

PROPHETOLOGION

Το Προφητολογιον



Compiled and edited
by
Bishop Demetri M. Khoury
Miami – August 2012

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Contains the Old Testament readings appointed for the Liturgical Services
during the Ecclesiastical year of
the Eastern Orthodox Church

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INTRODUCTION

Our Lord said, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”¹ That Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets is one of the most important teachings of our Church. For this reason, images from the Old Testament fill the services of the Orthodox Church. Songs from the Old Testament directly inspired eight of the nine odes of the canons chanted at Matins and other services. Isaiah’s famous vision of God “in the year that King Ussiah died...” established a pattern of worship deliberately imitated at every Orthodox service, especially the Divine Liturgy.² At all but a very few services, modern Orthodox fulfill the prophecy of Malachi, “in every place incense shall be offered to My name...”³ The Vespers service with its theme of light stems from the lighting of the lights on the Jewish Sabbath. Matins is a Christian form of the morning offering of incense in the Temple. The first part of the Divine Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Catechumens has its roots in the ancient Jewish Synagogue, and the second part the Liturgy of the Faithful is a direct descendent of the Jewish Passover and the *Chaburah* or Meal of Fellowship. It is no accident that a modern Orthodox Temple has a holy place just as the Tabernacle and Temple of the Old Testament had. Great hymns like the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, read during the first week of Great Lent, are filled with allusions to the Old Testament. Thus, by its worship, the Orthodox Church has remained steadfast to its belief that Christ is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

In addition to the allusions to the Old Testament through its worship, the Church has always read from the Old Testament during its services. Before the finalization of the canon of the New Testament in the fourth century, when Christians referred to the Holy Scriptures, they mean what we now call the Old Testament. Readings from the oldest part of the Bible were especially important during the formative years of the Church. Because we now have thousands of books, it is sometimes difficult to remember that during most of Christian history, the faithful had no opportunity to read the sacred texts themselves. Before the introduction of movable type to the West by Johannes Gutenberg in the middle of the fifteenth century, books were copied by hand and were therefore rare and expensive. Due to the conquest of Constantinople by the Ottomans, the first printed books in Greek did not appear until the end of the century in Venice because the Turks would not allow the vanquished Christians to have a printing press of their own.

Although most modern English language translations are based on the Hebrew Masoretic Text, a version of the Hebrew Scriptures finalized by the Jewish authorities between the seventh and tenth centuries A.D, the Orthodox Church has always used the older Greek Septuagint version of the Old Testament. Also called the LXX for seventy, the number of scholars who translated the ancient Hebrew Scriptures in Greek in Alexandria, the Septuagint is actually much older than the Masoretic Hebrew version of the Jewish scriptures. The LXX dates back the 3rd or 2nd centuries B.C, while the Masoretic Text reached its final form between the 7th and 10th centuries A.D. Through its greater antiquity and its use by the Apostolic Church, the Septuagint has a greater authenticity for Orthodox Christians than the more recent Hebrew manuscripts of

¹ St. Matthew 5:17

² Isaiah 6:1-7

³ Malachi 1:11

the Old Testament.

The book containing the readings from the Old Testament is called *The Prophetologion*, or *Book of Prophecies*. This is because the Hebrew Scriptures contain many prophecies fulfilled through Christ and His Church. Immediately after the expulsion of Adam and Even from Paradise, the author of Genesis records the first prophecy of Christ, the *Protoevangelium* or first Gospel when God told the serpent, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head and you shall be on guard for His heel.”⁴ The Book of Isaiah contains many prophecies of Christ. In the Gospel of St. Matthew, we read that when the prophet said to King Ahaz, “behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Immanuel,” he was speaking of the Virgin Birth of Christ.⁵ Isaiah’s famous “suffering servant” chapters contain a direct prophecy of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for our sins, with the words, “He bears our sins and suffers for us...”⁶ The Prophet Zechariah foretells the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem with the words, “Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey:”⁷ There are many other prophecies of the coming of Christ in the Old Testament.

In addition to dozens of prophecies of Christ, the Holy Fathers teach us that many of the persons or events described in the Old Testament prophetically point towards the fulfillment of the Old Covenant through Jesus Christ. This foreshadowing is called a type or anti type. For example, St. Peter wrote that the ark that saved Noah and his family is an “anti type” of Holy Baptism, “which now saves us.”⁸ The stories of the Old Testament are filled with such types. The bronze serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert to save the Hebrews from death by snake bite is a type of the Cross of Christ, which saves the believer from death.⁹ The three days that Jonah spent in the belly of the beast points towards the three days that Christ spent in the tomb before His Resurrection.¹⁰ Not all types point towards Christ. Some point towards Mary, such as the bush that burned but was not consumed through which God spoke to Moses at Mt. Horeb which forecast Mary’s whose womb held God in the flesh, but was not consumer by such intimate contact with God. The calling of Abraham and his descendents to form a holy nation dedicated to God is a foreshadowing of the Church which is the New Israel, “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. His own special people...”¹¹ King David and his descendents are a type of Jesus Christ who is the King of Kings.

Like so many texts for Orthodox worship, the final version of *Prophetologion* was most likely produced at the great monastery of Saint John the Forerunner at Stoudios or the Studion in Constantinople.¹² The organization follows the liturgical year of the Orthodox Church. The

⁴ Genesis 3:15

⁵ St. Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:14

⁶ Isaiah 53:4

⁷ St. Matthew 21:4-5; Zechariah 9:9

⁸ I St. Peter 3:21

⁹ St. John 3:14-16

¹⁰ St. Matthew 12:40

¹¹ I Peter 2:9

¹² James Miller, “The Prophetologion The Old Testament of Byzantine Christianity?” in Paul Magdalino and Robert Nelson, eds, *The Old Testament in Byzantium* (Washington: The Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2010), p. 63

first section provides the Old Testament readings for the immovable feasts of the year beginning on September 1 with the feast of the New Year or Indiction and ending with the observance of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist on August 29. In most cases, there three lessons from the Old Testament for Great Vespers of the feast of Christ, The Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary or a major saint. However, because of the solemnity of the feasts there are more readings for the Nativity and Theophany of Christ, the services of which strongly reflect the sequence of services for Pascha, the greatest feast of the Church year. In addition to readings for each of the Royal Hours, there are eight readings during Great Vespers for the Nativity of Christ. In like manner, there are lessons from the Old Testament for each of the Royal Hours and thirteen lessons during Great Vespers for the Theophany of Our Lord.

The readings for Great Lent as indicated in the *Triodion* form a special section of the *Prophetologion*. The season of prayer and fasting before the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ began as a time to prepare new converts for their Baptism. Thus, the Old Testament readings for Great Lent provide instruction to the Faithful. Unlike the readings for the immovable feasts, which are thematic and relate in some way to the feast, the readings during Great Lent follow a sequence designed to prepare the Faithful for the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. During the Sixth Hour, the readings come from the Book of Isaiah, one of the most important collections of prophecies of the coming and mission of Christ in the entire Old Testament. During Vespers, we read of creation, the fall and God's call to Abraham and his sons to prepare a holy nation to receive Christ, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets from the Book of Genesis. The second reading during Vespers provides ethical instructions from the Book of Proverbs.

The *Prophetologion* concludes with readings for Holy Week, Paschal and Pentecost, a section of readings for various categories of saints, and finally, readings for the prayers and services of the Book of Needs. Thus, the *Prophetologion* is a companion to the Book of Epistles and the Gospel to provide the Church with a complete set of readings for all occasions and celebrations of the year and for special blessings and prayers. Because the only exposure most Eastern Christians had to the Old Testament was from the readings during services, the *Prophetologion* can be called the Old Testament of the Byzantine Church.¹³ In a sense, the Old Testament provides the foundation for the other readings from the New Testament which gives us the complete revelation of God through Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of the promises made by God to His chosen people in the books of the old covenant.

I would personally like to thank the many people who helped with the research and technical assistance of *this volume*. Especially I am grateful to Deacon Gustavo Alfonso for his editorial expertise. I'd also like to thank the V. Rev. John Morris, and Paul Goetz, each of these individuals supported the creation of this volume in their own unique ways.

In spite of this book's imperfections, I have replied in faith to the strongly felt need that the present volume has been compiled. We can do nothing without God's help, but much is possible when the human spirit tries to work in concert with God's will. It is my hope that this book will be a source of blessing to you and will help you along the way of your own spiritual journey.

¹³ Ibid.

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I would only make one humble request to those who use this book, and that is they would remember me and my deceased parents, Father Ibrahim and Hanneh Khoury and my brother, Father Michael Khoury and my Nephew, Ibrahim Khoury in their prayers before the Lord.

+ Bishop Demetri M. Khoury

August 1st. 2012

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MENAI ON

SEPTEMBER

1st. Beginning of the Indiction ['New Year']. Saint Symeon Stylites

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. [61:1-10]

¹ The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because of which He anointed Me. He sent Me to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; ² to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, the day of recompense, and to comfort all who mourn; ³ to give those who mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of gladness to those who mourn; the garment of glory instead of a spirit of indifference. They shall be called Generations of Righteousness, The Planting of the Lord for Glory. ⁴ They shall build the ancient deserts, raise up those formerly abandoned, and renew the desert cities that laid waste for generations. ⁵ Foreigners shall come and shepherd your sheep, and aliens shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; ⁶ but you shall be called Priests of the Lord, and the Ministers of God. You shall eat the strength of nations, and be admired because of their wealth. ⁷ So they shall inherit the land a second time, and eternal gladness shall be upon their head. ⁸ For I am the Lord, who loves righteousness and hates robberies of wrongdoing. I will give their labor to the righteous and will make with them an everlasting covenant. ⁹ Their seed and their offspring shall be known among the Gentiles. All who see them shall know these are the seed blessed by God; ¹⁰ and they shall have exceeding gladness in the Lord.

* * *

The Reading is from Leviticus. [26:3-12,14-17,19-20,22,33,40b-41a]

³ *The Lord spoke to the children of Israel, saying:* "If you walk in My ordinances and keep My commandments, and do them, ⁴ then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the

field shall yield their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; and you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. ⁶ War shall not pass through your land, and I will give peace in the land; and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; and I will utterly destroy the bad wild animals from the land. ⁷ You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by slaughter before you. ⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. ⁹ For I will look upon you and make you fruitful, and multiply and establish My covenant with you. ¹⁰ You shall eat the old harvest of the past two years, and clear out the old because of the new. ¹¹ I will establish My covenant among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. ¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. ¹⁴ "Now if you do not obey Me, neither do all these ordinances, ¹⁵ but your soul disobeys them and despises My judgments, so as not to do all My commandments but to shatter My covenant, ¹⁶ I also will do thus to you: I will bring difficulty upon you, both the itch, the jaundice, the gangrenous eyes, and the withering away of your life. You shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. ¹⁷ I will set My face against you, and you shall fall before your enemies. Those who hate you shall pursue you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. ¹⁹ "I will crush your excessive arrogance; I will make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze. ²⁰ Your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit. ²² "I will also send among you the wild animals of the land; and they will eat you, and utterly destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate. ³³ "I will scatter you among the Gentiles, and the sword shall suddenly destroy you. Then your land shall be a desert and your cities deserts. ^{40b} "That they transgressed and disregarded Me and walked contrary to Me, ^{41a} and that I also have walked in hostility to them and destroyed them in the land of their enemies," says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a

spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



1st. Office for the Environment

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[63:15-20. 64:1-4a,7-8]

Chapter 63

¹⁵ Return from heaven, and look from Your holy and glorious dwelling-place. Where is Your zeal and Your strength; where is the multitude of Your mercy and Your compassion, so as to be patient with us? ¹⁶ You are our Father, although Abraham did not know us, and Israel did not acknowledge us; but You, O Lord, are our Father. You delivered us, and from the beginning Your name was upon us. ¹⁷ Why have you led us astray, O Lord, from Your path, and hardened our hearts, so as not to fear You? Return for the sake of Your servants, for the sake of the tribes of Your inheritance, ¹⁸ that we may inherit a small portion of Your holy mountain. ¹⁹ For our adversaries trampled down Your sanctuary, and we have become as we were from the beginning, when You did not rule us, neither did we call upon Your name. ²⁰ If You open heaven, trembling shall take hold of the mountains before You, and they shall melt, as wax melts before the fire.

Chapter 64

¹ The fire shall burn up the adversaries, and the Lord's name shall be manifest among the adversaries; and the nations shall be troubled by Your presence. ² When You do glorious things, trembling shall take hold of the mountains because of You. ³ From of old we have not heard, nor have our eyes seen any God but You, and Your works, which You shall do for those who wait for Your mercy. ^{4a} For mercy shall meet with those who do

righteousness, and they shall remember your ways.

⁷ And now, O Lord, You are our Father, and all we are clay, the work of Your hands. ⁸ Do not be exceedingly angry with us, and do not remember our sins in an opportune time. And now, look upon us, for we are all Your people.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.
[2:1-12]

¹ Thus says the Lord: ² "I remember your compassion and youth and your love and maturity, so as to follow the Holy One of Israel," says the Lord. ³ "Israel, the beginning of His harvest, was holy to the Lord. All who devour him shall transgress, and evils will come upon them." Says the Lord. ⁴ Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all families of the house of Israel. ⁵ Thus says the Lord: "What transgression have your fathers found in Me, so as to go far from Me, to follow after vain and worthless things? ⁶ They did not say, 'Where is the Lord, who led us out of the land of Egypt, who guided us in the wilderness, in an unknown and untrodden land, a land that was waterless and barren, in which no one traversed and where no son of man dwelt?' ⁷ I brought you into Carmel to eat its fruit and its good things, but you entered and defiled My land, and made My heritage an abomination. ⁸ The priests did not say, 'Where is the Lord?' But those who handle the law did not trust Me, and the shepherds acted profanely toward Me. The prophets prophesied by Baal and walked after unprofitable things. ⁹ Therefore I will yet bring charges against you," says the Lord, "and I will bring charges against the sons of your sons. ¹⁰ For pass by the lands of Chettim and see. Send to Kedar and consider diligently. See if such things happened, ¹¹ whether nations will change their gods; though they are not gods. But my people changed their glory to a glory from which they will not profit. ¹² Heaven was amazed at this and was exceedingly horror-struck," says the Lord.



8th. Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

The Reading is from Genesis.
[28:10-17]

¹⁰ Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. ¹¹ So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. ¹⁴ Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.
[43:27-44:4]

Chapter 43

²⁷ "It will be when these days are over, on the eighth day, the priests shall offer your whole burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar, and I shall accept you," says the Lord.

Chapter 44

¹ Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, that faces toward the east, but it was shut. ² So the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. ³ As for the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber, and go out the same way." ⁴ Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.

* * *

**The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:1-11]**

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproveth the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."



**13th. The Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection in
Jerusalem (The Anastasis)**

**The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings).
[8:20-21a,25b-28]**

²⁰ Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; ^{21a} and said, "O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below, ^{25b} "If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be sufficient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? ²⁶ Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, ²⁷ that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' to hear the prayer Your

servant prays in this place, day and night. ²⁸ You will hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful.”

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[3:21-37]

²¹ God by wisdom founded the earth and prepared the heavens with discernment. ²² With perception the depths were broken up, And the clouds flowed with dew. ²³ My son, do not be careless, but keep my counsel and thinking, ²⁴ That your soul may live, And grace may be around your neck. ²⁵ And there will be healing for your flesh And care for your bones, ²⁶ That you may walk confidently in peace in all your ways, And your foot may not stumble. ²⁷ For if you sit down, you will be without fear, And if you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant. ²⁸ And do not be afraid of intimidation when it comes upon you, Nor of the attack of the ungodly when it comes at you; ²⁹ For the Lord will be over all your ways, And He will plant your feet firmly, that you may not be shaken. ³⁰ Do not withhold doing good to the needy, When you may give a helping hand; ³¹ Do not say, when you are able to do good, "Come back tomorrow, and I will give you something"; For you do not know what the next day will bring forth. ³² Do not devise evil things against your friend Who dwells beside you and trusts in you. ³³ Do not be ready to quarrel with a man in vain, Lest he do you some harm. ³⁴ Do not incur the reproach of evil men, Neither seek their ways; ³⁵ For every lawless man is unclean before the Lord, And he does not sit among the righteous. ³⁶ The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly, but He blesses the dwellings of the righteous. ³⁷ The Lord opposes the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:1-11]

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive

dishonor to himself, and he who reprove the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."



14th. The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross

The Reading is from Exodus.
[15:22-16:1a]

Chapter 15

²² Thus Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the desert and found no water to drink. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore he named that place Bitterness. ²⁴ Then the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ So he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. There He proved him, ²⁶ and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is pleasing in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His ordinances, I will put none of the diseases on you that I brought on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord your God who heals you." ²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Chapter 16

^{1a} Now they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[3:11-20]

¹¹ My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord, neither grow weary under His reproof. ¹² For whom the Lord loves He instructs, and chastises every son He receives. ¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment; ¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her; ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her. ¹⁷ For length of days and years of life are in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and glory; ¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue. ¹⁹ Her ways are good ways, and her paths are in peace. ²⁰ She is a tree of life for all who cleave to her, and she is security for those who lean upon her as upon the Lord.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[60:11-16]**

¹¹ *Thus says the Lord, Your gates, Jerusalem, shall be opened continually and they shall not be shut day or night, to bring you the power of the Gentiles, and their kings leading them.* ¹² For the nations and their kings who will not serve you shall perish, and those nations will be utterly desolate. ¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with the cypress, the pine, and the cedar together, to glorify My holy place. ¹⁴ The sons of those who humbled and provoked you shall go to you in fear, and you shall be called City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁵ Because you were forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you; , therefore, I will make you an eternal joy, the gladness of generations to generations. ¹⁶ You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, and eat the wealth of kings. You shall know I am the Lord who saves you, and the God of Israel who delivers you.



15th. Saint Symeon, Archbishop of Thessalonica

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22.
15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest.
⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[Proverbs 10:32a,33a. 11:2b,5a,6a,18a. 13:2a,9a. 15:2a. 14:34a. 22:12. Wisdom of Solomon 6:12a,13,12b,14a,15b,16a. 7:30b. 8:2c,2a-b,3b-4,7b-d,8,17c,18d,21e. 9:1-3a,4-5a,10-11,14]

Proverbs - Chapter 10

^{32a} The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom;

^{33a} The lips of righteous men distill grace.

Chapter 11

^{2b} The mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom;

^{5a} The righteousness of upright men delivers them.

^{6a} When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish;

^{18a} A righteous son is begotten unto life.

Chapter 13

^{2a} A good man eats from the fruits of righteousness.

^{9a} Light is with the righteous continually, *and they will find grace and glory from the Lord.*

Chapter 15

^{2a} The tongue of the wise understands good things,

Chapter 14

^{34a} There is wisdom in the good heart of a man.

Chapter 22

¹² The Lord loves holy hearts; and all the blameless are acceptable to Him.

Wisdom of Solomon - Chapter 6

^{12a} Wisdom is radiant and unfading;

¹³ She comes upon those who long to know her beforehand,
^{12b} and is easily perceived by those who love her.
^{14a} He who rises early in the morning to seek her will not grow weary,
^{15b} and he who keeps watch for her will soon be free from worry.
^{16a} Because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she appears to them favorably in their paths.

Chapter 7

^{30b} Evil cannot overcome wisdom.

Chapter 8

^{2c} I became a lover of her beauty,
^{2a} I loved her and sought her from my youth,
^{2b} and desired to take her as a bride for myself.
^{3b} The Master of all loves her,
⁴ for she is an initiate of the knowledge of God and one who chooses His works.
^{7b} The products of righteousness are the virtues;
^{7c} For wisdom teaches self-control, discernment, righteousness and courage,
^{7d} Concerning which things there is nothing more valuable in the life of man.
⁸ But also, if anyone longs for great experience, she knows the things of old and portrays the things to come; she understands subtlety of words and the solution of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and the outcomes of times and seasons. *And to all she is a good counselor.*
^{17c} In kinship with wisdom there is immortality,
^{18d} and in the fellowship of her words there is good repute.
^{21e} So I entreated the Lord and besought Him,
^{21f} and with all my heart, I said:

Chapter 9

¹ "O God of our fathers and the Lord of mercy, who made all things by Your word ² and in Your wisdom built a man, that by You He might be the master of what is created, ^{3a} and manage the world in holiness and righteousness,
⁴ Give me the wisdom that sits by Your throne, and do not reject me from among Your servants; ^{5a} because I am your servant and the son of Your maidservant.
¹⁰ Send her forth from Your holy heavens, and send her from Your glorious throne, that she might be present with me and labor and that I might know what is well-pleasing to You. ¹¹ For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory.
¹⁴ For the reasoning of mortals is cowardly, and our intents are unsafe."



17th. Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope

The Reading is from Isaiah. [43:9-14a]

⁹ Thus says the Lord, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



25th. Saint Sergius, Abbot and Wonderworker of Radonezh

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22.
15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:31-11:12]

Chapter 10

³¹ A righteous man will never fail, but the ungodly shall not inhabit the earth.

³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is

handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet. ¹¹ A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council, but a man faithful in spirit conceals matters. ¹² Those for whom there is no leadership fall like leaves, but there is salvation in much counsel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



26th. The Repose of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, Beloved Disciple and Bosom Friend of Christ

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[3:21–4:6] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Chapter 3

²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. ²⁴ Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Chapter 4

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. ⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[4:11-16] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

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The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[4:20-5:5] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Chapter 4

Beloved, ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother.

