in return, and you will be repaid.

But when you host a banquet,

invite the poor, and the weak,

the lame, and the blind:

and you will be blessed, because

they cannot repay you.

And you will be repaid

at the resurrection

of the righteous.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 4 and 10 September

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 30.15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy. Today I set before you

life and prosperity,

or death and adversity.

If you love the Lord your God,

and keep the commandments of the Lord your God,

you will live, and become numerous,

and the Lord your God will bless you,

in the land that you are entering to possess.

But if your heart turns away,

and you do not

hear and receive these words,

but instead

allow yourselves

to be led astray,

to bow down to other gods, and serve them,

I declare today

that you will perish;

that you will not

live long

in the land that you are crossing the Jordan

to enter and possess.

I call on heaven and earth

to serve as witnesses today,

as I set before you the choice of

life or death, of

blessing or adversity.

Now choose life,

for yourselves, and your descendants,

by loving, trusting, and holding fast

to the Lord your God.

For the Lord is your life.

And so may you

live long

in the land

that the Lord promised to your ancestors -

to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philemon 10,12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.

I am writing to appeal to you

regarding Onesimus, who has

become like a son to me

during my imprisonment.

In sending him back to you,

I am sending my own heart.

vantad ta kaan bina with ma

I wanted to keep him with me,

so that he could be of service to me,

while I remain in chains for the gospel;

but I preferred

not to make

any such decision

without your consent,

so that your goodness

could be voluntary,

and not imposed upon you.

Perhaps Onesimus was even

separated from you

so that you could receive him back

for ever:

for a while

and receive him back

no longer as a servant,

but as a dear brother,

both as a fellow human being,

and as a brother in the Lord.

As he has been very dear

to me.

may he now be

even more dear

to you.

I ask you to welcome him

as you would welcome me.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 14.25-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Large crowds

were now following Jesus.

He turned

and said to them,

'If you come to me,

to be my disciple,

you must be ready

to give up

all that you have;

ready

to forsake

your father and mother,

your husband or wife, your children,

your brothers and sisters,

even life itself;

ready

to carry your cross,

and follow me.'

And he told them

two parables.

'Before you start to build a tower,

you must work out

whether you can afford to complete it;

for if you abandon it, incomplete,

all who see it

will mock.

And a king

will not go to war

if his army is unprepared

for the forces of the enemy;

instead, he will send

a delegation

to ask the terms for peace.

In the same way, you cannot

become my disciple

unless you are ready

to give up

all that you have.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 11 and 17 September

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Exodus 32.7-8,10-11,13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus. At the top of Mount Sinai,

the Lord said to Moses, 'Go down

at once

to your people,

the people you brought

out of Egypt,

for they have corrupted themselves.

They have already turned aside

from the way that I commanded them.

They have made for themselves

an image

of a calf;

and they have worshipped it,

and made sacrifices to it.

They have even declared

that this is the god who

brought them out of Egypt.

Now let my anger

burn hot against them

to destroy them.

And from you alone

I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God,

saying, 'O Lord,

do not let vour anger

burn hot against your people,

the people you brought out of Egypt

with great power

and with your own

mighty hand.

Remember your promise

to your servants

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

that you would multiply their descendants

like the stars of heaven,

and give them this land

as their inheritance.'

And the Lord heard

Moses' plea,

and drew back

from anger

at the rebellion of the people.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 1.12-17

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

I give thanks

to Jesus Christ our Lord

for showing the utmost patience

in strengthening me, raising me up,

and appointing me into his service;

and so demonstrating in me, the worst of all sinners, the truth I now proclaim,

that it might be heard and received, in every nation:

that Christ Jesus

came into the world

to save sinners.

For in my ignorance and unbelief,

I was surely

the worst of all sinners,

persecuting,

slandering, and abusing the church.

But the saving mercy and grace of our Lord

overflowed for me

even more.

that with the faith

and love

that are in Christ Jesus,

I myself

might be an example

of God's saving mercy and grace

for all who will come to believe

in Christ Jesus

for eternal life.