Chapter 5

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



OCTOBER

1st. (Slavic Tradition*) The Protecting Veil of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

** (In the Slavic tradition, this feast is celebrated on October 1, while in the Byzantine tradition, this feast is celebrated on October 28.)*

The Reading is from the Book of Numbers.
[9:15-23]

¹⁵ Now on the day the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the house of the testimony; from eventide until morning it was on the tabernacle, like the form of fire. ¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the form of fire by night. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud ascended from the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel broke camp; and in the place where the cloud stood, there the children of Israel made

camp. ¹⁸ At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would make camp, and at the command of the Lord they would break camp. All the days the cloud overshadowed the tabernacle, the children of Israel would encamp. ¹⁹ Even when the cloud would continue many days on the tabernacle, the children of Israel would obey God's orders, and not break camp. ²⁰ So, it would be, whenever the cloud would overshadow the tabernacle a number of days, at the voice of the Lord they would encamp, and at the command of the Lord they would break camp. ²¹ So it would be, when the cloud would continue from eventide until morning, and the cloud would ascend in the morning, then they would break camp; and if the cloud would continue a day or a night, ²² or a month, or an abundance of days overshadowing it, the children of Israel would encamp and not break camp. ²³ At the command of the Lord they would break camp, and at the command of the Lord by the hand of Moses they would obey the Lord's orders.

* * *

The Reading is from Exodus.
[40:15-19,22-32]

¹⁵ Then it came to pass in the first month of the second year after their departure from Egypt, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was set up. ¹⁶ So Moses setup the tabernacle, placed the capitals, inserted the bars, and set up the posts. ¹⁷ He spread out the curtains over the tabernacle and put the veil of the tabernacle on it above, as the Lord commanded Moses. ¹⁸ The he took the testimonies, put them into the ark, and inserted the poles under the ark. ¹⁹ He then brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the testimony, as the Lord commanded Moses. ²² Then he put the lampstand in the tabernacle of testimony, on the south side of the tabernacle; ²³ and he placed its lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses. ²⁴ He also put the gold altar in the tabernacle of testimony in front of the veil; ²⁵ and he burned the incense compound on it, as the Lord commanded Moses. ²⁶ Then he put the altar of burnt offering before the doors of the tabernacle. ²⁷ He also set up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar. So Moses finished all the work. ²⁸ Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of testimony, and the tabernacle was filled with the Lord's glory. ²⁹ But Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of testimony because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁰ Whenever the cloud ascended from the tabernacle, the children of Israel prepared to depart with their belongings. ³¹ But if the

cloud did not ascend, they did not prepare to depart until the cloud ascended. ³² For before all Israel, throughout all their journeys, the cloud was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel. [43:27-44:4]

Chapter 43

²⁷ "It will be when these days are over, on the eighth day, the priests shall offer your whole burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar, and I shall accept you," says the Lord.

Chapter 44

¹ Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, that faces toward the east, but it was shut. ² So the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. ³ As for the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber, and go out the same way." ⁴ Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.



6th. The Holy Apostle Thomas

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John. [1:1-7] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - ² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. ⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the

light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:1-11]

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reprove the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."

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The Reading is from the Epistle General of Jude.
[1:1-7,17-25] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: ² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. ³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷ as

Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.



9th. The Holy Apostle James, son of Alphaios

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[1:1-7] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - ² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. ⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

* * *

**The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:1-11]**

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."

* * *

**The Reading is from the Epistle General of Jude.
[1:1-7,17-25] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)**

¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: ² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. ³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.



11th-17th. Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

The Reading is from Genesis.
[14:14-20a]

¹⁴ Now when Abram heard his brother Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ So he divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. The Blessing of Melchizedek ¹⁷ Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. ¹⁸ Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; ^{20a} and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands."

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[1:8-11,15-17a]

⁸ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them." ⁹ So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. ¹⁰ The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. ¹¹ May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.'

¹⁵ "So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. ¹⁶ Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. ^{17a} You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgment is Gods.'"

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[10:14-21]

¹⁴ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. ¹⁶ Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. ¹⁸ He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. ²¹ He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes."



18th. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John. [1:1-7] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - ² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. ⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [9:1-11]

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."

* * *

**The Reading is from the Epistle General of Jude.
[1:1-7,17-25] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)**

¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: ² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. ³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.



19th. Saint John of Kronstadt

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Joel. [2:12-27]

¹² Now says the Lord your God, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting and wailing and with mourning; ¹³ rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compassionate. He is long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and repents of evils. ¹⁴ Who knows if He will return and change His mind—if He will leave a blessing behind Him, even an offering and drink-offering to the Lord our God?" ¹⁵ Sound the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people, sanctify the congregation, call out the elders, and gather the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom go out from his bedchamber and the bride out of her bridal chamber. ¹⁷ Between the porch and the altar, the priests of the altar, ministering to the Lord, will each be weeping and will say: "O Lord, spare Your people; do not give Your inheritance to reproach, that the Gentiles should rule over them, lest they should say among the Gentiles, 'Where is their God?'" ¹⁸ But the Lord was zealous for His land and spared His people. ¹⁹ And the Lord answered His people and said, "Behold, I send you wheat, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied with them. I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations, ²⁰ and I will drive the army from the north away from you, and I shall force him into a dry land. I will drown his face in the eastern sea and his back in the western sea; its stench and foul smell will rise up, because he has done powerful works." ²¹ O land, be of good courage; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things. ²² Take courage, you beasts of the field, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, and the trees bear their fruit. And again the vine and the fig tree yield their full potency. ²³ And you children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He gives food that is right for you, and He will shower you as before with the early and the late rain. ²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the wine presses of wine and olive oil will overflow. ²⁵ "And I will restore to you the years the grasshopper and the locust have eaten, and for the blight, and the caterpillar, even for My great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶ You will eat abundantly and be satisfied and will praise the name of the Lord your God for what He has so wondrously done unto you. And My people will not be put to shame forever. ²⁷ Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel; that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other but Me. And at no time will My people be put to shame forever."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Joel.
[3:1-5]

¹ Thus says the Lord, "After this, it shall come to pass that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ² And in those days I shall pour out My Spirit on My servants and on My handmaids. ³ And I shall give wonders in the heavens, and upon the earth, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ⁴ The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord is comes to pass. ⁵ And it shall be that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[4:11-16] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.



26th. Holy Glorious Great Martyr Demetrius, the Myrrh Streaming of Thessalonica

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[63:15-20. 64:1-4a,7-8]

Chapter 63

¹⁵ Return from heaven, and look from Your holy and glorious dwelling-place. Where is Your zeal and Your strength; where is the multitude of Your mercy and Your compassion, so as to be patient with us? ¹⁶ You are our Father, although Abraham did not know us, and Israel did not acknowledge us; but You, O Lord, are our Father. You delivered us, and from the beginning Your name was upon us. ¹⁷ Why have you led us astray, O Lord, from Your path, and hardened our hearts, so as not to fear You? Return for the sake of Your servants, for the sake of the tribes of Your inheritance, ¹⁸ that we may inherit a small portion of Your holy mountain. ¹⁹ For our adversaries trampled down Your sanctuary, and we have become as we were from the beginning, when You did not rule us, neither did we call upon Your name. ²⁰ If You open heaven, trembling shall take hold of the mountains before You, and they shall melt, as wax melts before the fire.

Chapter 64

¹ The fire shall burn up the adversaries, and the Lord's name shall be manifest among the adversaries; and the nations shall be troubled by Your presence. ² When You do glorious things, trembling shall take hold of the mountains because of You. ³ From of old we have not heard, nor have our eyes seen any God but You, and Your works, which You shall do for those who wait for Your mercy. ^{4a} For mercy shall meet with those who do righteousness, and they shall remember your ways. ⁷ And now, O Lord, You are our Father, and all we are clay, the work of Your hands. ⁸ Do not be exceedingly angry with us, and do not remember our sins in an opportune time. And now, look upon us, for we are all Your people.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.
[2:1-12]

¹ Again the Lord said, "Thus says the Lord: ² 'I remember your compassion and youth and your love and maturity, so as to follow the Holy One of Israel,' says the Lord. ³ 'Israel, the beginning of His harvest, was holy to the

Lord. All who devour him shall transgress, and evils will come upon them," says the Lord. Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all families of the house of Israel. ⁵ Thus says the Lord: "What transgression have your fathers found in Me, so as to go far from Me, to follow after vain and worthless things? ⁶ They did not say, 'Where is the Lord, who led us out of the land of Egypt, who guided us in the wilderness, in an unknown and untrodden land, a land that was waterless and barren, in which no one traversed, and where no son of man dwelt?' ⁷ I brought you into Carmel to eat its fruit and its good things, but you entered and defiled My land, and made My heritage an abomination. ⁸ The priests did not say, 'Where is the Lord?' But those who handle the law did not trust Me, and the shepherds acted profanely toward Me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after unprofitable things. ⁹ Therefore I will yet bring charges against you," says the Lord, "and I will bring charges against the sons of your sons. ¹⁰ For pass by the islands of Chettim and see. Send to Kedar and consider diligently. See if such things happened, ¹¹ whether nations will change their gods; though they are not gods. But My people changed their glory to a glory from which they will not profit. ¹² Heaven was amazed at this, and was exceedingly horror-struck," says the Lord.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.



28th. (Byzantine Tradition*) The Protecting Veil of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

** (In the Byzantine tradition, this feast is celebrated on October 28, while in the Slavic tradition, this feast is celebrated on October 1.)*

The Reading is from the Book of Numbers. [9:15-23]

¹⁵ Now on the day the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the house of the testimony; from eventide until morning it was on the tabernacle, like the form of fire. ¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the form of fire by night. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud ascended from the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel broke camp; and in the place where the cloud stood, there the children of Israel made camp. ¹⁸ At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would make camp, and at the command of the Lord they would break camp. All the days the cloud overshadowed the tabernacle, the children of Israel would encamp. ¹⁹ Even when the cloud would continue many days on the tabernacle, the children of Israel would obey God's orders, and not break camp. ²⁰ So, it would be, whenever the cloud would overshadow the tabernacle a number of days, at the voice of the Lord they would encamp, and at the command of the Lord they would break camp. ²¹ So it would be, when the cloud would continue from eventide until morning, and the cloud would ascend in the morning, then they would break camp; and if the cloud would continue a day or a night, ²² or a month, or an abundance of days overshadowing it, the children of Israel would encamp and not break camp. ²³ At the command of the Lord they would break camp, and at the command of the Lord by the hand of Moses they would obey the Lord's orders.

* * *

The Reading is from Exodus. [40:15-19,22-32]

¹⁵ Then it came to pass in the first month of the second year after their departure from Egypt, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was set up. ¹⁶ So Moses setup the tabernacle, placed the capitals, inserted the bars, and set up the posts. ¹⁷ He spread out the curtains over the tabernacle and put the veil of the tabernacle on it above, as the Lord commanded Moses. ¹⁸ The he took the testimonies, put them into the ark, and inserted the

poles under the ark. ¹⁹ He then brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the testimony, as the Lord commanded Moses.

²² Then he put the lampstand in the tabernacle of testimony, on the south side of the tabernacle; ²³ and he placed its lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses. ²⁴ He also put the gold altar in the tabernacle of testimony in front of the veil; ²⁵ and he burned the incense compound on it, as the Lord commanded Moses. ²⁶ Then he put the altar of burnt offering before the doors of the tabernacle. ²⁷ He also set up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar. So Moses finished all the work. ²⁸ Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of testimony, and the tabernacle was filled with the Lord's glory. ²⁹ But Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of testimony because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁰ Whenever the cloud ascended from the tabernacle, the children of Israel prepared to depart with their belongings. ³¹ But if the cloud did not ascend, they did not prepare to depart until the cloud ascended. ³² For before all Israel, throughout all their journeys, the cloud was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel. [43:27-44:4]

Chapter 43

²⁷ "It will be when these days are over, on the eighth day, the priests shall offer your whole burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar, and I shall accept you," says the Lord.

Chapter 44

¹ Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, that faces toward the east, but it was shut. ² So the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. ³ As for the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber, and go out the same way." ⁴ Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.



NOVEMBER

1st–7th. (Saturday Before the Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Bodiless Powers of Heaven), Saint Raphael of Brooklyn

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[Proverbs 10:32a,33a. 11:2b,5a,6a,18a. 13:2a,9a. 15:2a. 14:34a. 22:12. Wisdom of Solomon 6:12a,13,12b,14a,15b,16a. 7:30b. 8:2c,2a-b,3b-4,7b-d,8,17c,18d,21e. 9:1-3a,4-5a,10-11,14]

Proverbs - Chapter 10

^{32a} The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom;

^{33a} The lips of righteous men distill grace.

Chapter 11

^{2b} The mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom;

^{5a} The righteousness of upright men delivers them.

^{6a} When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish;

^{18a} A righteous son is begotten unto life.

Chapter 13

^{2a} A good man eats from the fruits of righteousness.

^{9a} Light is with the righteous continually, *and they will find grace and glory from the Lord.*

Chapter 15

^{2a} The tongue of the wise understands good things,

Chapter 14

^{34a} There is wisdom in the good heart of a man.

Chapter 22

¹² The Lord loves holy hearts; and all the blameless are acceptable to Him.

Wisdom of Solomon - Chapter 6

^{12a} Wisdom is radiant and unfading;

¹³ She comes upon those who long to know her beforehand,

^{12b} and is easily perceived by those who love her.

^{14a} He who rises early in the morning to seek her will not grow weary,

^{15b} and he who keeps watch for her will soon be free from worry.

^{16a} Because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she appears to them favorably in their paths.

Chapter 7

^{30b} Evil cannot overcome wisdom.

Chapter 8

^{2c} I became a lover of her beauty,

^{2a} I loved her and sought her from my youth,

^{2b} and desired to take her as a bride for myself.

^{3b} The Master of all loves her,

⁴ for she is an initiate of the knowledge of God and one who chooses His works.

^{7b} The products of righteousness are the virtues;

^{7c} For wisdom teaches self-control, discernment, righteousness and courage,

^{7d} Concerning which things there is nothing more valuable in the life of man.

⁸ But also, if anyone longs for great experience, she knows the things of old and portrays the things to come; she understands subtlety of words and the solution of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and the outcomes of times and seasons. *And to all she is a good counselor.*

^{17c} In kinship with wisdom there is immortality,

^{18d} and in the fellowship of her words there is good repute.

^{21e} So I entreated the Lord and besought Him,

^{21f} and with all my heart, I said:

Chapter 9

¹ "O God of our fathers and the Lord of mercy, who made all things by Your word ² and in Your wisdom built a man, that by You He might be the master of what is created, ^{3a} and manage the world in holiness and righteousness,

⁴ Give me the wisdom that sits by Your throne, and do not reject me from among Your servants; ^{5a} because I am your servant and the son of Your maidservant.

¹⁰ Send her forth from Your holy heavens, and send her from Your glorious throne, that she might be present with me and labor and that I might know what is well-pleasing to You. ¹¹ For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory. ¹⁴ For the reasoning of mortals is cowardly, and our intents are unsafe."



8th. The Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and Gabriel and the other Bodiless Powers of Heaven

**The Reading is from Joshua.
[5:13-15]**

¹³ Then it came to pass, when Joshua was at Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a sword drawn in his hand. So Joshua came near and said to him, "Are you for us or on the side of our adversaries?"* ¹⁴ He said to him, "I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord." Then Joshua fell on his face upon the earth, and said to him, "O Master, what do you command your servant?" ¹⁵ The chief captain of the Lord said to Joshua, "Loose the shoe from your feet; for the place on which you stand is holy."

* * *

**The Reading is from Judges.
[6:2a,6b-7,11-24]**

^{2a} *It came to pass in that day that the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel.*

^{6b} and the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord.

¹¹ Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree in Ephrathah which belonged to Joash the father of Esdri, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide from the presence of the Midianites. ¹² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, mighty one of the armies!" ¹³ Gideon said to Him, "It is I, my Lord? If the Lord is with us, why then have these evils come upon us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us

about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has driven us out and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." ¹⁴ Then the Angel of the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with this strength of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Indeed, I have sent you." ¹⁵ And Gideon said to Him, "Be gracious with me, my Lord, for how can I save Israel? My thousand is weakened in Manasseh, and I am the smallest in my father's house." ¹⁶ And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "The Lord will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." ¹⁷ Then Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found mercy in Your sight, then You shall do everything for me today that You have told me. ¹⁸ Do not leave here, I pray, until I come to You and I will bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I am. I will wait until you come back." ¹⁹ So Gideon went in and prepared a goat kid, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. He put the meat in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and approached. ²⁰ The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. ²¹ Then the Angel of the Lord stretched out the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight. ²² Now Gideon perceived this was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, "O Lord, my Lord! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face." ²³ Then the Lord said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die." ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it the Peace of the Lord to this day.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Daniel. [10:1-21]

¹ In the third year of Cyrus king of the Persians, a word was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The word was true, and great power and understanding were given to him in the vision. ² In those days, I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³ I ate no desirable food, and no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself, until three whole weeks were fulfilled. ⁴ Then on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, I was beside the great river, that is, the Tigris. ⁵ I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a man clothed in fine linen; and his waist was girded with gold of Uphaz.* ⁶ His body was like beryl, and his face like the appearance of lightning. His eyes were like lamps of fire, and his arms and legs like the appearance of shining brass. The sound of his words was like the voice of a multitude. ⁷ I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men with

me did not see the vision; but a great astonishment fell upon them, and they fled in fear. ⁸ So I was left alone and saw this great vision, but no strength remained in me; for my splendor was turned into corruption, and I retained no strength. ⁹ Yet I heard the sound of his words; and when I heard him, I was deeply troubled, with my face on the ground. ¹⁰ Suddenly, a hand touched me, and raised me up on my knees. ¹¹ He said to me, "O Daniel, a man of desires, understand the words I speak to you and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." So when he spoke this word to me, I stood trembling. ¹² Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day you set your heart to understand, and to afflict yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I came because of your words. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom withstood me twenty-one days, and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; for I was left there with the ruler of the Persian kingdom. ¹⁴ Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the last days, for the vision is for days yet to come." ¹⁵ When he had spoken these words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and was deeply troubled. ¹⁶ Again suddenly, one having the likeness of a son of man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth, and spoke, and said to the one standing before me, "My lord, because of your vision, my insides churned within me, so I have no strength. ¹⁷ For how can your servant, my lord, speak with my lord of this? As for me, no strength now remains in me, nor is any breath left in me." ¹⁸ Then again, the one like the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹ He said to me, "O man of desires, peace be to you; be courageous and strong." So when he spoke with me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." ²⁰ Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to the war against the ruler of the Persians, and I will go forth, and the ruler of the Greeks will come. ²¹ But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth – and there is no one loyal to me concerning this, except Michael your prince.



9th. Saint Nektarios of Pentapolis

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22.
15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

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13th. Our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople

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[Proverbs 29:2a. Wisdom of Solomon 4:1b-c,14a.
6:11,18a,21b,22b. 7:15c,16a,21b,22a,26,27d,29.
10:9,10a,10d,12. 7:30b. 1:8c. 2:1a,10-11a,12a,12b,12d,13-
16c,17,19-22a. 16:13a. Wisdom of Sirach 2:11b. Wisdom of
Solomon 16:8b. Wisdom of Sirach 2:11a. Proverbs 3:37]

Proverbs – Chapter 29

^{2a} When the righteous are praised, the people shall rejoice;

Wisdom of Solomon - Chapter 4

^{1b} For immortality is in its memory,
^{1c} because it is known both by God and by man,
^{14a} for his soul was pleasing to the Lord.

Chapter 6

¹¹ Therefore long for my words (*concerning wisdom*): yearn for them, and you will be instructed.

^{18a} Now this love is the keeping of her laws.

^{21b} Honor wisdom, that you may reign forever.

22b I will hide no mysteries from you.

Chapter 7

15c For *God* is also the guide of wisdom and the corrector of the wise.

16a For both we and our words are in His hand.

21b For wisdom, the artisan of all things, taught me,

22a so in herself, wisdom is a spirit that is rational, holy,

26 for she is the radiance of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the operative power of God and the image of His goodness.

27d She makes *holy souls* friends of God and prophets.

29 For wisdom is more beautiful than the sun and more than every constellation of stars. Compared with light she is found to be superior.

Chapter 10

9 Wisdom rescued from troubles those who served her,

10a she guided a righteous man on straight paths.

10d She gave him knowledge of holy things,

12 she protected him from his enemies, kept him safe from those who plotted against him. And arbitrated a strong contest for him, so he might know that godliness is more powerful than anything,

Chapter 7

30b but evil cannot overcome wisdom,

Chapter 1

8c nor will justice, when it cross-examines, pass him by.

Chapter 2

1a For they said among themselves, as they reasoned incorrectly:

10 "Let us oppress the righteous poor man, let us not spare a widow, nor respect the aged gray hair of an old man.

11a "Let our might be our law of righteousness.

12a "Let us lie in ambush for the righteous man,

12b because he is useless to us and opposes our deeds

12d and accuses us of sins against our upbringing.

13 "He claims to have knowledge of God, and he calls himself a child of the Lord. ¹⁴ He has become for us as a refutation of our purposes; even seeing him is a burden to us, ¹⁵ because his life is unlike that of others; for his paths go in a different direction.

16a "We are considered by him as a hybrid,

16b and he avoids our ways as something immoral,

16c he considers the last things of the righteous as blessed.

17 "Let us see if his words are true, and let us put these last things to the test at the end of his life.

19 "Let us test him with insult and torture that we may know his gentleness and test his patient endurance. ²⁰ Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for there shall be a visitation because of his words." ²¹ So they reasoned these things and were led astray, for their malice blinded them.

22a But they did not know the mysteries of God,

Chapter 16

- ^{13a} who has authority over life and death,
Wisdom of Sirach – Chapter 2
- ^{11b} who forgives sins and saves in time of affliction,
Wisdom of Solomon – Chapter 16
- ^{8b} the One who saves from every evil;
Wisdom of Sirach – Chapter 2
- ^{11a} because the Lord is compassionate and merciful,
Proverbs – Chapter 3
- ³⁷ the Lord opposes the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.