To the King

of the ages,

immortal, invisible, the only God,

be honour and glory for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 15.1-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus were collectors of the Roman taxes, and other notorious sinners.

Jesus welcomed them.

and would even sit and eat with them.

For this, the Pharisees and the scribes complained

against Jesus.

So Jesus told them this parable:

'If you have a hundred sheep, and lose one,

you surely leave

the ninety-nine, feeding in the pasture,

and go searching

for the one that is lost.

And when you find it, you carry it home, and you call your friends and neighbours,

"Come, celebrate with me!

I have found the sheep that was lost!"

In the same way,

there is more joy in heaven

over one sinner who repents,

than over ninety-nine righteous, who need no repentance.

And if a woman has ten silver coins, and loses one, she lights a lamp,

sweeps the house, and searches until she finds it.

Then she calls her friends and neighbours, "Come, celebrate with me!

I have found the silver coin that was lost."

In the same way,

when one sinner repents,

all the angels of God rejoice.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 18 and 24 September	Gospel - Luke 16.1-13
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
	according to Luke.
First Reading - Amos 8.4-7	Jesus said, 'A rich man's manager
A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.	was accused
Hear this,	of wasteful spending.
you that trample	So the rich man told the manager
on the needy,	to finalise his accounts, and leave.
and bring the poor of the land	The manager said to himself, "What can I do,
to ruin!	now that my master
You long	is dismissing me?
for the new moon holiday	I am too weak to dig,
to be over,	and too ashamed to beg."
you long	So the manager devised a plan,
for the sabbath	to ensure that when he left his employment,
to end,	people would welcome him
so that you can return	into their homes.
to trading	He summoned his master's debtors, one by one,
in wheat and grain,	and asked them how much they owed.
with your dishonest	One owed a hundred sacks of wheat;
balances, measures, and weights,	the manager told him
and the chaff	to sit down, take his account, and quickly
still in	change it to eighty.
with the wheat.	Another owed a hundred jugs of oil;
With your silver	the manager told him to take his account,
you buy the poor;	and change it to fifty.
and you enslave the needy	And the rich man
for a single pair of shoes.	was actually impressed
The Lord has sworn,	to see just how expertly
by the honour of Jacob: I will not	the dishonest manager
forget your deeds.	could work
This is the word of the Lord.	to protect his own interests.
This is the word of the Lord.	For the children of this age
Second Reading - 1 Timothy 2.1-7	are more expert
A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.	than the children of light
Pray,	in dealing
and give thanks,	with their own generation!
for everyone;	So I tell you,
including kings,	use your worldly wealth
and all in authority;	to make friends for yourselves,
that there may be peace,	so that
so that we can live	you have
with godliness,	friends who will
and dignity.	welcome you
For God our Saviour	into their homes
longs for everyone	when all your worldly wealth
to be saved,	is gone.
and to know this truth -	Now only
the truth I was called to proclaim	those who do what is right
to all nations	with minor things
	will be trusted
as an apostle - that there is	
	with greater things.
one God, and there is	So do what is right with your worldly wealth,
	and you will be entrusted with true riches.
one mediator	Do what is right for others,
between God and humankind -	and they will do what is right for you.
Christ Jesus,	You cannot serve two masters,
himself human, who gave himself as a ransom for all.	for you will love one, and hate the other:
	you cannot serve
This is the word of the Lord.	both God
	and worldly wealth.'
	This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Year C ssra.uk

Sunday between 25 September and 1 October Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Amos 6.1,4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Leaders of the nation -

all of Israel looks to you!

In Jerusalem you take your rest;

in Samaria you feel secure.

You lounge

on your couches

made of ivory.

You feast

on veal and lamb.

You make music,

and sing your idle songs.

You anoint yourselves with oil,

and drink wine by the bowl.

And you are unmoved

by the destruction

that has come upon

the tribes of the north.

So hear this, you leaders of the nation:

vour revelry

will end

when you are

the first

to be taken away into exile!

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 6.6-12a,17-19

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

We brought nothing into the world,

and we take nothing out.