14th. The Holy Apostle Philip

The Reading is from St. Paul's Epistle to the Colossians [4:10-18] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These *are my* only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. ¹⁵ Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his house. ¹⁶ Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." ¹⁸ This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

* * *

The Reading is from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.
[4:9-16] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ⁹ For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. ¹⁰ We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but you *are* wise in Christ! We *are* weak, but you *are* strong! You *are* distinguished, but we *are* dishonored! ¹¹ To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. ¹² And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; ¹³ being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. ¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. ¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you, imitate me.



16th. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[1:3-9] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[1:13-15] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[2:11-24] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. ¹³ Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. ¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.



21st. The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

The Reading is from Exodus [40:1-5,7,9,14,28-29]

¹ Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "On the first day of the first month, the new moon, you shall set up the tabernacle of testimony. ³ You shall put in it the ark of the testimony and cover the ark with the veil. ⁴ You shall bring in the table and lay out its offering, and bring in the lampstand and install its lamps. ⁵ You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark, and put up the veil for the door of the tabernacle of testimony.

⁷ "You shall put a cover over the tabernacle and consecrate everything pertaining to it.

⁹ "You shall anoint the altar of burnt offerings and all its utensils and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy."

¹⁴ Thus Moses did; according to all the Lord commanded him, so he did.

²⁸ Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of testimony, and the tabernacle was filled with the Lord's glory. ²⁹ But Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of testimony because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

* * *

The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings) [8:1,3-7,9-11]

¹ Twenty years later, when Solomon finished building the house of the Lord and his own house, King Solomon assembled all the elders of Israel in Zion, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the City of David, which is Zion.

³ The priests took up the ark ⁴ and the tabernacle of testimony and all the holy furnishings in the tabernacle of meeting. ⁵ King Solomon and all Israel were before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen without number. ⁶ Then the priests brought in the ark to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the holy of holies, under the wings of the cherubim. ⁷ For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and the holy things.

⁹ Nothing was in the ark except the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with

the children of Israel, after they came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁰ When the priests came out of the holy place, the cloud filled the house, ¹¹ so the priests could not stand there ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.
[43:27-44:4]

Chapter 43

²⁷ "It will be when these days are over, on the eighth day, the priests shall offer your whole burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar, and I shall accept you," says the Lord.

Chapter 44

¹ Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, that faces toward the east, but it was shut. ² So the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. ³ As for the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber, and go out the same way." ⁴ Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.



25th. Great Martyrs Katherine and Mercurios

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord*, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so

there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of

war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



30th. Holy Apostle Andrew, the First-called

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[1:3-9] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[1:13-15] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the

former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct.

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The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[2:11-24] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. ¹³ Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. ¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.



DECEMBER

4th. Great Martyr Barbara and John of Damascus

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord*, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune;, ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]**

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



5th. Our Venerable Father Savvas the Sanctified

**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon
[3:1-9]**

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

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6th. Our Father among the saints Nicolas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[10:32-11:10]

Chapter 10

³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest.

⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what

is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



12th. Spiridon of Trimythous

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are

with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

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16th. Modestos, Archbishop of Jerusalem the Wonderworker

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

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Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

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^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

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³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest.
⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



17th. Dionysius of Zakynthos the Wonderworker

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22.
15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:32-11:10]

Chapter 10

³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]**

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



**18th-24th. Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, of the
Forefathers**

**The Reading is from Genesis.
[14:14-20a]**

¹⁴ Now when Abram heard his brother Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ So he divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. The Blessing of Melchizedek ¹⁷ Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. ¹⁸ Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; ^{20a} and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands."

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[1:8-11,15-17a]

⁸ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them." ⁹ So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. ¹⁰ The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. ¹¹ May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.'

¹⁵ "So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. ¹⁶ Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. ¹⁷ You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgment is Gods.'"

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[10:14-21]

¹⁴ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. ¹⁶ Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. ¹⁸ He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. ²¹ He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes."



24th. Eve of the Nativity of Christ

Royal Hours

The First Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Micah
[5:1-3]

¹ *Thus spoke the Lord:* "And you, O Bethlehem, House of Ephrathah, though you are fewest in number among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the One to be ruler of Israel. His goings forth were from the beginning, even from everlasting." ² Therefore He shall give them up until the appointed time for her to give birth, and then the remnant of their brothers will return to the sons of Israel. ³ And He shall stand and see, and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, and they will dwell in the glory of the name of the Lord their God, for now they will be magnified unto the ends of the earth.

The Third Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Baruch
[3:36-4:4]

³⁶ This is our God; no other shall be compared to Him. ³⁷ He found the whole way of knowledge and gave it to Jacob His servant and to Israel His beloved. ³⁸ Afterwards, He was seen upon the earth and lived among men. ¹ She is the book of the commandments of God and the law that endures forever. All those who keep her will live, but those forsaking her will die. ² Return, O Jacob, and take hold of her. Walk toward the radiance of the presence of her light. ³ Do not give your glory to another or the things that are of advantage to you to a foreign nation. ⁴ O Israel, we are blessed, for what is pleasing to our God is known to us.

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[7:10-16b. 8:1-4,8b-10]

Chapter 7

¹⁰ Moreover the Lord added this to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I tempt the Lord." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, O house of David, is it a small thing for you to weary men. But

will you weary the Lord also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign; behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel. ¹⁵ Butter and honey He shall eat before He knows to prefer evil or choose the good, ^{16a} for before the Child knows good or evil, ^{16b} He refuses the evil to choose the good.”

Chapter 8

¹ Moreover the Lord said to me, “Take for yourself a large new book, and write on it with a man's pen concerning making a swift plunder of spoils, for it is near at hand. ² Then make witnesses for Me of faithful men: Uriah and Zechariah, the son of Berechiah.” ³ Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son, and the Lord said to me, “Call his name: Quickly Despoil, Swiftly Plunder; ⁴ for before the child shall know how to call for his father and mother, one shall take the power of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria in the presence of the king of Assyria.

^{8b} O God with us. ⁹ Know this, O Gentiles, and be defeated. Give ear, all you to the very ends of the earth. Be defeated although you are strong, for even if you should be strong again, you will be defeated again. ¹⁰ Then too, whatever counsel you take, the Lord will scatter it abroad; and whatever word you shall speak, it will not continue among you, for the Lord God is with us.”

The Ninth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[9:5-6]

⁵ For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel, for I shall bring peace upon the rulers, peace and health by Him. ⁶ Great shall be His government, and of His peace there is no end. His peace shall be upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it with righteousness and judgment, from that time forward, and unto ages of ages. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.
[1:1-13]

¹ In the beginning God made heaven and earth. ² The earth was invisible and without adornment; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ God saw the light; it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day. ⁶ Then God

said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water"; and it was so. ⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. ⁸ So God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good; and there was evening and morning, the second day. ⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its places, and the dry land appeared. ¹⁰ So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth." It was so. ¹² Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. ¹³ So evening and morning were the third day.

* * *

The Reading is from the Book of Numbers.
[24:2b-3,5-9,17c-18]

^{2b} The Spirit of God came upon *Balaam*. ³ Then he took up his parable and said:

⁵ How beautiful are your dwellings, O Jacob, your tents, O Israel. ⁶ Like wooded valleys offering shade, and like gardens by the rivers, Like tents the Lord pitched, like cedars beside the waters. ⁷ A Man shall come forth from his seed, and He shall rule many nations; and His kingdom shall be more exalted than Gog, and His kingdom shall increase. ⁸ God led Him out of Egypt, and He has the glorious appearance of a unicorn. He shall consume the nations of his enemies, and deprive them of their strength. He shall shoot the enemy with His missiles. ⁹ He lies down and rests like a lion, and like a lion's cub, who shall rouse Him? Those who bless You are blessed, and those who curse You are cursed."

^{17c} A Star shall rise out of Jacob; and a Man shall rise out of Israel. He shall break in pieces the rulers of Moab, and plunder all the sons of Seth. ¹⁸ Edom shall be His inheritance, and also His enemy shall be His inheritance; but Israel acts with strength.

* * *

The Reading from the Prophecy of Micah.
[4:6-7. 5:1-3]

Chapter 4

⁶ "In that day," says the Lord, "I shall gather her who has been broken, and I will welcome her who has been exiled, even those whom I have rejected. ⁷ And I shall make her who has been broken into a remnant, and her that was rejected into a strong nation. So the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion henceforth and forever.

Chapter 5

¹ "And you, O Bethlehem, House of Ephrathah, though you are fewest in number among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the One to be ruler of Israel. His goings forth were from the beginning, even from everlasting." ² Therefore He shall give them up until the appointed time for her to give birth, and then the remnant of their brothers will return to the sons of Israel. ³ And He shall stand and see, and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, and they will dwell in the glory of the name of the Lord their God, for now they will be magnified unto the ends of the earth.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[11:1-10]

¹ *Thus spoke the Lord:* "There shall come forth a rod from the root of Jesse, and a flower shall grow out of his root. ² The Spirit of God shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and godliness. ³ The Spirit of the fear of God shall fill Him. He shall not judge by reputation nor convict by common talk. ⁴ But He will judge the cause of the humble, and reprove the humble of the earth. He shall strike the earth with the word of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips, He shall slay the ungodly. ⁵ He shall gird His loins with righteousness and cover his sides with truth. ⁶ The wolf shall feed with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf, the bull, and the lion shall feed together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze together, and their young ones shall lie down together. The lion and the ox shall eat straw together. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the hole of asps, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the den of asps. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor be able to destroy anyone on My holy mountain, for the whole world shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, like as much water covers the seas. ¹⁰ It shall come to pass in that day, that

there shall be a Root of Jesse who shall arise to rule nations. The Gentiles shall hope in Him, and His resting place shall be honorable."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Baruch
[3:36-4:4]

³⁶ This is our God; no other shall be compared to Him. ³⁷ He found the whole way of knowledge and gave it to Jacob His servant and to Israel His beloved.* ³⁸ Afterwards, He was seen upon the earth and lived among men. ¹ She is the book of the commandments of God and the law that endures forever. All those who keep her will live, but those forsaking her will die. ² Return, O Jacob, and take hold of her. Walk toward the radiance of the presence of her light. ³ Do not give your glory to another or the things that are of advantage to you to a foreign nation. ⁴ O Israel, we are blessed, for what is pleasing to our God is known to us.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Daniel.
[2:31-36,44b-45]

³¹ *Daniel spoke to Nebuchadnezzar:* "As for you, O king, you saw and beheld one great image. That image was very large, and its appearance excellent. It stood before you, and its vision was fearful. ³² The image had a head made of fine gold, and its hands, chest, and arms were made of silver, and its stomach and thighs, of copper. ³³ Its legs were iron, and its feet were partly iron and partly clay. ³⁴ You saw while a stone was cut out of a mountain without hands, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and ground them to powder. ³⁵ Then at once, the clay, the iron, the copper, the silver, and the gold were like dust from the summer threshing floor, and a great force of wind blew them away; and their place was not to be found. Then the stone that struck the image became a great mountain, and filled all the earth. ³⁶ This is the dream, and we will tell its interpretation before the king.

^{44b} "The God of heaven will raise up a kingdom, and it shall never be destroyed. This kingdom shall not be left to another people, but it will break in pieces and crush all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever. ⁴⁵ Whereas you saw the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, it ground to powder the clay, the iron, the copper, the silver, and the gold. Thus the great God has made known to the king what must come to pass after this. The dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[9:5-6]

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Chapter 8

¹ Moreover the Lord said to me, "Take for yourself a large new book, and write on it with a man's pen concerning making a swift plunder of spoils, for it is near at hand. ² Then make witnesses for Me of faithful men: Uriah and Zechariah, the son of Berechiah." ³ Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son, and the Lord said to me, "Call his name: Quickly Despoil, Swiftly Plunder; ⁴ for before the child shall know how to call for his father and mother, one shall take the power of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria in the presence of the king of Assyria."

^{8b} O God with us. ⁹ Know this, O Gentiles, and be defeated. Give ear, all you to the very ends of the earth. Be defeated although you are strong, for even if you should be strong again, you will be defeated again. ¹⁰ Then too, whatever counsel you take, the Lord will scatter it abroad; and whatever word you shall speak, it will not continue among you, for the Lord God is with us."



JANUARY

**1st. The Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Our Father among the Saints, Basil the Great, Archbishop
of Caesarea in Cappadocia**

**The Reading is from Genesis.
[17:1b-2,4b-7b,3a,8e,3a,9b-12b,14]**

^{1b} The Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am your God; be pleasing before Me and blameless. ² I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.

^{4b} "You shall be a father of many nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ^{7a-b} I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be your God.

^{3a} Then Abraham fell on his face *and worshipped the Lord*, and God talked with him, saying,

^{9b} "You shall keep My covenant, you and your seed after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is the covenant you shall keep, between Me and you and your seed after you throughout their generations: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; ¹¹ and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin. It shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. ^{12a-}

^b A child of eight days old shall be circumcised by you - every male child throughout your genealogy.

¹⁴ "And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin on the eighth day, that soul shall be cut off from his people; for he has broken My covenant."

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[8:23-30]

²³ The Lord created me in the beginning of His ways for His works; He established me in the beginning before time, ²⁴ before He made the earth, and before He made the abysses, before the going forth of the fountains of waters, ²⁵ before the mountains were created; and He begot me before all hills. ²⁶ The Lord made the fields and the uninhabited places and the inhabited heights under heaven. ²⁷ When He prepared heaven, I was present with Him, and when He set apart His throne upon the winds. ²⁸ When He made strong the things above the clouds, and made sure the fountains under heaven, ²⁹ and made strong the foundations of the earth, I was working beside Him; ³⁰ I was He in whom He rejoiced; daily and continually I was gladdened by His face.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[Proverbs 10:32a,33a. 11:2b,5a,6a,18a. 13:2a,9a. 15:2a. 14:34a. 22:12. Wisdom of Solomon 6:12a,13,12b,14a,15b,16a. 7:30b. 8:2c,2a-b,3b-4,7b-d,8,17c,18d,21e. 9:1-3a,4-5a,10-11,14]

Proverbs - Chapter 10

^{32a} The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom;

^{33a} The lips of righteous men distill grace.

Chapter 11

^{2b} The mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom;

^{5a} The righteousness of upright men delivers them.

^{6a} When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish;

^{18a} A righteous son is begotten unto life.

Chapter 13

^{2a} A good man eats from the fruits of righteousness.

^{9a} Light is with the righteous continually, *and they will find grace and glory from the Lord.*

Chapter 15

^{2a} The tongue of the wise understands good things,

Chapter 14

^{34a} There is wisdom in the good heart of a man.

Chapter 22

¹² The Lord loves holy hearts; and all the blameless are acceptable to Him.

Wisdom of Solomon - Chapter 6

^{12a} Wisdom is radiant and unfading;

¹³ She comes upon those who long to know her beforehand,

^{12b} and is easily perceived by those who love her.
^{14a} He who rises early in the morning to seek her will not grow weary,
^{15b} and he who keeps watch for her will soon be free from worry.
^{16a} Because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she appears to them favorably in their paths.

Chapter 7

^{30b} Evil cannot overcome wisdom.

Chapter 8

^{2c} I became a lover of her beauty,
^{2a} I loved her and sought her from my youth,
^{2b} and desired to take her as a bride for myself.
^{3b} The Master of all loves her,
⁴ for she is an initiate of the knowledge of God and one who chooses His works.
^{7b} The products of righteousness are the virtues;
^{7c} For wisdom teaches self-control, discernment, righteousness and courage,
^{7d} Concerning which things there is nothing more valuable in the life of man.
⁸ But also, if anyone longs for great experience, she knows the things of old and portrays the things to come; she understands subtlety of words and the solution of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and the outcomes of times and seasons. *And to all she is a good counselor.*
^{17c} In kinship with wisdom there is immortality,
^{18d} and in the fellowship of her words there is good repute.
^{21e} So I entreated the Lord and besought Him,
^{21f} and with all my heart, I said:

Chapter 9

¹ "O God of our fathers and the Lord of mercy, who made all things by Your word ² and in Your wisdom built a man, that by You He might be the master of what is created, ^{3a} and manage the world in holiness and righteousness,
⁴ Give me the wisdom that sits by Your throne, and do not reject me from among Your servants; ^{5a} because I am your servant and the son of Your maidservant.
¹⁰ Send her forth from Your holy heavens, and send her from Your glorious throne, that she might be present with me and labor and that I might know what is well-pleasing to You. ¹¹ For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory.
¹⁴ For the reasoning of mortals is cowardly, and our intents are unsafe."



2nd. Saint Seraphim of Sarov, the Wonderworker

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



5th. The Eve of Theophany

The Royal Hours

The First Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. [35:1-10]

¹ Be glad, you thirsty desert, and rejoice exceedingly, and let the desert blossom as a lily. ² The desert places of the Jordan shall blossom abundantly and rejoice exceedingly. The glory of Lebanon and the honor of

Carmel shall be given to it, and My people shall see the glory of the Lord and the majesty of our God. ³ Be strong, you relaxed hands and feeble knees. ⁴ Be comforted, you faint-hearted. Be strong, do not fear. Behold, our God renders judgment and will render it. He will come and save us. ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear. ⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will speak clearly. For water shall burst forth in the desert, and a valley in the thirsty land. ⁷ The waterless desert shall become meadows, and the thirsty land springs of water. There will be the gladness of birds, a habitation of reeds and marshes. ⁸ A pure way shall be there, and it shall be called a holy way. No unclean man shall pass through there, neither shall there be an unclean way there. But those dispersed shall walk in it, and they shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous animals go up on it, nor at all be found there. But the redeemed shall walk in it, ¹⁰ and those gathered by the Lord shall return and come to Zion with gladness, and with everlasting gladness over their head. For praise and exceeding joy will be on their head, and gladness shall possess them. Pain, sorrow, and sighing fled away.

The Third Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[1:16-20]

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord, "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. ¹⁷ Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. ¹⁸ Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. ²⁰ But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword," for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[12:3-6]

³ Thus says the Lord, "You will draw water with gladness from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day, you will say, 'Praise the Lord; call upon His name. Declare His glorious things among the Gentiles and make mention that His name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the name of the Lord, for He has done great things. Declare this in all the earth. ⁶ Exult and be glad, O inhabitants of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is exalted in her midst.'"

The Ninth Hour
The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[49:8-15]

⁸ Thus says the Lord: "In an acceptable time I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped You. I give You as a covenant to the Gentiles, to establish the earth, and to inherit the inheritance of the desert; ⁹ saying to those in bonds: , 'Go forth,' and to those in darkness, 'Reveal yourselves.' They shall feed along all their roads, and their pasture shall be along all the paths. ¹⁰ They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, nor shall the burning heat of the sun strike them; but He who has mercy on them will comfort them; and He shall lead them by the fountains of waters. ¹¹ I will make every mountain as a road, and every path as a pasture for them. ¹² Behold, these come from afar, these from the north and these from the sea, and the others from the land of the Persians." ¹³ Be glad, O heavens, and rejoice exceedingly, O earth. Let the mountains break out in gladness, and the hills in righteousness. For the Lord had mercy on His people, and comforted the humble of His people. ¹⁴ But Zion said,: "The Lord forsook me, and the Lord forgot me." ¹⁵ "Will a woman forget her child, so as not to have mercy on the offspring of her womb? But even if a woman should forget these things, nevertheless, I shall not forget you," says the Lord *Almighty*.

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[1:1-13]

¹ In the beginning God made heaven and earth. ² The earth was invisible and without adornment; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ God saw the light; it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day. ⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water"; and it was so. ⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. ⁸ So God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good; and there was evening and morning, the second day. ⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its places, and the dry land appeared. ¹⁰ So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the herb of

grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth." It was so. ¹² Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. ¹³ So evening and morning were the third day.

* * *

The Reading is from Exodus.
[14:15-18,21-23,27-29a]

¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Now lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it; and let the children of Israel go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. ¹⁷ I indeed will harden Pharaoh's heart and all the Egyptians, and they will go in after them. So I will be glorified in Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horses. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians will know I am the Lord, when I am glorified upon Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horses."

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord carried back the sea by a strong south wind all that night, and made the sea dry ground. Thus the waters were divided. ²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen.

²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were trying to flee. But the Lord shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all of Pharaoh's army that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. ^{29a} But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.

* * *

The Reading is from Exodus.
[15:22-16:1a]

Chapter 15

²² Thus Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the desert and found no water

to drink. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore he named that place Bitterness. ²⁴ Then the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ So he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. There He proved him, ²⁶ and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is pleasing in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His ordinances, I will put none of the diseases on you that I brought on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord your God who heals you." ²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Chapter 16

^{1a} Now they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai.

* * *

The Reading is from Joshua. [3:7-8,15-17]

⁷ Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I shall begin to exalt you in the sight of all the children of Israel, so they will know that I shall be with you, as I was with Moses. ⁸ Therefore now, command the priests who carry the ark of the covenant, saying, 'As soon as you enter a part of the water of the Jordan, then you shall stand in the Jordan.'"

¹⁵ Now when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord dipped in part of the water of the Jordan (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks about the time of wheat harvest), ¹⁶ then the upstream waters stopped flowing downstream, and a solid wall of water formed over a very great distance, as far as the region of Adam. The lower part came down to the Sea of Araba, the Salt Sea, until it came to a complete stop; and the people stood opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan.