So if we have food, and clothing, let us be

content with that.

For true riches are to be found

in godliness

combined with

contentment.

Those who long to be rich in this world

fall into temptation,

and are trapped

by many foolish and harmful desires

that plunge them

into ruin and destruction.

The love of worldly wealth

is the root

of all manner

of evil:

pulling people

away from the faith,

and repeatedly causing them

pain and distress.

So flee from all this,

and instead

seek righteousness, godliness,

faith, love,

patience, and gentleness.

Work always to be strong in the faith,

holding fast to the eternal life

to which you are called.

As for those of you who are

wealthy

in this present age:

do not be arrogant,

and do not look for security

in the uncertainty of riches;

but find your security in God,

for it is God who richly provides us

with all things

to enjoy.

By generosity, and sharing,

be rich in good works;

and from this foundation, hold fast

to the life

that is truly life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 16.13b-15,19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The Pharisees loved their worldly riches.

They mocked Jesus, when they heard him say

that you cannot serve

both God and worldly wealth.

Jesus said to them, 'You make yourselves

look righteous to others,

but God sees your heart;

and the things that you value, God despises.

And he told them this parable.

'There was a rich man,

dressed in purple, and fine linen,

feasting, and living in luxury, every day.

At his gate lay a poor man, called Lazarus,

hungry, and ready to eat whatever scraps

fell from the rich man's table;

and the dogs would come, and lick his sores.

Now the poor man died, and was carried away by the angels, to be with Abraham.

The rich man also died, and was buried;

and from his great suffering, in the place of the dead,

he looked up, and saw Abraham, far away,

and Lazarus at his side;

and he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me!

I beg you, send Lazarus, to dip

the tip of his finger in water, to cool my tongue;

for I am in agony in these flames!"

But Abraham said, "My son, you received good things in your life, while Lazarus knew only suffering.

in your me, write Lazarus knew only suitering.

And now, he is comforted here, while you suffer.

And a deep chasm lies between there and here, that no one can cross."

He replied, "Then I beg you, send Lazarus to warn my five brothers, so that they will not

come to this place of torment."

Abraham said, "They have Moses, and the prophets. They should listen to them."

He replied, "But father Abraham, they will listen if someone is sent to them from the dead."

But Abraham said, "If they do not listen

to Moses and the prophets, they will not believe even if someone rises from the dead."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 2 and 8 October

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Habakkuk 1.2-4; 2.2-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Habakkuk.

I cried out to the Lord,

'How long, O Lord,

must I cry to you

for help?

All around, there is destruction,

violence, conflict, and distress.

Justice and law have broken down,

and the wicked

overpower the righteous.'

And the Lord answered me, saying,

'Write this message

in letters so large

that even a runner can see:

"Keep the faith!

For there will be justice at the appointed time.

The arrogant, and the powerful, will fall.

But the righteous, and the faithful, will live!"

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 1.1-14

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy. From Paul,

by God's grace, an apostle,

proclaiming the promise of life in Christ Jesus.

To Timothy.

Grace, mercy, and peace to you,

from God our Father

and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Timothy, you are like a son to me,

and I give thanks to God,

as I remember you always, in my prayers,

recalling

the tears that you shed

as we parted,

and longing

for the joy

of seeing you again.

I give thanks to God

for your sincere faith -

the faith

that lived first

in your grandmother Lois,

and your mother Eunice,

and now, I know, lives in you.

Keep the flame

of the gift of God

burning brightly within you -

the gift that you received when I was with you, when I commissioned you to God's service.

For God did not give us

a spirit of cowardice.

but a spirit of power, endurance, and love.

So do not be ashamed

to speak

of our salvation in Christ,

And do not be ashamed

of me, a prisoner for Christ.

But be ready to suffer with me, for the sake of the gospel,

trusting

in the power of God.

For God saved us, and called us

to new life in Christ,

not because of anything we had done,

but by God's grace -

and for God's purposes.

This grace of God

was established in Christ Jesus

before the foundation of the world.