* * *

The Reading is from 4th Kingdoms (2nd Kings).
[2:6-14]

⁶ The Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the Lord sent me on to the Jordan." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So both of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. ⁸ Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water. The water divided this way and that, and the two of them crossed on dry ground. ⁹ So it was that during the time they crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I may do for you, before I am taken away from you." Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." ¹⁰ So Elijah said, "You have asked a hard thing. If you see me when I am taken up from you, it shall be so for you: and if not, it shall not be so." ¹¹ Thus it came to be, as they walked and continued to talk, behold a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and the fire separated them one from the other; and Elijah was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind. ¹² Then Elisha saw it and cried aloud, "Father, O father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" He saw Elijah no more, and he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. ¹³ Then he raised Elijah's mantle, which fell from Elijah and upon Elisha, and Elisha returned and stood on the bank of the River Jordan. ¹⁴ He took Elijah's mantle which had fallen upon him and struck the water, but it did not divide. Then he said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah himself?" And he struck the water again, and it divided this way and that. So Elisha crossed over.

* * *

The Reading is from 4th Kingdoms (2nd Kings).
[5:9-14]

⁹ The Naaman went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him saying, "Go and bathe in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became furious and went away saying, "Indeed, I told myself that Elisha would come out to greet me; that he would stand and call on the name of his God; and that he would put his hand upon the place and heal the leprosy. ¹² Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ Then his servants approached and said to him, "If the prophet were to tell you to do something great, would you not complete it? But here the prophet said to you, 'Bathe and be clean.'" ¹⁴ So Naaman went down and dipped

seven times in the Jordan, according to Elisha's instruction, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[1:16-20]

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord, "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. ¹⁷ Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. ¹⁸ Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. ²⁰ But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword," for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

* * *

The Reading is from Genesis.
[32:2-10b]

² So Jacob went on his way, and saw the hosts of God encamped. ³ When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's encampment"; and he called the name of that place Encampments. ⁴ Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. ⁵ And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says, "I sojourned with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, sheep, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in your sight.'"" ⁶ Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men with him." ⁷ So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people with him and the oxen and sheep into two companies. ⁸ Thus Jacob said, "If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the other company will escape." ⁹ Again Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, 'Return to the land of your nativity, and I will deal well with you,' ^{10a-b} let me be satisfied with all the righteousness and all the truth You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff."

* * *

The Reading is from Exodus.
[2:5-10]

⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, and her maidens walked along the riverside; and seeing the ark among the reeds, she sent a maid to get it. ⁶ So when she opened the ark, she saw the child crying, and the daughter of Pharaoh had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" ⁸ So Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." Then the maiden went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter then said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ Now when the boy was grown, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son; and she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

* * *

The Reading is from Judges.
[6:36-40]

³⁶ So Gideon said to God, "If You save Israel by my hand as You said, ³⁷ then look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You said." ³⁸ And it was so. And he rose early the next morning and wrung the fleece and from the fleece dropped enough dew to fill a pan full of water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Indeed, I pray, do not let Your anger be aroused at me, and I will speak but once; I will yet make one more trial with the fleece. This time, let it be dry on the fleece, but let there be dew all over the ground." ⁴⁰ And that night God made it so; on the fleece it was completely dry, but there was dew all over the ground.

* * *

The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings).
[18:30-39]

³⁰ Then Elijah said to the people, "Come near me." So all the people came near to him. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the

tribes of Israel, for the Lord said, "Israel shall be your name." ³² Then he built an altar with the stones in the name of the Lord, and he repaired the altar of sacrifice that was scattered about, and around the altar he made a furrow holding two measures of seed. ³³ He piled the fire wood on the altar he had made, divided the whole burnt offering, laid it on the firewood, and laid it in order on the altar. ³⁴ Then he said, "Bring me four pots of water, and pour it on the whole burnt offering and pour it on the unlit fire wood." They did so. Again Elijah said, "Do it a second time." So they did it again. Again he said, "Do it a third time." So they did it a third time. ³⁵ And the water ran all about the altar, and even the furrow became filled with water. ³⁶ After this, Elijah cried out to heaven and said, "O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, answer me, O Lord, answer me this day with fire, and let this people know You are the God of Israel, and I am Your servant; and for your Your sake, I do all these works. ³⁷ Hear me, O Lord, hear me with fire, and let these people know You are the Lord God, so as turn the heart of this people back." ³⁸ Then fire fell from the Lord out of the heaven, and consumed the whole burnt offering, the firewood, and the water in the furrow. The fire also licked up the stones and the soil. ³⁹ So all the people fell on their faces, and they said, "Truly, the Lord is God; He is God."

* * *

The Reading is from 4th Kingdoms (2nd Kings).
[2:19-22]

¹⁹ Then the men of the city of Jericho said to Elisha, "Behold, as my lord an see, this city is a pleasant place to live, but the water is bad, and the ground is barren." ²⁰ So Elisha said, "Bring me a new water pitcher and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. ²¹ Then he went out to the spring of the waters and cast salt into it, and said, "Thus says the Lord: 'I have healed these waters; from them there shall no longer be death or barrenness.'" ²² So the water was healed by the word Elisha spoke, and so it remains today.

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The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[49:8-15]

⁸ Thus says the Lord: "In an acceptable time I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped You. I give You as a covenant to the Gentiles, to establish the earth, and to inherit the inheritance of the desert; ⁹ saying to those in

bonds: , 'Go forth,' and to those in darkness, 'Reveal yourselves.' They shall feed along all their roads, and their pasture shall be along all the paths. ¹⁰ They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, nor shall the burning heat of the sun strike them; but He who has mercy on them will comfort them; and He shall lead them by the fountains of waters. ¹¹ I will make every mountains as a road, and every path as a pasture for them. ¹² Behold, these come from afar, these from the north and these from the sea, and the others from the land of the Persians." ¹³ Be glad, O heavens, and rejoice exceedingly, O earth. Let the mountains break out in gladness, and the hills in righteousness. For the Lord had mercy on His people, and comforted the humble of His people. ¹⁴ But Zion said,: "The Lord forsook me, and the Lord forgot me." ¹⁵ "Will a woman forget her child, so as not to have mercy on the offspring of her womb? But even if a woman should forget these things, nevertheless, I shall not forget you," says the Lord *Almighty*.

* * *

The Great Blessing of Waters

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[35:1-10]

¹ Be glad, you thirsty desert, and rejoice exceedingly, and let the desert blossom as a lily. ² The desert places of the Jordan shall blossom abundantly and rejoice exceedingly. The glory of Lebanon and the honor of Carmel shall be given to it, and My people shall see the glory of the Lord and the majesty of our God. ³ Be strong, you relaxed hands and feeble knees. ⁴ Be comforted, you faint-hearted. Be strong, do not fear. Behold, our God renders judgment and will render it. He will come and save us. ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear. ⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will speak clearly. For water shall burst forth in the desert, and a valley in the thirsty land. ⁷ The waterless desert shall become meadows, and the thirsty land springs of water. There will be the gladness of birds, a habitation of reeds and marshes. ⁸ A pure way shall be there, and it shall be called a holy way. No unclean man shall pass through there, neither shall there be an unclean way there. But those dispersed shall walk in it, and they shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous animals go up on it, nor at all be found there. But the redeemed shall walk in it, ¹⁰ and those gathered by the Lord shall return and come to Zion with gladness, and with everlasting gladness over their head. For praise and exceeding joy will be on their head, and gladness shall possess them. Pain, sorrow, and sighing fled away.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[55:1-13]

¹ Thus says the Lord, "You who are thirsty, go to the water, and all who have no money, go and buy wine and fat, and eat and drink without money and price. ² Why do you value at the price of money, and give your toil for what does not satisfy? Listen to Me, and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. ³ Incline your ears, and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the holy and faithful things of David. ⁴ Behold, I made him a witness among the Gentiles, a ruler and commander to the Gentiles. ⁵ The Gentiles, which did not know you, shall call upon you, and the peoples, who did not understand you, shall take refuge in you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel; for He glorified you." ⁶ Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. ⁷ Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. ⁸ "For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways," says the Lord. ⁹ "But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. ¹⁰ For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, ¹¹ so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. ¹² For you shall go forth with gladness, and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. ¹³ Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle; and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail."

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[12:3-6]

³ Thus says the Lord, "You will draw water with gladness from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day, you will say, 'Praise the Lord; call upon His name. Declare His glorious things among the Gentiles and make mention that His name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the name of the Lord, for He has done great things. Declare this in all the earth. ⁶ Exult and be glad, O inhabitants of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is exalted in her midst.'"



11th. Saint Theodosius the Koinoviarch

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it

will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



17th. Saint Anthony the Great

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though

chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest.
⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by

its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



18th. Saints Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[1:8-11,15-17a]

⁸ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them." ⁹ So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. ¹⁰ The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. ¹¹ May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.'

¹⁵ "So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. ¹⁶ Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. ¹⁷ You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgment is Gods.'"

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The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[10:14-21]

¹⁴ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. ¹⁶ Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. ¹⁸ He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. ²¹ He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes."

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.



20th. Our Venerable Father Euthymios

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [3:1-9]

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**25th. Our Father among the Saints Gregory the Theologian,
Archbishop of Constantinople**

**The Reading is from Proverbs.
[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22.
15:4b]**

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold

and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest.

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The Reading is from Proverbs.

[Proverbs 10:32a,33a. 11:2b,5a,6a,18a. 13:2a,9a. 15:2a.
14:34a. 22:12. Wisdom of Solomon 6:12a,13,12b,14a,15b,16a.
7:30b. 8:2c,2a-b,3b-4,7b-d,8,17c,18d,21e. 9:1-3a,4-5a,10-
11,14]

Proverbs - Chapter 10

^{32a} The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom;

^{33a} The lips of righteous men distill grace.

Chapter 11

^{2b} The mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom;

^{5a} The righteousness of upright men delivers them.

^{6a} When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish;

^{18a} A righteous son is begotten unto life.

Chapter 13

^{2a} A good man eats from the fruits of righteousness.

^{9a} Light is with the righteous continually, *and they will find grace and glory from the Lord.*

Chapter 15

^{2a} The tongue of the wise understands good things,

Chapter 14

^{34a} There is wisdom in the good heart of a man.

Chapter 22

¹² The Lord loves holy hearts; and all the blameless are acceptable to Him.

Wisdom of Solomon - Chapter 6

^{12a} Wisdom is radiant and unfading;

¹³ She comes upon those who long to know her beforehand,

^{12b} and is easily perceived by those who love her.

^{14a} He who rises early in the morning to seek her will not grow weary,

^{15b} and he who keeps watch for her will soon be free from worry.

^{16a} Because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she appears to them favorably in their paths.

Chapter 7

^{30b} Evil cannot overcome wisdom.

Chapter 8

^{2c} I became a lover of her beauty,

^{2a} I loved her and sought her from my youth,

^{2b} and desired to take her as a bride for myself.

^{3b} The Master of all loves her,

⁴ for she is an initiate of the knowledge of God and one who chooses His works.

^{7b} The products of righteousness are the virtues;

^{7c} For wisdom teaches self-control, discernment, righteousness and courage,

^{7d} Concerning which things there is nothing more valuable in the life of man.

⁸ But also, if anyone longs for great experience, she knows the things of old and portrays the things to come; she understands subtlety of words and the solution of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and the outcomes of times and seasons. *And to all she is a good counselor.*

^{17c} In kinship with wisdom there is immortality,

^{18d} and in the fellowship of her words there is good repute.

^{21e} So I entreated the Lord and besought Him,

^{21f} and with all my heart, I said:

Chapter 9

¹ "O God of our fathers and the Lord of mercy, who made all things by Your word ² and in Your wisdom built a man, that by You He might be the master of what is created, ^{3a} and manage the world in holiness and righteousness,

⁴ Give me the wisdom that sits by Your throne, and do not reject me from among Your servants; ^{5a} because I am your servant and the son of Your maidservant.

¹⁰ Send her forth from Your holy heavens, and send her from Your glorious throne, that she might be present with me and labor and that I might know what is well-pleasing to You. ¹¹ For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory.

¹⁴ For the reasoning of mortals is cowardly, and our intents are unsafe."



27th. Translation of the Relics of our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople.

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[Proverbs 29:2a. Wisdom of Solomon 4:1b-c,14a.
6:11,18a,21b,22b. 7:15c,16a,21b,22a,26,27d,29.
10:9,10a,10d,12. 7:30b. 1:8c. 2:1a,10-11a,12a,12b,12d,13-
16c,17,19-22a. 16:13a. Wisdom of Sirach 2:11b. Wisdom of
Solomon 16:8b. Wisdom of Sirach 2:11a. Proverbs 3:37]

Proverbs – Chapter 29

^{2a} When the righteous are praised, the people shall rejoice;

Wisdom of Solomon - Chapter 4

^{1b} For immortality is in its memory,
^{1c} because it is known both by God and by man,
^{14a} for his soul was pleasing to the Lord.

Chapter 6

¹¹ Therefore long for my words (*concerning wisdom*): yearn for them, and you will be instructed.

^{18a} Now this love is the keeping of her laws.

^{21b} Honor wisdom, that you may reign forever.

^{22b} I will hide no mysteries from you.

Chapter 7

^{15c} For *God* is also the guide of wisdom and the corrector of the wise.

^{16a} For both we and our words are in His hand.

^{21b} For wisdom, the artisan of all things, taught me,

^{22a} so in herself, wisdom is a spirit that is rational, holy,

²⁶ for she is the radiance of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the operative power of God and the image of His goodness.

^{27d} She makes *holy souls* friends of God and prophets.

²⁹ For wisdom is more beautiful than the sun and more than every constellation of stars. Compared with light she is found to be superior.

Chapter 10

⁹ Wisdom rescued from troubles those who served her,

^{10a} she guided a righteous man on straight paths.

^{10d} She gave him knowledge of holy things,

¹² she protected him from his enemies, kept him safe from those who plotted against him. And arbitrated a strong contest for him, so he might know that godliness is more powerful than anything,

Chapter 7

^{30b} but evil cannot overcome wisdom,

Chapter 1

^{8c} nor will justice, when it cross-examines, pass him by.

Chapter 2

^{1a} For they said among themselves, as they reasoned incorrectly:

¹⁰ "Let us oppress the righteous poor man, let us not spare a widow, nor respect the aged gray hair of an old man.

^{11a} "Let our might be our law of righteousness.

^{12a} "Let us lie in ambush for the righteous man,

^{12b} because he is useless to us and opposes our deeds

^{12d} and accuses us of sins against our upbringing.

¹³ "He claims to have knowledge of God, and he calls himself a child of the Lord. ¹⁴ He has become for us as a refutation of our purposes; even seeing him is a burden to us, ¹⁵ because his life is unlike that of others; for his paths go in a different direction.

^{16a} "We are considered by him as a hybrid,

^{16b} and he avoids our ways as something immoral,

^{16c} he considers the last things of the righteous as blessed.

¹⁷ "Let us see if his words are true, and let us put these last things to the test at the end of his life.

¹⁹ “Let us test him with insult and torture that we may know his gentleness and test his patient endurance. ²⁰ Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for there shall be a visitation because of his words.” ²¹ So they reasoned these things and were led astray, for their malice blinded them.

^{22a} But they did not know the mysteries of God,

Chapter 16

^{13a} who has authority over life and death,

Wisdom of Sirach – Chapter 2

^{11b} who forgives sins and saves in time of affliction,

Wisdom of Solomon – Chapter 16

^{8b} the One who saves from every evil;

Wisdom of Sirach – Chapter 2

^{11a} because the Lord is compassionate and merciful,

Proverbs – Chapter 3

³⁷ the Lord opposes the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[Proverbs 10:32a,33a. 11:2b,5a,6a,18a. 13:2a,9a. 15:2a. 14:34a. 22:12. Wisdom of Solomon 6:12a,13,12b,14a,15b,16a. 7:30b. 8:2c,2a-b,3b-4,7b-d,8,17c,18d,21e. 9:1-3a,4-5a,10-11,14]

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- ^{2c} I became a lover of her beauty,
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30th. Assembly of the Ecumenical Teachers and Great Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom.

**The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[1:8-11,15-17a]**

⁸ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them." ⁹ So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. ¹⁰ The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. ¹¹ May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.'

¹⁵ "So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. ¹⁶ Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. ^{17a} You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgment is Gods.'"

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²¹ He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes.”

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FEBRUARY

2nd. The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Reading is from Exodus.
[Exodus 12:51. 13:1-2a,3a,10a,11-12a,14-16a. 22:28b.
Leviticus 12:2b,3,4a,4c,6a,6c,8a,8c. Numbers 8:16a,16c,17b-c]

Exodus – Chapter 12

⁵¹ On that very same day, that the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt,

Chapter 13

¹ *The Lord spoke to Moses* saying, ^{2a} “Sanctify to Me all the firstborn, the

first-begotten, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel.”

^{3a} Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day, in which you went out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out from this place.

^{10a} You shall therefore keep this law.

¹¹ Then it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to your fathers, and gives it to you, ^{12a} that you shall set apart to the Lord all that open the womb, the males to the Lord.

¹⁴ So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’, that you shall say to him, ‘With a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ¹⁵ Thus it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of cattle. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ ^{16a} It shall be as a sign on your hand and immoveable before your eyes,

Chapter 22

^{28b} *because thus says the Lord the Almighty,* ‘The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.

Leviticus – Chapter 12

^{2b} If a woman conceived and bore a male child,

³ then on the eighth day, the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

^{4a,c} For thirty-three days she is not to come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purification are fulfilled.

^{6a,c} When the days of her purification are fulfilled, she is to bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a whole burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of testimony.

^{8a,c} But if she is unable to afford a lamb, she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons. So the priest shall make atonement for her.

Numbers – Chapter 8

^{16a,c} For they are Mine as a restitution offering from among the children of Israel; I have taken them for Myself instead of the firstborn from all the children of Israel,

^{17b-c} from man to cattle, on the day I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified them to Myself.”

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[6:1-12]

¹ In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. The house was full of His glory. ² Around Him stood seraphim;

each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." ⁴ The lintel was lifted up by the voice of those who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ So I said: "Woe is me, because I am pierced to the heart, for being a man and having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for I saw the King, the Lord of hosts, with my eyes!" ⁶ Then one of the seraphim was sent to me. He had a live coal in his hand, which he took with tongs from the altar. ⁷ He touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips. Your lawlessness is taken away, and your sin is cleansed." ⁸ I also heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?" Then I said: "Behold, here am I, send me." ⁹ So He said: "Go, and tell this people, 'You shall hear indeed, but not understand; and you shall see indeed, but not perceive.'" ¹⁰ For the heart of this people has become insensitive, and their ears hear with difficulty. They have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return, and I should heal them." ¹¹ Then I said: "Lord, how long?" So He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without people, and the land shall be left desolate. ¹² After this God will remove the people far away, and those left in the land shall multiply."

* * *

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[19:1,3a,4a,4c,5,12,16,19-21]**

¹ Behold, the Lord sits on a swift cloud and shall come to Egypt, and the things made by hands in Egypt shall be shaken by His presence, and their heart shall be overcome within them.

^{3a} "The spirit of the Egyptians will be troubled within them, and I will reject their counsel,

^{4a,c} And I will deliver Egypt into the hands of harsh Lords," says the Lord of Hosts.

⁵ And the Egyptians will drink water from the sea, for the river will run dry and have no water.

¹² Thus says the Lord, "Where are your wise men now? Let them now tell you, and let them say what the Lord of hosts planned against Egypt."

¹⁶ In that day, the Egyptians shall be like women, in fear and trembling because of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which He shall lay upon them.

¹⁹ In that day, there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the country of Egypt and a pillar to the Lord at its border. ²⁰ It will be a sign forever to the Lord in the country of Egypt, for they will cry to the Lord because of

their oppressors, and the Lord will send them a Man who will save them. He will judge and save them. ²¹ Then the Lord will be known to the Egyptians, and in that day the Egyptians will know the Lord, and offer sacrifices. Yes, they will make vows to the Lord and pay them.



6th. Saint Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word
²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[Proverbs 29:2a. Wisdom of Solomon 4:1b-c,14a.
6:11,18a,21b,22b. 7:15c,16a,21b,22a,26,27d,29.
10:9,10a,10d,12. 7:30b. 1:8c. 2:1a,10-11a,12a,12b,12d,13-
16c,17,19-22a. 16:13a. Wisdom of Sirach 2:11b. Wisdom of
Solomon 16:8b. Wisdom of Sirach 2:11a. Proverbs 3:37]

Proverbs – Chapter 29

^{2a} When the righteous are praised, the people shall rejoice;
Wisdom of Solomon - Chapter 4

^{1b} For immortality is in its memory,

^{1c} because it is known both by God and by man,

^{14a} for his soul was pleasing to the Lord.

Chapter 6

¹¹ Therefore long for my words (*concerning wisdom*): yearn for them, and you will be instructed.

^{18a} Now this love is the keeping of her laws.

^{21b} Honor wisdom, that you may reign forever.

^{22b} I will hide no mysteries from you.

Chapter 7

^{15c} For *God* is also the guide of wisdom and the corrector of the wise.

^{16a} For both we and our words are in His hand.

^{21b} For wisdom, the artisan of all things, taught me,

^{22a} so in herself, wisdom is a spirit that is rational, holy,

²⁶ for she is the radiance of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the operative power of God and the image of His goodness.

^{27d} She makes *holy souls* friends of God and prophets.

²⁹ For wisdom is more beautiful than the sun and more than every constellation of stars. Compared with light she is found to be superior.

Chapter 10

⁹ Wisdom rescued from troubles those who served her,

^{10a} she guided a righteous man on straight paths.

^{10d} She gave him knowledge of holy things,

¹² she protected him from his enemies, kept him safe from those who plotted against him. And arbitrated a strong contest for him, so he might know that godliness is more powerful than anything,

Chapter 7

^{30b} but evil cannot overcome wisdom,

Chapter 1

^{8c} nor will justice, when it cross-examines, pass him by.

Chapter 2

^{1a} For they said among themselves, as they reasoned incorrectly:

¹⁰ "Let us oppress the righteous poor man, let us not spare a widow, nor respect the aged gray hair of an old man.

^{11a} "Let our might be our law of righteousness.

^{12a} "Let us lie in ambush for the righteous man,

^{12b} because he is useless to us and opposes our deeds

^{12d} and accuses us of sins against our upbringing.

¹³ "He claims to have knowledge of God, and he calls himself a child of the Lord. ¹⁴ He has become for us as a refutation of our purposes; even seeing him is a burden to us, ¹⁵ because his life is unlike that of others; for his paths go in a different direction.

^{16a} "We are considered by him as a hybrid,

^{16b} and he avoids our ways as something immoral,

^{16c} he considers the last things of the righteous as blessed.

¹⁷ "Let us see if his words are true, and let us put these last things to the test at the end of his life.

¹⁹ "Let us test him with insult and torture that we may know his gentleness and test his patient endurance. ²⁰ Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for there shall be a visitation because of his words." ²¹ So they reasoned these things and were led astray, for their malice blinded them.

^{22a} But they did not know the mysteries of God,

Chapter 16

^{13a} who has authority over life and death,

Wisdom of Sirach – Chapter 2

^{11b} who forgives sins and saves in time of affliction,

Wisdom of Solomon – Chapter 16

^{8b} the One who saves from every evil;

Wisdom of Sirach – Chapter 2

^{11a} because the Lord is compassionate and merciful,

Proverbs – Chapter 3

³⁷ the Lord opposes the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[Proverbs 10:32a,33a. 11:2b,5a,6a,18a. 13:2a,9a. 15:2a. 14:34a. 22:12. Wisdom of Solomon 6:12a,13,12b,14a,15b,16a. 7:30b. 8:2c,2a-b,3b-4,7b-d,8,17c,18d,21e. 9:1-3a,4-5a,10-11,14]

Proverbs - Chapter 10

^{32a} The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom;

^{33a} The lips of righteous men distill grace.

Chapter 11

^{2b} The mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom;

^{5a} The righteousness of upright men delivers them.

^{6a} When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish;

^{18a} A righteous son is begotten unto life.

Chapter 13

^{2a} A good man eats from the fruits of righteousness.

^{9a} Light is with the righteous continually, *and they will find grace and glory from the Lord.*

Chapter 15

^{2a} The tongue of the wise understands good things,

Chapter 14

^{34a} There is wisdom in the good heart of a man.

Chapter 22

¹² The Lord loves holy hearts; and all the blameless are acceptable to Him.

Wisdom of Solomon - Chapter 6

^{12a} Wisdom is radiant and unfading;

¹³ She comes upon those who long to know her beforehand,

^{12b} and is easily perceived by those who love her.

^{14a} He who rises early in the morning to seek her will not grow weary,

^{15b} and he who keeps watch for her will soon be free from worry.

^{16a} Because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she appears to them favorably in their paths.

Chapter 7

^{30b} Evil cannot overcome wisdom.

Chapter 8

^{2c} I became a lover of her beauty,

^{2a} I loved her and sought her from my youth,

^{2b} and desired to take her as a bride for myself.

^{3b} The Master of all loves her,

⁴ for she is an initiate of the knowledge of God and one who chooses His works.

^{7b} The products of righteousness are the virtues;

^{7c} For wisdom teaches self-control, discernment, righteousness and courage,

^{7d} Concerning which things there is nothing more valuable in the life of man.
⁸ But also, if anyone longs for great experience, she knows the things of old and portrays the things to come; she understands subtlety of words and the solution of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and the outcomes of times and seasons. *And to all she is a good counselor.*
^{17c} In kinship with wisdom there is immortality,
^{18d} and in the fellowship of her words there is good repute.
^{21e} So I entreated the Lord and besought Him,
^{21f} and with all my heart, I said:

Chapter 9

¹ "O God of our fathers and the Lord of mercy, who made all things by Your word ² and in Your wisdom built a man, that by You He might be the master of what is created, ^{3a} and manage the world in holiness and righteousness,
⁴ Give me the wisdom that sits by Your throne, and do not reject me from among Your servants; ^{5a} because I am your servant and the son of Your maidservant.
¹⁰ Send her forth from Your holy heavens, and send her from Your glorious throne, that she might be present with me and labor and that I might know what is well-pleasing to You. ¹¹ For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory.
¹⁴ For the reasoning of mortals is cowardly, and our intents are unsafe."



10th. Great Martyr Charalambos

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord,* All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can

deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune;; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



19th. Saint Philothea, the Righteous Martyr of Athens

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[31:10,12-19,25]

¹⁰ Who will find a courageous wife? For such a one is more valuable than precious stones.

¹² She weaves wool and linen cloth and is productive with her hands. ¹³ She is like a ship trading afar off, so she procures her livelihood. ¹⁴ She also rises before dawn and gives food to her household, and appoints tasks for her maidservants. ¹⁵ Seeing a farm, she buys it, and from the fruit of her hands she plants her plot of land. ¹⁶ Strongly girding her loins, she strengthens her arms for work. ¹⁷ She experiences work as a good thing, and her lamp is not quenched all night. ¹⁸ She extends her arms to do profitable things, and she applies her hands to the spindle. ¹⁹ She opens her hands to the poor and reaches out with her fruit to the needy.

²⁵ She clothes herself with strength and dignity and rejoices in the last days.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their

visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

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24th. First and Second Finding of the Precious Head of Saint John the Baptist.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[40:1-5,9. 41:17b-18. 45:8. 48:20b-21a. 54:1]

Chapter 40

¹ Comfort, yes, comfort My people, says God. ² O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord's hand double for her sins. ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. ⁵ The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

⁹ O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength, ; lift it up, be not afraid.

Chapter 41

^{17b} I, the Lord God, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. ¹⁸ But I will open rivers in the mountain and fountains in the midst of the plains. I will make the desert into marsh-meadows, and the dry land into aqueducts.

Chapter 45

⁸ Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together.

Chapter 48

^{20b} Proclaim a voice of gladness, and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say: , "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob."

^{21a} If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them.

Chapter 54

¹ Be glad, O barren woman who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Malachi.
[3:1a,2,3a,5a,5c,6a,7b,12a,17,18b,24,22-23]

^{1a} Thus says the Lord Almighty: "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me, and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly

come into His temple,

² But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can withstand His appearance? For He enters like a refiner's fire and as soap in one's wash.

^{3a} He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver and gold.

^{5a,c} And I will draw near to you in judgment, a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My name, and those who do not fear Me," says the Lord Almighty.

^{6a} "For I am the Lord your God; I have not changed. But you, O sons of Jacob,

^{7b} You have turned away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty,

^{12a} And all nations will call you blessed,"

¹⁷ "They shall be mine, says the Lord Almighty, in the day that I make them My possession, and I will choose them as a man chooses his own son who serves him.

^{18b} Then you shall return, and you will discern between the righteous and the wicked.

²⁴ Be in remembrance of the Law of Moses, of My servant as I commanded him, with its statutes and judgments, at Horeb for all Israel.

²² Behold, I will send you Elijah, before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²³ And he will turn the heart of the father to his son, and a man's heart to his neighbor, lest I come and strike the earth completely,' says the Lord Almighty, God the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7a,16a,17a,19b-20. 5:1-7]

Chapter 4

^{7a} But though a righteous man may die before his time, he shall be at rest.

^{16a} But a righteous man who is dead shall condemn the ungodly who are living,

^{17a} For they will see the end of the wise man, but will not understand what the Lord purposed for him.

^{19b} Because *the Lord* will dash them headlong and speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations. They shall be left dry and barren to the very end; they shall be in pain, and their memory shall perish. ²⁰ They will come with dread In the day of reckoning for their sins, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

Chapter 5

¹ Then the righteous man will stand with confidence in the presence of those who afflict him; and those who reject his labors, ² when they see him, will be shaken with dreadful fear; and they shall be amazed at his

unexpected salvation. ³ They will speak among themselves with regret, and in anguish of spirit they will groan and say, ⁴ "This is the man whom we fools once held in derision and made a byword of disgrace. We considered his life to be madness and his death without honor. ⁵ How has he been numbered among the sons of God? And how is his portion among the saints? ⁶ Therefore we went astray from the way of truth, for the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. ⁷ We were satisfied with the paths of lawlessness, and we traveled through impassable deserts; but the way of the Lord we have not known."



MARCH

9th. The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord,* All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



25th. The Annunciation to Our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

The Reading is from Genesis.
[28:10-17]

¹⁰ Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. ¹¹ So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. ¹⁴ Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.
[43:27-44:4]

Chapter 43

²⁷ "It will be when these days are over, on the eighth day, the priests shall offer your whole burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar, and I shall accept you," says the Lord.

Chapter 44

¹ Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, that faces toward the east, but it was shut. ² So the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because

the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. ³ As for the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber, and go out the same way." ⁴ Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.

* * *

**The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:1-11]**

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."



26th. The Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel.

**The Reading is from Exodus.
[3:1b-8c]**

^{1b} Now Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he saw the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ So Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed." ⁴ When therefore the Lord saw him turn aside to look, God

called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses!" Then he said, "Here I am."⁵ So He said, "Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."⁶ Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father —the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses then hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.⁷ Then the Lord said, "Indeed, I have seen the affliction of My people in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrow.^{8c} So I came down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[8:23-30]

²³ The Lord created me in the beginning of His ways for His works; He established me in the beginning before time,²⁴ before He made the earth, and before He made the abysses, before the going forth of the fountains of waters,²⁵ before the mountains were created; and He begot me before all hills.²⁶ The Lord made the fields and the uninhabited places and the inhabited heights under heaven.²⁷ When He prepared heaven, I was present with Him, and when He set apart His throne upon the winds.²⁸ When He made strong the things above the clouds, and made sure the fountains under heaven,²⁹ and made strong the foundations of the earth, I was working beside Him;³⁰ I was He in whom He rejoiced; daily and continually I was gladdened by His face.



APRIL

10th. Gregory V, the Holy Martyr & Patriarch of Constantinople

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;
¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ Thus says the Lord, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune;, ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.



23rd. Holy, Glorious George the Great Martyr and Triumphant

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

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* * *

**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]**

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



25th. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark

**The Reading is from the Epistle General of James.
[1:1-12] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)**

¹ James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be

given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹ For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. ¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

* * *

The Reading is from the Epistle General of James.
[1:13-27] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹³ *Beloved*, let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. ¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. ²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Epistle General of James.
[2:1-13] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)**

¹ My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. ² For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, ³ and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," ⁴ have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; ⁹ but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.



**30th. Holy Apostle James [Iakovos], son of Zebedee,
brother of John the Theologian**

**The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:1-11]**

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you

shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."

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¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. ¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. ²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.



MAY

8th. Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, the Beloved Disciple and Bosom Friend of Christ

**The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[3:21-4:6] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)**

Chapter 3

²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. ²⁴ Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Chapter 4

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. ⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John. [4:11-16] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

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The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John. [4:20-5:5] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Chapter 4

Beloved, ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother.

Chapter 5

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For

whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



9th. Translation of the Relics of St Nicolas the Wonderworker from Myra to Bari

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22.
15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,
^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;
¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.
¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;
³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.
⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.
¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.
¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.
¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.
⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:32-11:10]

Chapter 10

³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest.

⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken

up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



10th. The Holy Apostle Simon Zelotes

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[3:21–4:6] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Chapter 3

²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. ²⁴ Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Chapter 4

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. ⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

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[4:11-16] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

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The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[4:20-5:5] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Chapter 4

Beloved, ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother.

Chapter 5

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



11th. Holy Equals of the Apostles Cyril and Methodios

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22.
15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[10:32-11:10]

Chapter 10

³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it

will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



21st. Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine the Great and his mother Helena

The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings).
[8:20-21a,25b-28]

²⁰ Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; ^{21a} and said, "O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below, ^{25b} "If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be sufficient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? ²⁶ Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, ²⁷ that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' to hear the prayer Your servant prays in this place, day and night. ²⁸ You will hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[61:10-62:5]

Chapter 61

¹⁰ Let my soul rejoice exceedingly in the Lord, for He clothed me with the garment of salvation, and the tunic of gladness. He put a miter around me like a bridegroom, and adorned me with ornaments like a bride. ¹¹ As the

earth causes its flower to grow, and as a garden its seeds, so shall the Lord cause righteousness to rise up, and exceeding joy before all the Gentiles.

Chapter 62

¹ For Zion's sake I will not be silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until My righteousness goes forth as light, and My salvation burns like a lamp. ² The Gentiles will see your righteousness, and kings your glory; and one will call you by your new name, which the Lord shall name. ³ You shall also be a crown of beauty in the Lord's hand, and the diadem of a kingdom in the hand of your God. ⁴ You shall no longer be called Forsaken, and your land shall not be called Desert; for you shall be called My Will, and in your land, the Inhabited Earth. ⁵ As a young man lives in wedlock with a virgin, so shall your sons dwell with you, and as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so the Lord shall rejoice over you.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. [60:1-16]

¹ "Shine, shine, O Jerusalem, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. ² Behold, darkness and gloom shall cover the earth upon the nations, but the Lord will shine on you; and His glory shall be seen upon you. ³ Kings shall come to your light, and the Gentiles to your brightness. ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see your children gathered together. Behold, all your sons come from afar, and your daughters shall be lifted upon their shoulders. ⁵ Then you will see, fear and be amazed in your heart, because the wealth of the sea and of nations and peoples shall change their course, and turn to you. ⁶ Herds of camels shall come to you, and the camels of Midian and Ephah shall cover you. All those from Sheba shall come bearing gold, and they shall bring frankincense, and proclaim the good news of the Lord's salvation. ⁷ All the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, and the rams of Nebaioth shall come to you. They shall offer acceptable sacrifices upon My altar, and My house of prayer shall be glorified. ⁸ Who are these who fly like clouds, and like doves with young? ⁹ The coastlands waited for Me, and the ships of Tarshish among the first, to bring your children from afar, and silver and gold with them for the sake of the Lord's name, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified. ¹⁰ Foreigners shall build your walls, and their kings shall defend you; for I struck you because of My wrath, and I loved you because of My mercy. ¹¹ Your gates shall be opened continually, and they shall not be shut day or night, to bring you the power of the Gentiles, and their kings leading them. ¹² For the nations and their kings who will not serve you shall perish, and those nations will be utterly desolate. ¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with the cypress,

the pine, and the cedar together, to glorify My holy place. ¹⁴ The sons of those who humbled and provoked you shall go to you in fear, and you shall be called City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁵ Because you were forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you. Therefore I will make you an eternal joy, the gladness of generations to generations. ¹⁶ You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, and eat the wealth of kings. You shall know I am the Lord who saves you, and the God of Israel who delivers you.



25th. The Third Finding of the Precious Head of Saint John the Baptist

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[40:1-5,9. 41:17b-18. 45:8. 48:20b-21a. 54:1]

Chapter 40

¹ Comfort, yes, comfort My people, says God. ² O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord's hand double for her sins. ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. ⁵ The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

⁹ O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength, ; lift it up, be not afraid.

Chapter 41

^{17b} I, the Lord God, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. ¹⁸ But I will open rivers in the mountain and fountains in the midst of the plains. I will make the desert into marsh-meadows, and the dry land into aqueducts.

Chapter 45

⁸ Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together.

Chapter 48

^{20b} Proclaim a voice of gladness, and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say: , "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob."

^{21a} If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them.

Chapter 54

¹ Be glad, O barren woman who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Malachi. [3:1a,2,3a,5a,5c,6a,7b,12a,17,18b,24,22-23]

^{1a} *Thus says the Lord Almighty:* "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me, and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come into His temple,

² But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can withstand His appearance? For He enters like a refiner's fire and as soap in one's wash.

^{3a} He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver and gold.

^{5a,c} And I will draw near to you in judgment, a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My name, and those who do not fear Me," says the Lord Almighty.

^{6a} "For I am the Lord your God; I have not changed. But you, O sons of Jacob,

^{7b} You have turned away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty,

^{12a} And all nations will call you blessed,"

¹⁷ "They shall be mine, says the Lord Almighty, in the day that I make them My possession, and I will choose them as a man chooses his own son who serves him.

^{18b} Then you shall return, and you will discern between the righteous and the wicked.

²⁴ Be in remembrance of the Law of Moses, of My servant as I commanded him, with its statutes and judgments, at Horeb for all Israel.

²² Behold, I will send you Elijah, before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²³ And he will turn the heart of the father to his son, and a man's heart to his neighbor, lest I come and strike the earth completely,' says the Lord Almighty, God the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7a,16a,17a,19b-20. 5:1-7]

Chapter 4

^{7a} But though a righteous man may die before his time, he shall be at rest.

^{16a} But a righteous man who is dead shall condemn the ungodly who are living,

^{17a} For they will see the end of the wise man, but will not understand what the Lord purposed for him.

^{19b} Because *the Lord* will dash them headlong and speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations. They shall be left dry and barren to the very end; they shall be in pain, and their memory shall perish. ²⁰ They will come with dread In the day of reckoning for their sins, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

Chapter 5

¹ Then the righteous man will stand with confidence in the presence of those who afflict him; and those who reject his labors, ² when they see him, will be shaken with dreadful fear; and they shall be amazed at his unexpected salvation. ³ They will speak among themselves with regret, and in anguish of spirit they will groan and say, ⁴ "This is the man whom we fools once held in derision and made a byword of disgrace. We considered his life to be madness and his death without honor. ⁵ How has he been numbered among the sons of God? And how is his portion among the saints? ⁶ Therefore we went astray from the way of truth, for the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. ⁷ We were satisfied with the paths of lawlessness, and we traveled through impassable deserts; but the way of the Lord we have not known."



27th. John the Russian of Evia

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though

in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]**

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]**

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest.

⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by

its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



JUNE

9th. Saint Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7a,16a,17a,19b-20. 5:1-7]

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his life to be madness and his death without honor. ⁵ How has he been numbered among the sons of God? And how is his portion among the saints? ⁶ Therefore we went astray from the way of truth, for the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. ⁷ We were satisfied with the paths of lawlessness, and we traveled through impassable deserts; but the way of the Lord we have not known."

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war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

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11th. Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[1:3-9] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[1:13-15] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the

former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[2:11-24] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. ¹³ Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. ¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.



19th. Holy Apostle Jude, brother of the Lord

The Reading is from the Epistle General of Jude. [1-10] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: ² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. ³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. ⁸ Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. ⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" ¹⁰ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

* * *

The Reading is from the Epistle General of Jude. [11-16] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. ¹² These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; ¹³ raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. ¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to

execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." ¹⁶ These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Epistle General of Jude.
[17-25]**

¹⁷ Beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.



**24th. Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet Forerunner and
Baptist John**

**The Reading is from Genesis.
[17:15-17,19a. 18:11a,12-14a. 21:1-2,4-8]**

Chapter 17

¹⁵ Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; and I will bless him, and he shall become nations; and kings of peoples shall be from him." ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face

and laughed, and said in his mind, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old, and shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

^{19a} Then God said, "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him."

Chapter 18

^{11a} Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age. ¹² Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "I have not yet had a child until now, and my lord is old also?" ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh within herself, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' ^{14a} Is anything impossible with God?"

Chapter 21

¹ Now the Lord visited Sarah as He said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. ² For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in old age, at the set time, of which God had spoken to him.

⁴ Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God commanded him. ⁵ Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh; all who hear will laugh with me." ⁷ She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne a child in my old age." ⁸ So the child grew and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the same day Isaac was weaned.

* * *

The Reading is from Judges. [13:2-5a,6a,7-8,13-14a,17-18,21a]

² Now there was a certain man from Zorah, from the tribe of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and could not give birth. ³ And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have not given birth, but you shall conceive a son. ⁴ Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, and do not eat anything unclean. ^{5a} For behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb."

^{6a} So the woman went in and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came to me, and His appearance was like the appearance of an Angel of God, very frightening.

⁷ And He said to me, 'Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. Now drink no wine or strong drink, and do not eat anything unclean, for the child shall be holy to God from the womb to the day of his death.'" ⁸ Then Manoah prayed to the Lord and said, "Lord Adonai, please let the Man of God whom

You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."

¹³ So the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "The woman will guard herself from everything I have told her. ^{14a} She may not eat anything that comes from the vine of wine, and let her not drink wine or similar strong drink."

¹⁷ Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, "What is Your name, so when Your words come to pass we may honor You?" ¹⁸ And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask My name, is it extraordinary?"

^{21a} The Angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and his wife.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[40:1-5,9. 41:17b-18. 45:8. 48:20b-21a. 54:1]

Chapter 40

¹ Comfort, yes, comfort My people, says God. ² O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord's hand double for her sins. ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. ⁵ The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

⁹ O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength, ; lift it up, be not afraid.

Chapter 41

^{17b} I, the Lord God, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. ¹⁸ But I will open rivers in the mountain and fountains in the midst of the plains. I will make the desert into marsh-meadows, and the dry land into aqueducts.

Chapter 45

⁸ Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together.

Chapter 48

^{20b} Proclaim a voice of gladness, and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say: , "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob."

^{21a} If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them.

Chapter 54

¹ Be glad, O barren woman who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman.



29th. The Holy Glorious and All-praised Princes of the Apostles, Peter and Paul

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[1:3-9] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[1:13-15] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter.
[2:11-24] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. ¹³ Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. ¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.