It is by this grace of God

that our Saviour Jesus Christ

has broken the power of death

and shown us

the way to eternal life.

It is for this message of God's grace

that I was appointed apostle, and teacher.

And it is for this message of God's grace

that I also suffer many trials.

But I have nothing to fear,

for I know

that the one I trust

will protect me

to the very end.

So hold fast

to all that you learned from me.

Hold fast to the faith and love

that you know in Christ Jesus.

And by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us,

treasure the gift that you have received.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 17.5-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'

And the Lord said to them, 'If you had faith

the size of a mustard seed,

you could tell this tree

to go and plant itself

in the middle of the sea,

and it would be done.'

And the Lord said to them,

'When a servant comes in,

from ploughing the field, or tending the sheep,

he does not sit down to eat

with his master.

but at his master's command,

he prepares and serves

his master's supper,

before making his own.

And he expects no thanks.

In the same way,

when you have done all

that you are commanded to do,

you should have

the humility of a servant,

and say, "We have only done what we ought to have done."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 9 and 15 October Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 2 Kings 5.1-3, 5, 9-15b

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman

was the highly-respected commander of the Syrian army, which had won many victories

under his command.

And yet Naaman, this mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.

On one of their raids,

the Syrian army

had taken a young girl captive

from the land of Israel,

and she was now a servant

to Naaman's wife.

This servant girl

told her mistress

that there was a prophet in Samaria who could cure Naaman of his leprosy.

So, taking with him a letter from the king,

Naaman travelled to Samaria

with his horses and chariots,

taking silver, gold, and fine garments.

When Naaman arrived in Samaria,

at the house of Elisha the prophet,

Elisha sent out a messenger,

to say to Naaman, 'Go and wash, seven times, in the river Jordan; and your flesh will be restored, and you will be clean.'

But Naaman became angry, and went away,

saying, 'Surely the prophet could at least have come out of his house,

called on the name

of the Lord his God,

and waved his hand over the leprosy, to cure it!

We have rivers of our own,

better than any in Israel!'

But his servants said, 'Sir,

if the prophet had commanded you

to do something difficult, you would have done it. So surely you can do as the prophet commands,

when all he says

is to wash, and be clean.'

So Naaman went,

and washed, seven times,

in the river Jordan,

as Elisha the prophet had instructed.

And Naaman's flesh was restored

like that of a child; and he was clean.

Then Naaman returned, with all his servants,

and stood before Elisha, and said,

'Now I know

that there is no God in all the earth

except in Israel.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 3.11b-17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy. I have endured

so many persecutions;

but the Lord has rescued me from all of them.

All those who aim to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted;

and wickedness, and deception,

will increase.

But hold fast

to all that you have learned and believed,

trusting

those who taught you,

and trusting

in the holy scriptures

that you have known

from childhood, which gave you

the wisdom

to be ready for salvation

through faith in Christ Jesus.

For all scripture, inspired by God,

is useful for teaching, and learning,

and for growing in righteousness,

strengthening

and equipping us

for all

that God calls us to do.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 17.11-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

On his way to Jerusalem,

Jesus passed through the region

between Galilee and Samaria.

As he entered a village.

he was approached

by ten people

suffering with leprosy.

Keeping their distance,

they called out, 'Jesus, Master,

have mercy on us!'

Jesus said to them, 'Go and present yourselves

to the priests.'

And as they went,

they were made clean.

One of them, seeing that he was healed,

turned back,

praising God with a loud voice.

And he fell at Jesus' feet.

and thanked him.

And he was a Samaritan.

Jesus said, 'Surely ten

were made clean?

Where are the other nine?

Has none returned.

to give glory to God,

except this foreigner?'

And he said to the Samaritan,

'Get up, and go on your way;

your faith has made you well.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Year C ssra.uk

Sunday between 16 and 22 October Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 32.22-30

A reading from the book of Genesis.

While it was still dark,

Jacob led

his two wives, his two maids,

and his eleven children,

to the place

where they could cross

the river Jabbok.

Jacob sent them across

ahead of him,

with everything they had;

until only Jacob remained.

And there,

someone wrestled with Jacob

until daybreak.

And still failing

to overpower Jacob,

the one who was

wrestling with Jacob

finally struck Jacob

on the hip,

putting it out of joint,

and said,

'Let me go,

for it is nearly daybreak.'

But Jacob said, 'I will

not let you go,

unless

you bless me.'

The one who had wrestled with Jacob

asked Jacob

his name,

and then said,

'You shall

no longer be called Jacob,

but Israel,'

(which means 'wrestling with God'),

'for you have wrestled with God,

and with mortals,

and you have prevailed.'

And Jacob said,

'Now tell me your name.'

But the one who had wrestled with Jacob

said, 'Why is it

that you ask

my name?'

So Jacob called the place Peniel,

(which means 'the face of God')

saying, 'I have seen God,

face to face,

and yet I live.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 4.2-5

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Preach the word of God,

with patience,

and persistence,

both when it is

received with joy,

and when it is not.

Teach and encourage,

persuade and challenge,

even argue and debate,

for there will be times

when people

turn away from the truth

to go chasing after fantasies,

listening to teachers who will say

whatever it is

they want to hear.

Continue then

all the more

in the work

that God has called you to do.

Keep a clear mind

in every situation;

endure through every hardship;

and proclaim the good news!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 18.1-8a

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus said, 'In a city,

there was a judge, who respected

neither God

nor the people.

In the same city,

there was a widow, who kept on

coming to the judge, saying, "Grant me justice

against my opponent!"

At first,

the judge refused.

But eventually,

the judge said to himself, "I respect

neither God

nor the people,

but because this widow

keeps bothering me,

I will grant her justice,

before she wears me out."

And Jesus said

to his disciples, 'Keep on praying,

and do not lose heart.

For God will surely

grant justice, and quickly,

to God's chosen ones, who

call out to God,

night and day.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 23 and 29 October

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 14.7-8a,9b,21,22b

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Help us, O Lord, for you are

the hope of Israel,

our saviour

in time of trouble.

We know

that we have

rebelled against you.

Our trespasses are many,

and our offences

cry out to you.

But you, O Lord, are amongst us,

and we are

called by your name.

Do not reject us,

or dishonour your glorious throne,

but for the sake of your name,

remember the covenant

you made with us.

We set our hope

on you alone,

O Lord our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17-18

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

I have fought the good fight.

I have completed the course.

I have kept the faith.

And now I am being poured out

like an offering,

and the time for my departure is near.

What lies ahead

is to receive

the crown of righteousness,

which the Lord, the righteous judge,

will present to me

on that day,

alongside all who have

received the Lord's forgiveness,

and look with joy

for the day

of the Lord's appearing.

Having called me

to proclaim the good news

to all nations,

the Lord has stood by me,

rescued me,

and strengthened me;

and the Lord will surely continue

to protect me from every assault,

and bring me safely

to the heavenly kingdom.

To the Lord

be glory for ever!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 18.9-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus were some who had great confidence in their own righteousness,

and regarded others

with contempt.

Jesus told them

this parable.

'Two men

went up to the temple

to pray.

One was a Pharisee;

the other

was a collector

of the Roman taxes.

The Pharisee

stood confidently,

and said: "O God, I thank you

that I am not like

all the other people -

thieves, liars, and adulterers -

or even that tax collector!

I fast twice a week!

I give a tenth of all my income to the temple!"

But the tax collector

stayed back,

at a distance,

and would not even

look up to heaven,

but, with his hand on his heart,

said, "God, have mercy on me,

a sinner."

I tell you,

it was the tax collector,

not the Pharisee, who

returned home

righteous

in the sight of God.

For those who

place themselves above others

will be brought down.

But those who choose

to be humble

will be lifted up.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 30 October and 5 November

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Fourth Sunday before Advent All Saints Sunday

First Reading - Isaiah 25.6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this holy mountain, the Lord God

will prepare for all people

a feast

of rich food

and fine wine.