JULY

1st. Cosmas & Damian the Holy Unmercenaries

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord*, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell

us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an

unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



5th. Saint Athanasios, Founder of the Great Lavra on Mount Athos

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

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* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



5th. Uncovering of the Relics of Saint Sergius of Radonezh

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22.
15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[10:32-11:10]

Chapter 10

³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of

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10th. The Hieromartyr Joseph of Damascus

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

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The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ Thus says the Lord, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.
[43:27-44:4]

Chapter 43

²⁷ "It will be when these days are over, on the eighth day, the priests shall offer your whole burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar, and I shall accept you," says the Lord.

Chapter 44

¹ Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, that faces toward the east, but it was shut. ² So the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. ³ As for the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber, and go out the same way." ⁴ Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.



11th. Euphemia the Great Martyr

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord*, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

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[5:15-6:3a]

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13th-19th. Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seven
Ecumenical Council

The Reading is from Genesis.
[14:14-20a]

¹⁴ Now when Abram heard his brother Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ So he divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and also

brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. The Blessing of Melchizedek ¹⁷ Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. ¹⁸ Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; ^{20a} and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands."

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[1:8-11,15-17a]

⁸ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them." ⁹ So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. ¹⁰ The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. ¹¹ May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.'

¹⁵ "So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. ¹⁶ Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. ^{17a} You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgment is Gods.'"

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[10:14-21]

¹⁴ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. ¹⁶ Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. ¹⁸ He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you

were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. ²¹ He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes.”



15th. Holy Equal of the Apostles Great Prince Vladimir (in Holy Baptism Basil), Enlightener of Kievan Rus

The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings).
[8:20-21a,25b-28]

²⁰ Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; ^{21a} and said, “O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below,

^{25b} “If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be sufficient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? ²⁶ Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, ²⁷ that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, ‘My name shall be there,’ to hear the prayer Your servant prays in this place, day and night. ²⁸ You will hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful.”

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[61:10-62:5]

Chapter 61

¹⁰ Let my soul rejoice exceedingly in the Lord, for He clothed me with the garment of salvation, and the tunic of gladness. He put a miter around me like a bridegroom, and adorned me with ornaments like a bride. ¹¹ As the earth causes its flower to grow, and as a garden its seeds, so shall the Lord cause righteousness to rise up, and exceeding joy before all the Gentiles.

Chapter 62

¹ For Zion’s sake I will not be silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until My righteousness goes forth as light, and My salvation burns like a lamp. ² The Gentiles will see your righteousness, and kings your glory; and

one will call you by your new name, which the Lord shall name. ³ You shall also be a crown of beauty in the Lord's hand, and the diadem of a kingdom in the hand of your God. ⁴ You shall no longer be called Forsaken, and your land shall not be called Desert; for you shall be called My Will, and in your land, the Inhabited Earth. ⁵ As a young man lives in wedlock with a virgin, so shall your sons dwell with you, and as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so the Lord shall rejoice over you.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[60:1-16]

¹ "Shine, shine, O Jerusalem, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. ² Behold, darkness and gloom shall cover the earth upon the nations, but the Lord will shine on you; and His glory shall be seen upon you. ³ Kings shall come to your light, and the Gentiles to your brightness. ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see your children gathered together. Behold, all your sons come from afar, and your daughters shall be lifted upon their shoulders. ⁵ Then you will see, fear and be amazed in your heart, because the wealth of the sea and of nations and peoples shall change their course, and turn to you. ⁶ Herds of camels shall come to you, and the camels of Midian and Ephah shall cover you. All those from Sheba shall come bearing gold, and they shall bring frankincense, and proclaim the good news of the Lord's salvation. ⁷ All the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, and the rams of Nebaioth shall come to you. They shall offer acceptable sacrifices upon My altar, and My house of prayer shall be glorified. ⁸ Who are these who fly like clouds, and like doves with young? ⁹ The coastlands waited for Me, and the ships of Tarshish among the first, to bring your children from afar, and silver and gold with them for the sake of the Lord's name, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified. ¹⁰ Foreigners shall build your walls, and their kings shall defend you; for I struck you because of My wrath, and I loved you because of My mercy. ¹¹ Your gates shall be opened continually, and they shall not be shut day or night, to bring you the power of the Gentiles, and their kings leading them. ¹² For the nations and their kings who will not serve you shall perish, and those nations will be utterly desolate. ¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with the cypress, the pine, and the cedar together, to glorify My holy place. ¹⁴ The sons of those who humbled and provoked you shall go to you in fear, and you shall be called City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁵ Because you were forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you. Therefore I will make you an eternal joy, the gladness of generations to generations. ¹⁶ You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, and eat the wealth of kings. You shall know I am the Lord who saves you, and the God of Israel who delivers you.



19th. Uncovering of the Relics of Saint Seraphim of Sarov

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of

clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



20th. Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah (Elias)

The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings).
[17:1-24]

¹ Now Elijah the Tishbite from Tishbe in Gilead said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Hosts lives, the God of all Israel before whom I stand, there shall not be any dew nor rain during these years except at my word." ² Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, ³ "Depart and go eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. ⁴ You shall drink water from the brook, and I shall command the ravens to feed you there." ⁵ So Elijah went and obeyed the word of the Lord, and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread in the morning and meat in the evening, and he drank water from the brook. ⁷ But after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. ¹⁷ Now after this, the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. His sickness was so serious there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? You came to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son." ¹⁹ But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms, and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. ²⁰ Then Elijah cried out to the Lord and said, "Woe is me: O Lord! The witness of the widow with whom I lodge, you have embittered her by killing her son." ²¹ Then he stretched himself out on the child three times, and called on the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, let the soul of this child come back to him." ²² So it happened, and the child cried out. ²³ He took the child and brought him down from the upper room of the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "Behold, your son lives." ²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth."

* * *

The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings)
[18:1,17-27,29b-41a,41c,44b,42b,45. 19:1a,2-4a,5-10,15a,16b]

Chapter 18

¹ It came to pass many days later, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Go and appear to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Are you the one who is troubling Israel?" ¹⁸ Elijah answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but rather you and the house of your father, in that you forsake the Lord your God, and

followed after the Baals. ¹⁹ Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of shame, and the four hundred prophets of the sacred groves who eat at Jezebel's table." ²⁰ So Ahab went back to Israel and gathered all the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ Then Elijah came near to all of them and said, "How long will you be undecided between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him, but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone remain as a prophet of the Lord, but there are four hundred and fifty men who are prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of the sacred groves. ²³ Let them give us two oxen. Then let them choose one bull for themselves, to be cut into pieces, and laid on the wood; but they shall not light a fire under it. I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood; and I will not light a fire under it. ²⁴ Then you will call loudly on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord, my God. So it shall come to pass, that the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "The word you have spoken is good." ²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of shame, "Choose one calf for yourselves and prepare it, for there are many of you. Then call on the name of your god, but do not put fire to the wood under it." ²⁶ So they took a calf and prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "Hear us, O Baal, hear us." But there was no voice, for no one answered, and they ran about the altar they had made. ²⁷ Then it came to pass at noon that Elijah the Tishbite mocked them, and said, "Cry out with a loud voice, for he is a god; for either he is away meditating, or he is too busy, or preoccupied with other business. Perhaps he is sleeping, and has need to be awakened from his nap."

^{29b} *When* the appointed time to offer the evening sacrifice; but even still, there was no voice. Finally, Elijah the Tishbite spoke to the prophets of the idols, saying, "Now remove yourselves from this place, for I will offer my whole burnt offering." And they turned away and departed. ³⁰ Then Elijah said to the people, "Come near me." So all the people came near to him. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of Israel, for the Lord said, "Israel shall be your name." ³² Then he built an altar with the stones in the name of the Lord, and he repaired the altar of sacrifice that was scattered about, and around the altar he made a furrow holding two measures of seed. ³³ He piled the firewood on the altar he had made, divided the whole burnt offering, laid it on the firewood, and laid it in order on the altar. ³⁴ Then he said, "Bring me four pots of water, and pour it on the whole burnt offering and pour it on the unlit fire wood." They did so. Again Elijah said, "Do it a second time." So they did it again. Again he said, "Do it a third time." So they did it a third time. ³⁵ And the water ran all about the altar, and even the furrow became filled with water. ³⁶ After this, Elijah cried out to heaven and said, "O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, answer me, O Lord, answer me this day with fire, and let this people know You are the God of Israel, and I am Your servant; and for Your sake, I do all these

works. ³⁷ Hear me, O Lord, hear me with fire, and let these people know You are the Lord God, so as turn the heart of this people back." ³⁸ Then fire fell from the Lord out of the heaven and consumed the whole burnt offering, the firewood, and the water in the furrow. The fire also licked up the stones and the soil. ³⁹ So all the people fell on their faces, and they said, "Truly, the Lord is God; He is God." ⁴⁰ Elijah then said to the people, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Let not one of them escape." So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon, where he slaughtered them.

^{41a} After this, Elijah said to Ahab,

^{41c} "There is a sound of rain.

^{44b} Make ready your chariot, and get down from here before the rain overcomes you."

^{42b} But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel, where he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees.

⁴⁵ Thus it came to pass, that the sky darkened with black clouds and wind, and there was a heavy downpour of rain. But Ahab mourned, and went to Jezreel.

Chapter 19

^{1a} Now Ahab told Jezebel his wife everything Elijah did,

^{2a} Then Jezebel sent to Elijah, saying, "If you are Elijah and I this Jezebel, may God do so to me and more also, if at this hour tomorrow, I do not make your life like the life of one of them." ³ Elijah was fearful, and he arose and ran for his life. He came to Beersheba of Judah, where he left his servant.

^{4a} But Elijah himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat under a juniper tree.

⁵ Then he lay down and slept under a tree. Unexpectedly, someone touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." ⁶ Then Elijah looked, and there by his head was a cake made of wheat, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷ Again the angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is a great many days for you." ⁸ So he arose, ate and drank; and he went with the strength of that food forty days and forty nights, as far as Mount Horeb. ⁹ There he went into a cave and rested. Behold, the word of the Lord came to him and said to him, "Elijah, what are you doing here?" ¹⁰ And Elijah said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord Almighty since the children of Israel have forsaken you. They tore down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they seek to take my life."

^{15a} Then the Lord said to him, "Go and return on your way to the desert of Damascus;

^{16b} and *you* shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah as prophet in your place."

* * *

The Reading is from 3rd and 4th Kingdoms (1st and 2nd Kings)
[3rd Kingdoms 19:19a,19c,20a,21b. 4th Kingdoms 2:1,6-14]

3rd Kingdoms – Chapter 19

- ^{19a} Elijah departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing.
^{19c} Then Elijah passed by him, and threw his mantle on him.
^{20a} So Elisha left the oxen, and ran after Elijah,
^{21b} and ministered to him.

4th Kingdoms – Chapter 2

¹ As the time came to be for the Lord to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha went from Gilgal.
⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the Lord sent me on to the Jordan." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So both of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. ⁸ Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water. The water divided this way and that, and the two of them crossed on dry ground. ⁹ So it was that during the time they crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I may do for you, before I am taken away from you." Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." ¹⁰ So Elijah said, "You have asked a hard thing. If you see me when I am taken up from you, it shall be so for you; and if not, it shall not be so." ¹¹ Thus it came to be, as they walked and continued to talk, behold a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and the fire separated them one from the other; and Elijah was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind. ¹² Then Elisha saw it and cried aloud, "Father, O father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" He saw Elijah no more, and he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. ¹³ Then he raised Elijah's mantle, which fell from Elijah and upon Elisha, and Elisha returned and stood on the bank of the River Jordan. ¹⁴ He took Elijah's mantle which had fallen upon him and struck the water, but it did not divide. Then he said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah himself?" And he struck the water again, and it divided this way and that. So Elisha crossed over.



25th. Dormition of Saint Anna, mother of the Theotokos

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through

straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

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**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]**

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



27th. Panteleimon the Great Marytr & Healer

**The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]**

⁹ Thus says the Lord, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is

no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash

over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



AUGUST

1st. The Procession of the Wood of the Precious Cross

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[3:11-20]

¹¹ My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord, neither grow weary under His reproof. ¹² For whom the Lord loves He instructs, and chastises every son He receives. ¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment; ¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her; ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her. ¹⁷ For length of days and years of life are in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and glory; ¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue. ¹⁹ Her ways are good ways, and her paths are in peace. ²⁰ She is a tree of life for all who cleave to her, and she is security for those who lean upon her as upon the Lord.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[60:11-16]**

¹¹ Thus says the Lord, Your gates, Jerusalem, shall be opened continually and they shall not be shut day or night, to bring you the power of the Gentiles, and their kings leading them. ¹² For the nations and their kings who will not serve you shall perish, and those nations will be utterly desolate. ¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with the cypress, the pine, and the cedar together, to glorify My holy place. ¹⁴ The sons of those who humbled and provoked you shall go to you in fear, and you shall be called City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁵ Because you were forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you; , therefore, I will make you an eternal joy, the gladness of generations to generations. ¹⁶ You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, and eat the wealth of kings. You shall know I am the Lord who saves you, and the God of Israel who delivers you.

* * *

**The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:1-11]**

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."



6th. The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

The Reading is from Exodus.
[24:12-18]

¹² Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments I wrote, that you may teach them." ¹³ So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and they went up to the mountain of God. ¹⁴ But he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them." ¹⁵ Then Moses and Joshua went up the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ Now the glory of God descended on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. Then on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ The sight of the Lord's glory was like a burning fire on the top of the mountain before the children of Israel. ¹⁸ So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up the mountain; and he was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

* * *

The Reading is from Exodus.
[33:11-23. 34:4b,5-6,8]

Chapter 33

¹¹ Thus the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Then he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. ¹² Then Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you above all, and you have also found grace in My sight.'" ¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, reveal Yourself to me, that I may see You clearly, and find grace in Your sight, and know this great nation is Your people." ¹⁴ So He said, "I Myself will go before you, and give you rest." ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If You, Yourself, do not go up with us, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how then will it be known that Your people and I found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So both I and Your people shall be glorified beyond all the nations on the earth." ¹⁷ The Lord then said to Moses, "I will also do this thing you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you above all." ¹⁸ Moses replied, "Reveal Yourself to me." ¹⁹ Then God said, "I will pass before you in My glory, and I will proclaim

My name, the Lord, before you. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”²⁰ But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man can see My face and live.”²¹ Moreover, the Lord said, “Here is a place by Me: you shall stand on the rock.²² So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand; while I pass by.²³ Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

Chapter 34

^{4b} The Moses rose early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai as the Lord commanded him.

⁵ Now the Lord descended in the cloud; and He stood with him there, and he called upon the name of the Lord.⁶ Then the Lord passed before his face and proclaimed, “The Lord God compassionate, merciful, longsuffering, abounding in mercy and true.”

⁸ So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the ground and worshipped.

* * *

The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings) [19:3-4a,5-9a,11-13a,15a,16b]

³ Elijah was fearful, and he arose and ran for his life. He came to Beersheba of Judah, where he left his servant.

^{4a} But Elijah himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat under a juniper tree.

⁵ Then he lay down and slept under a tree. Unexpectedly, someone touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.”⁶ Then Elijah looked, and there by his head was a cake made of wheat, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.⁷ Again the angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him, and said, “Arise and eat, because the journey is a great many days for you.”⁸ So he arose, ate and drank; and he went with the strength of that food forty days and forty nights, as far as Mount Horeb.

^{9a} There he went into a cave and rested. Behold, the word of the Lord came to him and said to him,

¹¹ “Go out tomorrow and stand on the mountain before the Lord; and behold, the Lord will pass by, and before the Lord, a great and powerful wind will be rending the mountains and shattering the rocks; but the Lord will not be in the wind. After the wind, an earthquake, but the Lord will not be in the earthquake.¹² After the earthquake, there will be a fire, but the Lord will not be in the fire. After the fire, there will be a sound of a gentle breeze, and the Lord will be there.”

^{13a} So when Elijah heard this, he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went

out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

^{15a} Then the Lord said to him, "Go and return on your way to the desert of Damascus;

^{16b} and *you* shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah as prophet in your place."



9th. Holy Apostle Matthias

The Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.
[1:15-26] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; ¹⁷ for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ "For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.' ²¹ "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." ²³ And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[3:21-4:6] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Chapter 3

²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. ²⁴ Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Chapter 4

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. ⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[4:11-16] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.



13th. St Tikhon, Bishop of Voronezh, Wonderworker of Zadonsk

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[10:32-11:10]

Chapter 10

³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



15th. The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

The Reading is from Genesis.
[28:10-17]

¹⁰ Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. ¹¹ So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. ¹⁴ Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.
[43:27-44:4]

Chapter 43

²⁷ "It will be when these days are over, on the eighth day, the priests shall offer your whole burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar, and I shall accept you," says the Lord.

Chapter 44

¹ Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, that faces toward the east, but it was shut. ² So the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. ³ As for the

prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber, and go out the same way.”⁴ Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.

* * *

**The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:1-11]**

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ “He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me”; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ “Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased.”



**16th. The Translation of the Holy Image “Not Made by
Hands”**

**The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[4:1a,6-7,9-15]**

^{1a} *Moses spoke to the people of Israel saying, “Now, O Israel, listen to the ordinances and judgments I teach you today to observe, that you may live.*

⁶ Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the Gentiles, who will hear all these ordinances and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'⁷ For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?

⁹ Only take heed to yourself and diligently guard your soul, lest you forget all the things your eyes saw, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; and you shall teach them to your sons and the sons of your sons,¹⁰ especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb on the day of assembly, when the Lord said to me, 'Gather the people to me and let them hear My words, so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on earth, and may teach their sons.'¹¹ Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness gloom, storm, and a great voice.¹² The Lord spoke to you from the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice.¹³ So He declared to you His covenant, the Ten Commandments, which He commanded you to perform; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.¹⁴ Then the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you ordinances and judgments, so you might observe them in the land you are crossing over to inherit.¹⁵ So be careful to guard your souls, for you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb on the mountain from the midst of the fire."

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[5:1-7,9b-10,23-26,28a. 6:1-5,13,18a]

Chapter 5

¹ Now Moses called all Israel, and said to them, "Hear, O Israel, the ordinances and the judgments I speak in your hearing on this day, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them."² The Lord our God made a covenant with you in Horeb.³ The Lord did not make this covenant with your fathers, but with you, all of you alive here today.⁴ The Lord spoke to you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire.⁵ I stood between the Lord and you at that time to declare to you the words of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. And He said,⁶ 'I am the Lord your God who brings you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.'⁷ There shall be no different gods before my face.

^{9b} Because I am the Lord your God, a jealous God,¹⁰ but showing mercy to thousands who love Me and keep my commandments.'

²³ So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the fire, while

the mountain was burning with fire, you came near me, all the leaders of your tribes and your elders. Then you said, 'Surely the Lord our God showed us His glory and His greatness, and we heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We saw this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives,'²⁵ Now therefore, let us not die, because this great fire will destroy us; and if we continue to hear the voice of the Lord our God many more, we shall die.²⁶ For who of flesh heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?'

^{28a} The Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me.

Chapter 6

¹ Now these are the commandments, the ordinances, and the judgments the Lord our God commanded to teach you, that you may do them in the land you are crossing over to inherit,² and may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His ordinances and commandments I command you today, you and your sons and the sons of your sons, all the days of your life, so your days may be prolonged.³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you, and you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers told you – 'to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.'" ⁴ These are the ordinances and the judgments the Lord commanded the children of Israel in the desert, when they came from the Land of Egypt: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord.⁵ You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart, from your whole soul, and from your whole power.

¹³ You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and you shall cling to Him and take oaths in His name.

^{18a} So you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may be well with you."

* * *

The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings). [8:20-21a,25b-28]

²⁰ Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; ^{21a} and said, "O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below,

^{25b} "If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be sufficient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? ²⁶ Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, ²⁷ that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' to hear the prayer Your servant prays in this place, day and night. ²⁸ You will hear the supplication of

Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful.”



24th. Kosmas the New Hieromartyr & Equal-to-the Apostles of Aetolia

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;
¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Isaiah. [43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord*, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune;, ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.



27th. Phanourios the Great Martyr & Newly Appeared of Rhodes

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord,* All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

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truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



29th. The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet Forerunner and Baptist John

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[40:1-5,9. 41:17b-18. 45:8. 48:20b-21a. 54:1]

Chapter 40

¹ Comfort, yes, comfort My people, says God. ² O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord's hand double for her sins. ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. ⁵ The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

⁹ O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength, ; lift it up, be not afraid.

Chapter 41

^{17b} I, the Lord God, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. ¹⁸ But I will open rivers in the mountain and fountains in the midst of the plains. I will make the desert into marsh-meadows, and the dry land into aqueducts.

Chapter 45

⁸ Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together.

Chapter 48

^{20b} Proclaim a voice of gladness, and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say: , "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob."

^{21a} If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them.

Chapter 54

¹ Be glad, O barren woman who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Malachi.
[3:1a,2,3a,5a,5c,6a,7b,12a,17,18b,24,22-23]

^{1a} Thus says the Lord Almighty: "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me, and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly

come into His temple,

² But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can withstand His appearance? For He enters like a refiner's fire and as soap in one's wash.

^{3a} He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver and gold.

^{5a,c} And I will draw near to you in judgment, a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My name, and those who do not fear Me," says the Lord Almighty.

^{6a} "For I am the Lord your God; I have not changed. But you, O sons of Jacob,

^{7b} You have turned away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty,

^{12a} And all nations will call you blessed,"

¹⁷ "They shall be mine, says the Lord Almighty, in the day that I make them My possession, and I will choose them as a man chooses his own son who serves him.

^{18b} Then you shall return, and you will discern between the righteous and the wicked.

²⁴ Be in remembrance of the Law of Moses, of My servant as I commanded him, with its statutes and judgments, at Horeb for all Israel.