The Lord will take away

the cloud of darkness

that hangs over peoples and nations.

The Lord God

will bring to an end

the humiliation of the people,

will wipe away

the tears from all faces,

and will destroy

the power of death

for ever.

And the people will say, 'This is the day

of the Lord our God.

Let us rejoice,

for we trusted in God,

and the day

of our salvation

has come.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 1.1-4, 11-12

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

to the church at Thessalonika.

Grace to you, and peace,

from God our Father,

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters,

we give thanks to God

for your continuing growth

both in faith

and in love for one another.

We gladly tell others

in all the churches

about your faith

that remains steadfast

in the face of so many

hardships and persecutions.

And we always pray for you,

that God will strengthen you

in all your works of faith,

as you seek to fulfil your calling,

and rejoice in all that is good.

And so may the name of our Lord Jesus

be glorified in you,

and may you be glorified in him,

by the grace of God

and our Lord Jesus Christ!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 19.1-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus was passing through Jericho

on his way to Jerusalem.

Zacchaeus, a wealthy

chief tax-collector.

could not see over the crowds

to see who Jesus was.

So he ran ahead

and climbed into a tree

on the route that Jesus was following.

When Jesus saw him there,

he said, 'Zacchaeus,

come down at once,

for I must stay at your house today.'

Zacchaeus

came down quickly

from the tree.

and welcomed Jesus

into his home.

Those who saw this

began to complain,

saying that Jesus

had gone to be the guest

of someone

completely unworthy.

But Zacchaeus said to Jesus,

'My Lord,

half of all my possessions

I will give to the poor.

And if I have cheated anyone of anything,

I will pay it back

four times over.'

And Jesus said, 'Today,

salvation has come to this house.

For Zacchaeus also

is a child of Abraham.

And the Son of Man came

to seek out

and rescue

the lost.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 6 and 12 November Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Third Sunday before Advent

Remembrance (or the Sunday before Remembrance)

First Reading - Job 19.23-27a

A reading from the book of Job.

Let this be written down, recorded in a book,

and engraved in stone:

'I know that my Redeemer lives;

and the day will come

when my Redeemer

will stand upon the earth.

And I know

that when the suffering

of this present age

is ended.

with my own eyes

I shall

see God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 2.16 - 3.5

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

God our Father,

and our Lord Jesus Christ,

in their great love for us,

have always given us

courage

and joyful confidence

for the future.

May they continue

to strengthen you

in every good word

that you speak,

and in every good work

that you do.

And finally I ask you,

my brothers and sisters,

to pray for us.

Pray

that the word of the Lord

may continue to spread,

and be glorified everywhere,

just as it is

amongst you.

Pray also

that we may be protected

from any who would do us harm;

for not all have faith.

But the Lord is faithful.

And we are confident

that as you continue

in all

that we taught you,

the Lord will strengthen you,

and protect you from all harm,

and lead you on

in the love of God.

and in faithfulness to Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 19.41-48

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus approached Jerusalem,

surrounded

by the crowds.

And when he saw the city,

he wept, and said,

'O Jerusalem,

if only

you had seen

and understood

the way of peace!

But the day will come

when your enemies

will surround you on every side!

They will crush you

to the ground -

you,

and your children within you!

Not one stone

will be left

upon another;

because you did not recognise

that the day would come

when God

would call you to account.'

When Jesus entered the city,

and entered

the temple courtyard,

he began to drive out

those who were trading there,

saying to them, 'The scripture says

"My house shall be a house of prayer" -

but you have made it

a den of thieves!'

Then, every day,

he was teaching

in the temple.

And the chief priests,

the teachers of the law,

and other

leaders of the people,

were looking

for a way to destroy him.

But they could find nothing

that they could do,

because the people were eager

to hear

his every word.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday between 13 and 19 November Gospel - Luke 21.5-19 Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Second Sunday before Advent according to Luke. Remembrance (or the Sunday after Remembrance) The disciples were admiring the temple, First Reading - Malachi 4.1-2a with its fine stone-work, and its many offerings A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi. The day is coming, says the Lord, and gifts. when the arrogant, Jesus said, 'The day will come and all evildoers, when all of this will be burned up will be torn down. like stubble. Not one stone Neither root nor branch will be left will remain. upon another.' But on those who honour my name, The disciples asked Jesus, 'When will this happen? the dawn will break, And what will be the sign the sun will rise that these things are about to take place?' the sun of righteousness and there will be healing Jesus said, 'Do not be misled. in its light. Many will come This is the word of the Lord. claiming that the time is near, Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 3.7-13 even claiming A reading from the second letter of Paul to speak in my name. to the Thessalonians. Do not follow them. We were not idle And when you hear of wars and rebellions, when we were with you. do not be afraid. We did not All these things must happen, but they do not mean accept food from you without paying for it. that the end is near. Indeed we worked night and day, Nation will rise against nation, so that we would not and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes, be a burden to any of you. famines, and plagues. There will be We could have asked you terrifying sights in the sky. to support us. But we preferred Even before all this, to set an example they will persecute you. for you to follow. They will arrest you, Even while we were with you, and hand you over we were making it a rule to courts, and prisons, that those who will not work and to kings, and governors, should not eat! because of my name. And yet we hear And there, that some amongst you you will be my witnesses. are being Do not worry both idle in advance about what you will say, and disruptive for I will give you words, and a wisdom, not doing any work, and that no one disrupting will be able the work of others! to refute, or contradict. Our instruction to any in that situation -You will be betrayed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ by parents, brothers, and friends; some of you will be put to death. is to work quietly. and earn the bread that you eat. But even when you are hated by all And for all of you, my brothers and sisters, I say: because of my name, do not grow weary you will come to no harm. in always And in your endurance, you will find life.' doing good.

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This is the Gospel of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Sunday between 20 and 26 November

Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Last Sunday before Advent Christ the King

First Reading - 2 Samuel 5.1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

The elders of the tribes of Israel

came to David at Hebron,

and said, 'We are your own flesh and blood.

And even while Saul has been king over us,

you have been the one who has led us.

And we know that the Lord has spoken to you,

declaring that you will be

the shepherd and leader of Israel.'

So David made a covenant

with the elders of Israel,

in the presence of the Lord, at Hebron.

And there, the elders

anointed David

to be king over Israel.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 1.12-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image

of the invisible God;

and the firstborn

from before all creation.

In Christ,

all things were created,

both in heaven

and on earth,

both the visible

and the invisible (by which we mean

dominions, authorities, and powers).

All things were created

through Christ, and for Christ.

Christ existed

before all things;

and now it is in Christ

that all things

hold together.

Christ is then also

the head of the body

which is the church;

its beginning,

as the firstborn from the dead.

Christ has first place

in everything.

And so it is, that in Christ,

all things, in heaven and on earth,

can be reconciled, and at peace,

through the sacrifice of the cross.

So let us always, joyfully, give thanks

to God the Father, who has

rescued us.

from the power of darkness,

to dwell, forgiven, with the saints, in light,

in the kingdom

of his beloved Son.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 23.33-43

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

When they came to the place

called The Skull,

they crucified Jesus there,

with the criminals,

one on his right, and one on his left.

And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them;

for they do not know

what they are doing.'

And they divided his clothing

between them.

And the people stood by,

watching.

The inscription above him

read, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

The soldiers taunted him,

saying, 'If you are

the King of the Jews,

save yourself!'

And they offered him bitter wine.

The religious leaders also mocked him,

saving, 'He saved others;

let him save himself,

if he is the Messiah.

God's chosen one!'

One of the criminals

crucified alongside him

also mocked him,

saying, 'If you are the Messiah,

save yourself - and us!'

But the other criminal

said to him, 'Have you

no fear of God?

We are being

punished for our crimes,

but this man

has done

no wrong.'

Then he said, 'Jesus,

remember me,

when you

come into your kingdom.'

Jesus replied, 'Truly, I tell you,

today

you will be with me

in Paradise.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.