²² Behold, I will send you Elijah, before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²³ And he will turn the heart of the father to his son, and a man's heart to his neighbor, lest I come and strike the earth completely,' says the Lord Almighty, God the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7a,16a,17a,19b-20. 5:1-7]

Chapter 4

^{7a} But though a righteous man may die before his time, he shall be at rest.

^{16a} But a righteous man who is dead shall condemn the ungodly who are living,

^{17a} For they will see the end of the wise man, but will not understand what the Lord purposed for him.

^{19b} Because *the Lord* will dash them headlong and speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations. They shall be left dry and barren to the very end; they shall be in pain, and their memory shall perish. ²⁰ They will come with dread In the day of reckoning for their sins, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

Chapter 5

¹ Then the righteous man will stand with confidence in the presence of those who afflict him; and those who reject his labors, ² when they see him, will be shaken with dreadful fear; and they shall be amazed at his

unexpected salvation. ³ They will speak among themselves with regret, and in anguish of spirit they will groan and say, ⁴ "This is the man whom we fools once held in derision and made a byword of disgrace. We considered his life to be madness and his death without honor. ⁵ How has he been numbered among the sons of God? And how is his portion among the saints? ⁶ Therefore we went astray from the way of truth, for the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. ⁷ We were satisfied with the paths of lawlessness, and we traveled through impassable deserts; but the way of the Lord we have not known."



LENTEN TRIODION

Wednesday of Cheesefare Week

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Joel. [2:12-26]

¹² Now says the Lord your God, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting and wailing and with mourning; ¹³ rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compassionate. He is long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and repents of evils. ¹⁴ Who knows if He will return and change His mind—if He will leave a blessing behind Him, even an offering and drink-offering to the Lord our God?" ¹⁵ Sound the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people, sanctify the congregation, call out the elders, and gather the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom go out from his bedchamber and the bride out of her bridal chamber. ¹⁷ Between the porch and the altar, the priests of the altar, ministering to the Lord, will each be weeping and will say, "O Lord, spare Your people; do not give Your inheritance to reproach, that the Gentiles should rule over them, lest they should say among the Gentiles, 'Where is their God?'" ¹⁸ But the Lord was zealous for His land and spared His people. ¹⁹ And the Lord answered His people and said, "Behold, I send you wheat, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied with them. I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations, ²⁰ and I will drive the army from the north away from you, and I shall force him into a dry land. I will drown his face in the eastern sea and his back in the western sea; its stench and foul smell will rise up, because he has done powerful works. ²¹ O land, be of good courage; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things. ²² Take courage, you beasts of the field, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, and the trees bear their fruit. And again the vine and the fig tree yield their full potency. ²³ And you children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He gives food that is right for you, and He will shower you as before with the early and the late rain. ²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the wine presses of wine and olive oil will overflow. ²⁵ And I will restore to you the years the grasshopper and the locust have eaten, and for the blight, and the caterpillar, even for My great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶ You will eat abundantly and be satisfied and will praise the name of the Lord your God for what He has so wondrously done unto you. And My people will not be put to shame forever."

Vespers
The Reading is from the Prophecy of Joel.
[4:12-21]

Thus says the Lord: ¹² "Let all the nations rouse themselves and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I shall sit to judge all the nations round about. ¹³ Bring out the sickles, for the harvest is ripe. Come in and tread the grapes, for the winepress is full, the wine vats overflow; for their wickedness is multiplied. ¹⁴ The news resounded in the valley of judgment, for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of judgment. ¹⁵ The sun and moon shall become dark, and the stars shall withdraw their light. ¹⁶ And the Lord shall cry out from Zion, and He shall utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and earth will quake, but the Lord shall keep His people safe and shall strengthen the sons of Israel. ¹⁷ So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, the one dwelling in Zion, on My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be a holy city, and no more will strangers pass through her. ¹⁸ And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip sweetness, and milk shall flow from the hills, and all the brooks of Judah shall flow with water. And a fountain shall flow out from the house of the Lord, and it will supply water to the Valley of Acacias. ¹⁹ Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a wilderness, because of the wrongdoings against the people of Judah; because of the innocent blood shed in their land. ²⁰ But Judah shall be inhabited forever and Jerusalem unto generations of generations. ²¹ And I shall avenge their blood and shall not let it go unpunished. The Lord shall dwell in Zion."



Friday of Cheesefare Week

The Sixth Hour
The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zechariah.
[8:7-17]

⁷ Thus says the Lord Almighty: "Behold, I shall deliver My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west. ⁸ I shall bring them in and settle them in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be to Me a people and I will be to them a God in truth and in righteousness." ⁹ Thus says the Lord

Almighty: "Let your hands be strong, you who hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time the temple was built. ¹⁰ For before those days, men's wages will not be profitable and a price for livestock wont will not even exist, and because of affliction there will be no peace for those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all men, each against his neighbor. ¹¹ But now I do not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days," says the Lord Almighty, ¹² "Rather I will show forth peace, for the vine shall give its fruit, the earth her produce, the heaven its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. ¹³ And it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be for a blessing; be of good courage and strengthen your hands." ¹⁴ For thus says the Lord Almighty: "As I purposed to afflict you when your fathers provoked Me to anger," says the Lord Almighty, "and I did not relent, ¹⁵ so now in these days I have prepared and purposed to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; be of good courage. ¹⁶ These are the things you shall do: speak the truth, each man to his neighbor, and judge with peaceful judgment in your gates, ¹⁷ and let none of you plan evil in his heart against his neighbor, and do not love a false oath, for all these things I hate," says the Lord Almighty."

Vespers

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zechariah. [8:19–23]

¹⁹ Thus says the Lord Almighty: "The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast, shall be for joy and gladness and in good feasts to the house of Judah. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace." ²⁰ Thus says the Lord Almighty, "Yet many people will have come and those inhabiting many cities; ²¹ and the inhabitants of five cities will come together to one city, saying, 'Let us go to beseech the Lord and to seek out the face of the Lord Almighty; and I will go also.' ²² And many peoples and many nations will come to seek out the presence of the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem and to obtain the favor of the presence of the Lord." ²³ Thus says the Lord Almighty, "In those days, if ten men from all the tongues of the nations stop you, even if they grab hold of the hem of a Jewish man, they will be saying, 'We will go with you, for we heard God is with you.'"



Monday of the First Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. [1:1-20]

¹ The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw against Judah and Jerusalem in the kingdom of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. ² Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth. For the Lord has spoken: "I have begotten and brought up sons, but they rejected Me. ³ The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know Me, and the people do not understand Me." ⁴ Alas, sinful nation, a people full of sins, an evil seed, lawless children. They forsook the Lord; they provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel. ⁵ Why should you still be struck, as you continue in lawlessness? The whole head is in pain, and the whole heart in sadness. ⁶ From the feet all the way to the head, there is no soundness in them, only wounds and bruises and festering sores. They have not been closed or bandaged, or soothed with ointment. ⁷ Your land is desolate; your cities are burned with fire. Strangers take over your land in your presence and it is made desolate, overthrown by foreign people. ⁸ So the daughter of Zion is forsaken, like a tent in a vineyard, like a hut in a garden of cucumbers, like a besieged city. ⁹ Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom, and been made like Gomorrah. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom. Give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah: ¹¹ "What is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" says the Lord. "I am full of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of lambs. I do not desire the blood of bulls and he-goats. ¹² When you come to appear before Me, who required these things from your hands to tread My court? ¹³ Although you should bring fine wheat flour, it is vain. Incense is an abomination to Me. I cannot endure your new moons, and Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies, and fasting and holy day. ¹⁴ Your new moons and feasts My soul hates. You have become a dissatisfaction to Me; I will not forgive your sins. ¹⁵ When you stretch forth your hands to Me, I will turn My eyes from you. Although you make many prayers, I will not listen to you. Your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evils from your souls before My eyes. Cease from your evils. ¹⁷ Learn to do good. Seek judgment and redeem the wronged. Defend the orphan and justify the widow. ¹⁸ Come now, and let us reason together,"

says the Lord, "although your sins are like crimson, I shall make them white like snow, and although they are as scarlet, I shall make them white like wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. ²⁰ But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword," for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[1:1-13]

¹ In the beginning God made heaven and earth. ² The earth was invisible and without adornment; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ God saw the light; it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day. ⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water"; and it was so. ⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. ⁸ So God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good; and there was evening and morning, the second day. ⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its places, and the dry land appeared. ¹⁰ So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth." It was so. ¹² Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. ¹³ So evening and morning were the third day.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[1:1-20]

¹ The Proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, who reigned in Israel, ² To know wisdom and instruction, and to understand words of discernment; ³ To receive both subtlety of words, and to understand true righteousness and upright judgment; ⁴ So as to give astuteness to the simple, and both

perception and understanding to a young man; ⁵ For a wise man who hears these things will be wiser, and the man of understanding will gain direction. ⁶ He will understand both a parable and a hidden saying, both wise words and riddles. ⁷ The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, and there is good understanding in all who practice it; ⁸ And godliness toward God is the beginning of perception, but the ungodly despise wisdom and instruction. ⁹ Hear, my son, the instruction of your father, and do not reject the laws of your mother. ¹⁰ For you will receive a crown of grace on your head and a gold chain around your neck. ¹¹ My son, do not let the ungodly lead you astray, and do not consent if they invite you, saying, ¹² "Come with us; take part in bloodshed, and let us hide a righteous man in the earth unjustly; ¹³ And let us swallow him, just as Hades does the living, and let us take away his remembrance from the earth; ¹⁴ Let us seize his valuable property, and let us fill our houses with spoils; ¹⁵ Cast your lot with us and let us acquire a common bag; Let there be one purse for us." ¹⁶ Do not walk in the way with them, but turn away your foot from their paths. ¹⁷ For their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. ¹⁸ For nets are not spread before birds for no reason, for those who participate in murder store up evils for themselves; And evil is the destruction of lawless men. ¹⁹ These are the ways of all who accomplish lawless things, for they take away their own soul in ungodliness. ²⁰ Wisdom sings in the streets; she moves boldly in the squares.



Tuesday of the First Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[1:19-2:3a]

Chapter 1

Thus says the Lord: ¹⁹ "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good things of the land. ²⁰ But if you are unwilling and disobedient, you shall be devoured by the sword," for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. ²¹ How the faithful city of Zion has become a prostitute! It was full of judgment. Righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. ²² Your silver is worthless; your tavern-keepers mix wine with water. ²³ Your rulers are disobedient and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes and follows

after rewards. They do not defend the orphans, nor do they regard the cause of the widow. ²⁴ Therefore says the Master, the Lord of hosts: "Woe to the mighty ones of Israel, for My anger against the adversaries will not cease; and I will execute judgment on My enemies. ²⁵ I will bring My hand upon you and purge you completely. I will destroy those who disobey and remove all the lawless from you; I will humble all the arrogant. ²⁶ I will establish your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward, you shall be called the city of righteousness, Zion, the faithful mother-city." ²⁷ For her captives shall be saved with judgment and with mercy. ²⁸ The lawless and sinners shall be destroyed together. Those who forsake the Lord shall come to an end. ²⁹ For they shall be ashamed of the idols they desired and the gardens they longed for. ³⁰ For they shall be as a terebinth tree that has lost its leaves; like a garden with no water. ³¹ Their strength shall be as broken fiber and their works as sparks of fire. The lawless and the sinners will burn together, and no one shall quench them.

Chapter 2

¹ The word that came from the Lord to Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² Now it shall come to pass in the last days, the mountain of the Lord and the house of God shall be visible on the tops of the mountains, and exalted above the hills. All the Gentiles shall come to it. ^{3a} Many Gentiles shall travel and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will proclaim His way to us, and we shall walk in it."

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[1:14-23]

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven for illumination to divide day from night. ¹⁵ Let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years. Let them be for illumination in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth." It was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ So evening and morning were the fourth day. ²⁰ Then God said, "Let the waters bring forth the living things that have life, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of heaven's firmament." It was so. ²¹ Thus God made great sea creatures and every living thing that moves with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful

and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on earth.”
²³ So evening and morning were the fifth day.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[1:20-35]

²⁰ Wisdom sings in the streets; she moves boldly in the squares. ²¹ She preaches on high city walls and sits at the gates of lords. At the gates of a city she boldly says, ²² “So long a time as the simple hold fast to righteousness, they shall not be ashamed; ²³ But those without discernment, since they are desirous of arrogance, and are become ungodly, they hate perception, and are become subject to reproofs. ²⁴ Behold, I shall bring forth upon you the utterance of my breath, and I shall teach you my word. ²⁵ Since I called, but you did not obey, and spoke at length, but you paid no attention, ²⁶ But made my counsels invalid, and were not persuaded by my reproofs; ²⁷ Consequently, I will laugh at your annihilation, and will exult when ruin comes to you, ²⁸ And when confusion reaches you unawares, and overthrow comes like a whirlwind, ²⁹ And when tribulation and anguish come to you, and when destruction comes to you. ³⁰ For it shall be, when you shall call upon me, I will not listen to you; ³¹ Evil men will seek me, but not find me, for they hate wisdom, and choose not the fear of the Lord. ³² Neither do they wish to follow my counsels, but despise my reproofs. ³³ Therefore, they shall eat the fruits of their own way and be filled with their own ungodliness. ³⁴ For since they wrong the simple, they shall be killed, and a close examination shall destroy the ungodly. ³⁵ But he who obeys me shall dwell in hope, and shall be at rest without fear from every evil.”



Wednesday of the First Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[2:3b-17]

^{3b} Thus says the Lord: For the law of the Lord shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the Gentiles,

and rebuke many people. They shall beat their swords into plows and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵ O now, house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord. ⁶ For He forsook His people, the house of Israel, for as from the beginning, their land is filled with divinations – like the land of foreigners – and many children of foreigners were born to them. ⁷ Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures. Their land is also filled with horses; there is no end to their chariots. ⁸ Their land is also filled with the abominations of their works, and they worship the works of their hands, which their fingers made. ⁹ A man bows down and each man humbles himself, but I will not forgive them. ¹⁰ Enter now into the rocks and hide in the earth, from the face of the Lord, for fear and the glory of His might when He rises to smite the earth. ¹¹ For the eyes of the Lord are lofty, and man is humble. The haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. ¹² For the day of the Lord of hosts shall come upon all who are insolent, arrogant, high and lifted up, and they shall be humbled.; ¹³ and upon every cedar tree of Lebanon, high and lifted up, and upon every oak of Bashan, ¹⁴ and upon every mountain and lofty hill, ¹⁵ and upon every high tower and fortified wall, ¹⁶ and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every sight of beautiful ships. ¹⁷ Every man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of man shall fall. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[1:24-2:3]

Chapter 1

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: the quadrupeds, the creeping things, and the wild animals of the earth according to their kind." It was so. ²⁵ So God made the wild animals of the earth according to their kind, the cattle according to their kind, and all the creeping things on earth according to their kind. God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the earth." ²⁷ So God made man; in the image of God He made him; male and female He made them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing herb that sows seed on the face of all

the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.
³⁰ I also give every green plant as food for all the wild animals of the earth, for all the birds of heaven, and for everything that creeps on the earth in which is the breath of life." It was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good. So evening and morning were the sixth day.

Chapter 2

¹ Thus heaven and earth and all their adornment were finished. ² And on the seventh day God finished the works He made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the works He made. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His works God began to make.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [2:1-23]

¹ My son, if you receive the words of my commandment and hide them within yourself, ² Your ear will be obedient to wisdom, and you will incline your heart to understanding; You will entrust it to your son as an admonition. ³ For if he calls upon wisdom, and you utter your voice for understanding; if you seek perception with a strong voice, ⁴ If you seek her as silver and search for her as treasure, ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His face come knowledge and understanding; ⁷ And He stores up salvation for the upright; He will protect their journey, ⁸ That He might guard the ways of His ordinances; and He will carefully guard the way of those who reverence Him. ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and judgment, and accomplish successfully every good path for yourself. ¹⁰ For if wisdom comes into your mind, and the perception in your soul seems to be good, ¹¹ Then good counsel will guard you, and holy thinking will keep you; ¹² That it might rescue you from an evil way and from a man who speaks nothing trustworthy. ¹³ Woe to those who forsake the paths of uprightness so they may walk in the ways of darkness, ¹⁴ Who delight in evils and rejoice in evil perversion, ¹⁵ Whose ways are crooked and their paths devious, ¹⁶ So they may cause you to be far from the straight way and a stranger to righteous judgment. ¹⁷ My son, do not lay hold of evil counsel, nor forsake the teaching of your youth And forget the divine covenant; ¹⁸ For it establishes its house with death, and its paths beside Hades with the dead; ¹⁹ All who journey there do not return, nor do they lay hold of straight paths; for they do not comprehend the years of life. ²⁰ For if they walked in good paths, they would find the smooth paths of righteousness. ²¹ The inhabitants of the land will be good, and the simple will be left in it; ²² For the upright will dwell in the land, and the holy will be

left in it. ²³ The ways of the ungodly shall perish from the land, and the lawless shall be banished from it.



Thursday of the First Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[2:11b-21]

^{11b} The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. ¹² For the day of the Lord of hosts shall come upon all who are insolent, arrogant, high and lifted up, and they shall be humbled; ¹³ and upon every cedar tree of Lebanon, high and lifted up, and upon every oak of Bashan, ¹⁴ and upon every mountain and lofty hill, ¹⁵ and upon every high tower and fortified wall, ¹⁶ and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every sight of beautiful ships. ¹⁷ Every man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of man shall fall. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. ¹⁸ But they shall hide all the things made by hands. ¹⁹ They shall carry them into the caves and cracks of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from fear of the Lord's presence and the glory of His might when He arises to strike the earth. ²⁰ For in that day, man will cast away his abominations of silver and gold, which they made to worship worthless things and bats, ²¹ so as to enter into the holes of solid rocks and clefts of the rugged rocks, from fear of the Lord and the glory of His might when He arises to strike the earth.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.
[2:4-19]

⁴ This is the book of the genesis of heaven and earth when they were made, in the day the Lord God made heaven and earth, ⁵ before any plant of the field was on earth and before any herb of the field sprang up. For God had not sent rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; ⁶ but a fountain came up from the ground and watered the whole face of the earth. ⁷ Then God formed man out of dust from the ground, and breathed in his face the breath of life; and man became a living soul. ⁸ Then the Lord God

planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man He formed. ⁹ Besides this, God caused every tree beautiful to the sight and good for food to grow from the ground. Also, in the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of learning the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it separated into four heads. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon. It circles all the land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good. The carbuncle and the emerald are there as well. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon. It circles all the land of Ethiopia. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris. It flows over against the Assyrians. And the fourth river is Euphrates. ¹⁵ Then the Lord God took the man He formed and put him in the garden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded Adam, saying, "You may eat food from every tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you may not eat; for in whatever day you eat from it, you shall die by death." ¹⁸ And the Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹ Also, God formed out of the ground all the wild animals of the field and all the birds of heaven, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. Thus whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[3:1-20]

¹ My son, do not forget my laws, but let your heart keep my words; ² For length of days, and years of life and peace they will add to you. ³ Do not let almsgiving and faithfulness forsake you, but hang them upon your neck; ⁴ And you will find grace and provide good things before the Lord and men. ⁵ Trust in God with all your heart, and do not exalt your own wisdom. ⁶ In all your ways know wisdom, that she may cut a straight path for you; and your foot will not stumble. ⁷ Do not rely on your own discernment, but fear God, and turn away from every evil. ⁸ Then there shall be healing for your body and care for your bones. ⁹ Honor the Lord from your righteous labors, and offer Him the firstfruits from the fruits of your righteousness, ¹⁰ That your storehouses may be filled with abundance of grain, and your winepresses may gush with wine. ¹¹ My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord, neither grow weary under His reproof. ¹² For whom the Lord loves He instructs, and chastises every son He receives. ¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment; ¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her; ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her. ¹⁷ For length of days and years of life are in her right hand, and in her

left hand are riches and glory; ¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue. ¹⁹ Her ways are good ways, and all her paths are in peace. ²⁰ She is a tree of life for all who cleave to her, and she is security for those who lean upon her as upon the Lord.



Friday of the First Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[3:1-14a]

¹ For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, takes away from Judah and from Jerusalem the strong man and the strong woman; the strength of bread and the strength of water; ² the mighty man and the man of war; the judge, the prophet, the diviner, and the elder; ³ the captain of fifty, the wonderful counselor, the skillful artisan, and the prudent disciple. ⁴ 'I will give children to be their princes, and mockers shall rule over them. ⁵ The people will collapse, every one on another and every one on his neighbor. The child will be arrogant toward the elder and vulgar toward the honorable." ⁶ When a man takes hold of his brother or his father's servant, saying, "You have clothing; you be our ruler and let my food be under your roof." ⁷ In that day, he will protest, saying, "I will not be your ruler, for in my house there is neither food nor clothing. I will not be the ruler of this people." ⁸ For Jerusalem is ruined and Judah is fallen, because their tongues are lawless, and they are disobedient to the Lord. Now their glory is humbled. ⁹ The shame on their face witnesses against them. They declare and exhibit their sin as Sodom. Woe to their soul, for they planned evil upon themselves, ¹⁰ saying, "Let us hand over the righteous man, for he is burdensome to us." They shall eat the fruit of their doings. ¹¹ Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him. ¹² "O My people, your punishers gather you, and those who make demands of you rule over you. O My people, those who bless you, lead you astray and trouble the path of your feet." ¹³ The Lord stands up to plead, and stands to judge His people. ^{14a} The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and His princes.

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[2:20-3:20]

Chapter 2

²⁰ So Adam gave names to all the cattle, to all the birds of heaven, and to all the wild animals of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. ²¹ Thus God brought a trance upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and filled up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the Lord God built the rib He took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to him. ²³ So Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh." ²⁵ Now the two were naked, both Adam and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Chapter 3

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than all the wild animals the Lord God made on the earth. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden; ³ but from the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You shall not eat from it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You shall not die by death. ⁵ For God knows in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw the tree was good for food, was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree beautiful to contemplate, she took its fruit and ate. She also gave it to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of the two were opened, and they knew they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ⁸ Then they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden that afternoon, and Adam and his wife hid themselves within the tree in the middle of the garden from the presence of the Lord God. ⁹ So the Lord God called Adam and said to him, "Adam, where are you?" ¹⁰ He replied, "I heard Your voice as You were walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." ¹¹ Thus He said, "Who said you were naked? Have you eaten from the one tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² Then Adam said, "The woman You gave me, gave me of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ So the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ Thus the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than all the wild animals of the earth. On your breast and belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and

her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall be on guard for His heel.”
¹⁶ To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply your pain and your groaning, and in pain you shall bring forth children. Your recourse will be to your husband, and he shall rule over you.” ¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, “Because you heeded the voice of your wife, and ate from the one tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it,’ cursed is the ground in your labors. In toil you shall eat from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground from which you were taken. Earth you are, and to earth you shall return.” ²⁰ So Adam called his wife’s name Life, because she was the mother of all living.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[3:21-37]

²¹ God by wisdom founded the earth and prepared the heavens with discernment. ²² With perception the depths were broken up, And the clouds flowed with dew. ²³ My son, do not be careless, but keep my counsel and thinking, ²⁴ That your soul may live, And grace may be around your neck. ²⁵ And there will be healing for your flesh And care for your bones, ²⁶ That you may walk confidently in peace in all your ways, And your foot may not stumble. ²⁷ For if you sit down, you will be without fear, And if you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant. ²⁸ And do not be afraid of intimidation when it comes upon you, Nor of the attack of the ungodly when it comes at you; ²⁹ For the Lord will be over all your ways, And He will plant your feet firmly, that you may not be shaken. ³⁰ Do not withhold doing good to the needy, When you may give a helping hand; ³¹ Do not say, when you are able to do good, "Come back tomorrow, and I will give you something"; For you do not know what the next day will bring forth. ³² Do not devise evil things against your friend Who dwells beside you and trusts in you. ³³ Do not be ready to quarrel with a man in vain, Lest he do you some harm. ³⁴ Do not incur the reproach of evil men, Neither seek their ways; ³⁵ For every lawless man is unclean before the Lord, And he does not sit among the righteous. ³⁶ The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly, but He blesses the dwellings of the righteous. ³⁷ The Lord opposes the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.



Monday of the Second Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[4:2-5:7a]

Chapter 4

Thus says the Lord: ² In that day, the Lord will shine in counsel and glory on the earth, to exalt and glorify those of Israel who remain. ³ And it shall come to pass that those who remain in Zion and in Jerusalem will be called holy – everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem, ⁴ because the Lord shall wash away the filth of the sons and the daughters of Zion, and shall purge the blood of Jerusalem from their midst by the Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning. ⁵ He shall come and there shall be with regard to Mt. Zion and everything round about, a cloud to overshadow it by day, and as it were, smoke and light of fire burning at night, and it shall be covered altogether with glory. ⁶ It shall be for shade from the heat, for a place of shelter, and for a hiding-place from inclement weather and rain.

Chapter 5

¹ Now I will sing to My Beloved a song of My Beloved regarding My vineyard: There was a vineyard for My Beloved, a place in power and richness. ² He placed a wall around it and fortified it. He planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst and also made a winepress in it. So I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. ³ And now, man of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, judge between Me and My vineyard. ⁴ What shall I yet do for My vineyard that I have not done for it? For I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. ⁵ But now I will tell you what I shall do to My vineyard: I shall remove its wall and it shall be for booty. I shall break down its wall and it shall be trampled under foot. ⁶ I will forsake My vineyard. It shall not be pruned or cultivated, but thorns shall sprout forth as in a barren land. I will also command the clouds not to rain on it. ^{7a} For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.
[3:21-4:7]

Chapter 3

²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made garments of skin, and clothed them. ²² Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like

one of Us, to know good and evil. Now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" – ²³ therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of pleasure to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He cast out Adam, and made him dwell opposite the garden of pleasure. He then stationed the cherubim and the fiery sword which turns every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Chapter 4

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man through God." ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a shepherd of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ Now in the process of time Cain brought a sacrifice to the Lord from the fruits of the ground. ⁴ Abel also brought a sacrifice from the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. The Lord respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his sacrifices. So Cain was extremely sorrowful, and his countenance fell. ⁶ So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you extremely sorrowful? And why has your countenance fallen?" ⁷ Did you not sin, even though you brought it rightly, but did not divide it rightly? Be still; his recourse shall be to you; and you shall rule over him."

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [3:37-4:21]

Chapter 3

³⁷ The Lord opposes the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble. ³⁸ The wise shall inherit glory, but the ungodly exalt dishonor.

Chapter 4

¹ Hear, my children, the instruction of your father, and pay attention, that you might know his thinking; ² For I offer a good gift to you; do not forsake my law. ³ For I was a son, and I was obedient to my father, and beloved in the presence of my mother, ⁴ Who taught me, saying, "Let our word become firmly planted in your heart; ⁵ Guard our commandments; do not forget them; neither disregard the word of my mouth, ⁶ Nor forsake it, and it shall cleave to you; love it, and it will keep you. ⁷ Secure it, and it shall exalt you; honor it, that it may embrace you, ⁸ And give your head a crown of graces, and cover you with a crown of delight." ⁹ Hear me, my son, and receive my words, and the years of your life shall be increased, that many ways of life may be yours; ¹⁰ For I teach you the ways of wisdom and set you on upright paths. ¹¹ For if you walk, your steps shall not be confined; and if you run, you will not grow weary. ¹² Lay hold of my instruction; do not let go, but guard it for yourself as your life. ¹³ Do not go in the ways of the ungodly, neither be zealous for the ways of the lawless; ¹⁴ In whatever place they encamp, do not go there, but turn aside from them and pass by.

¹⁵ For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; their sleep is taken away, and they do not rest; ¹⁶ For they feed on the bread of ungodliness, and they are drunk with the wine of lawlessness. ¹⁷ But the ways of the righteous shine like a light; they go before and give light until full daylight. ¹⁸ But the ways of the ungodly are dark; they do not know how they stumble. ¹⁹ My son, give heed to my word and incline your ear to my words, ²⁰ That your fountains may not fail you; guard them in your heart; ²¹ For they are life to those who find them and healing for all their flesh.



Tuesday of the Second Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[5:7-16]

Thus says the Lord: ⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant. I waited for it to bring forth judgment, but it brought forth lawlessness, and not righteousness, but a cry. ⁸ Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, to take something from their neighbor. Surely you will not dwell alone in the land. ⁹ For these things reached the ears of the Lord of hosts, for though many large and beautiful houses should be built, they shall be desolate, for there shall be no one to live in them. ¹⁰ For where ten yoke of oxen shall work, the land shall yield one jar, and whoever sows six homers shall receive three measures. ¹¹ Woe to those who rise early in the morning to follow intoxicating drink; to those who continue until night, for wine shall inflame them. ¹² For they drink wine with the harp, the strings, the tambourine and flute, but they do not look at the deeds of the Lord, nor consider the works of His hands! ¹³ Therefore my people became captives, because they did not know the Lord; and a multitude died through hunger and thirst for water. ¹⁴ Hades enlarged itself and opened its mouth continually. The glorious, the great, the wealthy, and the troublesome shall descend into it. ¹⁵ A man shall be humiliated, and a man shall be dishonored; and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled. ¹⁶ But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and the Holy God shall be glorified in righteousness.

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[4:8-15]

⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. ⁹ Then God said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He replied, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ Thus God said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. ¹¹ So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. You will be groaning and trembling on the earth." ¹³ Then Cain said to the Lord, "My guilt is too great to be forgiven! ¹⁴ Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be groaning and trembling on the earth. Then it will happen if anyone finds me, he will kill me." ¹⁵ So the Lord God said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." Thus the Lord set a sign on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[5:1-15]

¹ My son, hold fast to wisdom and incline your ear to my words, ² That you may guard good thinking; and I command you with the perception of my lips. ³ Do not join yourself to a base woman, for honey drips from the lips of a prostitute, or for a season she is pleasing to your taste; ⁴ Afterward, however, you will find her more bitter than gall and sharper than a two-edged sword. ⁵ For feet lacking discernment lead those using her down into Hades with death; her footsteps are not planted, ⁶ For she does not travel the ways of life; and her paths are slippery and not easy to discern. ⁷ Now therefore, my son, hear me, and do not make my words invalid; ⁸ Make your way distant from her and do not come near the doors of her house, ⁹ That you may not give away your life to others and your existence to the merciless; ¹⁰ That strangers may not be filled with your strength, and your labors go into the houses of strangers, ¹¹ And you should feel regret at the last, when the flesh of your body is consumed; ¹² And you will say, "How I hated instruction and turned my heart away from reproofs; ¹³ I did not hear the voice of my instructor and teacher, nor did I incline my ear; ¹⁴ Little by little I was in every evil In the midst of the church and congregation." ¹⁵ Drink waters from your vessels and from the fountains of your spring.



Wednesday of the Second Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[5:16-25]

¹⁶ But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and the holy Holy God shall be glorified in righteousness. ¹⁷ Those plundered shall be fed as bulls, and lambs shall eat on the waste places of those taken away. ¹⁸ Woe to those who draw sins to themselves as with a long rope and lawlessness as with the strap of a cow's yoke, ¹⁹ who say: "Let Him speedily hasten what He will do that we may see it, and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel come, that we may know it!" ²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! ²¹ Woe to those who are intelligent in their own eyes and expert in their own sight! ²² Woe to your strong ones who drink wine and the mighty ones who mix intoxicating drink, ²³ who justify the ungodly for a bribe and take away justice from the righteous man! ²⁴ Therefore in the manner that stubble shall be burned by coals of fire, and consumed by a violent flame, their root shall be like chaff and their flower shall go up like dust, for they did not will to do the law of the Lord of hosts, but despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. ²⁵ Thus the wrath of the Lord of hosts is furious against His people. He laid His hand on them and struck them. The mountains were provoked, and their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the road. For all this His anger was not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.
[4:16-26]

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod opposite Eden. ¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael; and Mehujael begot Methushael; and Methushael begot Lamech. ¹⁹ Then Lamech took two wives for himself: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. ²⁰ So Adah bore Jabal. He was the father

of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal. He is the one who invented the psaltery and harp. ²² As for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, a smith and a manufacturer of bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah. ²³ Then Lamech said to his wives Adah and Zillah: "Hear my voice, you wives of Lamech, And listen carefully to my words, Because I killed a man for wounding me And a young man for hurting me. ²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." ²⁵ Again Adam knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore a son, and he named him Seth, saying, "God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." ²⁶ As for Seth, to him also a son was born. He named him Enosh, and he hoped in the Lord God and called upon His name.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ Drink waters from your vessels and from the fountains of your spring. ¹⁶ Do not let the waters from your fountain be spilled by you, but let your waters pass through your wide places; ¹⁷ Let them be only for you, and let no stranger partake with you; ¹⁸ Let the fountain of your water be for you alone, and rejoice together with the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ Let your loving deer and graceful colt keep company with you, and let her alone go before you and be with you at all times; for in living with her love, you will be great. ²⁰ Do not be intimate with a strange woman, neither cling to the embrace of a woman not your own; ²¹ For the ways of man are before the eyes of God, and He keeps close watch on all his paths. ²² Lawless women ensnare a man, but each man is bound by the chains of his own sins. ²³ Such a man dies with the uninstructed and is cast forth from the abundance of his own substance; and he is destroyed by lack of discernment.

Chapter 6

¹ My son, if you assume the debt of your friend, you will deliver your hand to an enemy; ² For a man's own lips become a strong snare to him, and he is conquered by the utterances of his own mouth. ^{3a} My son, do what I command you, and you will save yourself.



Thursday of the Second Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[6:1-12]

¹ In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. The house was full of His glory. ² Around Him stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." ⁴ The lintel was lifted up by the voice of those who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ So I said: "Woe is me, because I am pierced to the heart, for being a man and having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for I saw the King, the Lord of hosts, with my eyes!" ⁶ Then one of the seraphim was sent to me. He had a live coal in his hand, which he took with tongs from the altar. ⁷ He touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips. Your lawlessness is taken away, and your sin is cleansed." ⁸ I also heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?" Then I said: "Behold, here am I, send me." ⁹ So He said: "Go, and tell this people, 'You shall hear indeed, but not understand; and you shall see indeed, but not perceive.'" ¹⁰ For the heart of this people has become insensitive, and their ears hear with difficulty. They have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return, and I should heal them." ¹¹ Then I said: "Lord, how long?" So He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without people, and the land shall be left desolate. ¹² After this God will remove the people far away, and those left in the land shall multiply."

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[5:1-24]

¹ This is the book of the genesis of mankind in the day God made Adam, whom He made in God's image. ² He made them male and female, and blessed them; and the day He made them He called his name Adam. ³ Now Adam lived two hundred and thirty years, and begot a son according to his form and image, and named him Seth. ⁴ After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were seven hundred years; and he begot sons and daughters. ⁵ So all the days Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died. ⁶ Now Seth lived two hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. ⁷ After he

begot Enosh, Seth lived seven hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters. ⁸ So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years, and he died. ⁹ Now Enosh lived one hundred and ninety years, and begot Cainan. ¹⁰ After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived seven hundred and fifteen years, and begot sons and daughters. ¹¹ So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years, and he died. ¹² Now Cainan lived one hundred and seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. ¹³ After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived seven hundred and forty years, and begot sons and daughters. ¹⁴ So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years, and he died. ¹⁵ Now Mahalalel lived one hundred and sixty-five years, and begot Jared. ¹⁶ After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived seven hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters. ¹⁷ So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years, and he died. ¹⁸ Now Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. ¹⁹ After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. ²⁰ So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years, and he died. ²¹ Now Enoch lived one hundred and sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. ²² After he begot Methuselah, Enoch was well-pleasing to God for two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. ²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴ Thus Enoch was well-pleasing to God, and was not found, for God translated him.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[6:3-24]

³ My son, do what I command you, and you will save yourself; For you came into the hands of evil things through your friend; ⁴ Do not be faint, But provoke even your friend, for whom you assumed a debt; ⁵ Do not give sleep to your eyes Nor slumber to your eyelids ⁶ That you may be saved, as a gazelle from the snares, And as a bird from a trap. ⁷ Compare yourself with the ant, O sluggard, And be zealous when you see his ways, And become wiser than he. ⁸ For although he has no tilled land, Neither anyone to compel him, Nor any master to rule him, ⁹ Yet he prepares all his food in the summer And makes his provisions abundant in the winter. ¹⁰ Or go to the honeybee, And learn how she is a worker And how solemnly she does her work, ¹¹ Whose labors kings and common people use for health; And she is desirable to all and glorious; ¹² And although she is weak in bodily strength, She leads the way in honoring wisdom. ¹³ How long, O sluggard, will you be idle, And when will you arise from sleep? ¹⁴ You sleep a little; you sit down a little; you doze a short while; And you fold your hands on your chest a little; ¹⁵ Then poverty comes to you as an evil traveler And neediness as a swift runner. ¹⁶ But if you are diligent, your harvest shall

come to you as a fountain, And neediness as an evil runner shall desert you. ¹⁷ A man who is without discernment and is lawless does not walk in good ways. But he winks with an eye; he makes a sign with his foot, And teaches with the wave of his hand. ¹⁸ And with a perverse heart, he constantly schemes evil things; Such a man causes trouble in a city. ¹⁹ Therefore his destruction comes suddenly, A deep and incurable wound. ²⁰ For he rejoices in everything the Lord hates, And he shall be broken because of his soul's uncleanness: ²¹ A haughty eye, an unrighteous tongue, Hands that shed righteous blood, ²² A heart that devises evil thoughts, And feet that hasten to do evil; ²³ As a false witness he kindles injustice And causes quarrels between brethren. ²⁴ My son, guard the laws of your father, And do not depart from the rules of your mother.



Friday of the Second Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[7:1-14a]

¹ And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, there came up Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, against Jerusalem to war against it; but they could not conquer it. ² Then it was reported to the house of David, saying: "Syria's forces made an agreement with Ephraim." So his soul and the soul of his people was confounded, as a tree of the woods is shaken by the wind. ³ Then the Lord said to Isaiah: "Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller's Field, ⁴ and say to him, 'Guard yourself and be silent; do not fear, neither let your soul be disheartened because of these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for when My fierce anger is over, again I shall heal. ⁵ The son of Syria and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, ⁶ "Let us go up against Judah and talk with them, and let us turn them to our side, and let us make the son of Tabel king of it." ⁷ Thus says the Lord of hosts: "This counsel shall not continue, nor shall it come to pass. ⁸ But the head of Syria is Damascus; nevertheless, in sixty-five years the kingdom of Ephraim will cease being a people. ⁹ Also the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son, and if you do not believe this, neither will you understand it.'" ¹⁰ Moreover the Lord added this to Ahaz, saying: ¹¹ "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord

your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." ¹² But Ahaz said: "I will not ask, nor will I tempt the Lord." ¹³ Then Isaiah said: "Hear now, O house of David, is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary the Lord also? ^{14a} Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign."

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[5:32-6:8]

Chapter 5

³² And Noah was five hundred years old, and he begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Chapter 6

¹ Now it came to pass that men began to exist in great numbers on the earth, and daughters were born to them. ² So when the sons of God saw the daughters of men were beautiful, they took wives for themselves of all they chose. ³ Then the Lord God said, "My Spirit shall not remain with these people forever, for they are flesh. So their days shall be one hundred and twenty years." ⁴ Now there were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men of old, men of renown. ⁵ Then the Lord God saw man's wickedness, that it was great in the earth, and every intent of the thoughts within his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ So God was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and He thought this over. ⁷ Then God said, "I will blot out man whom I created from the face of the earth, from man to cattle, and from the creeping things to the birds of heaven, for I am grieved I made them." ⁸ But Noah found grace in the presence of the Lord God.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[6:24-7:2]

Chapter 6

²⁴ My son, guard the laws of your father, and do not depart from the rules of your mother. ²⁵ But fasten them to your soul continually and wear them as a collar upon your neck. ²⁶ When you walk about, bring along this commandment and let it be with you; ²⁷ And as you sleep, let it guard you, that when you arise, it may speak to you. ²⁸ For a commandment of law is a lamp and a light, and the way of life is reproof and instruction, ²⁹ That you may keep yourself from a married woman and from the slanderous tongue of a strange woman. ³⁰ Do not let the desire of beauty conquer you; neither

be caught by her eyes, nor captivated by her eyelids; ³¹ For the value of a prostitute is only one loaf, and such a woman hunts for the precious souls of men. ³² Shall anyone bind fire to his bosom and his garments not burn? ³³ Or will anyone walk about on coals of fire and not burn his feet? ³⁴ Likewise is the one who goes in to a married woman; he shall not be guiltless, nor any who touch her. ³⁵ It is not surprising if anyone who steals is caught, for he steals that he may fill his hungry soul; ³⁶ But if he is caught, he will repay sevenfold, and by giving all his goods, he shall deliver himself. ³⁷ But the adulterer through his lack of discernment obtains the destruction of his soul; ³⁸ He bears both pain and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away forever. ³⁹ For the anger of her husband is full of jealousy; he will not spare in the day of judgment; ⁴⁰ He will not take any ransom in exchange for his hatred, nor will he be reconciled by many gifts.

Chapter 7

¹ My son, guard my words, and hide my commandments within yourself. ² My son, honor the Lord, and you shall be strong, and fear none other but Him.



Monday of the Third Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[8:13-9:6]

Chapter 8

¹³ Sanctify the Lord Himself, and He shall be your fear. ¹⁴ So if you trust in Him, He shall be as a sanctuary for you, and you shall not come against Him as a stumbling stone nor as a rock of disaster. But the house of Jacob lies in wait with a snare, and those in Jerusalem with a trap. ¹⁵ Therefore many among them shall be powerless and fall, and be broken, and men who are in safety shall draw near and be conquered. ¹⁶ Then they who seal the law so as not to learn it themselves shall be evident. ¹⁷ But One will say, "I shall wait for God who turned His face away from the house of Jacob, and I will trust in Him, ¹⁸ behold, I and the children God gave me." This will be for signs and wonders in the house of Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells in Mount Zion. ¹⁹ So if they should say to you, "Seek those who call from the earth and are ventriloquists, who speak from the belly," should not a nation seek their God? Why do they seek the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰

He gave the law to help them, so as not to speak such a word as this, concerning which word there are no gifts to offer with it. ²¹ Thus a harsh famine will come upon you, and it shall be, when you are hungry, you will be grieved, and speak badly of your ruler and the idols. Then they shall look up to heaven above, ²² and on the earth below, and behold, tribulation, distress, and darkness. There will be severe despair and darkness, so dark one cannot see. ²³ And the one who is in despair shall be perplexed, but only for a time.

Chapter 9

¹ Do this first and do it quickly: O country of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, and the rest dwelling along the seacoast and parts of Judea, and the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, a people who walk in darkness, behold a great light; and you who dwell in the country of the shadow of death, upon you a light will shine. ² The multitude of the people, whom You brought down in Your joy, they shall also rejoice in Your presence, as those who rejoice in harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoils. ³ For the yoke lying upon them and the rod upon their neck is taken away, for the Lord broke the rod of the exactors, as in the day of Midian. ⁴ For every robe and garment gathered by deceit, they shall repay with money, and they shall be willing to do this, even though they were burned with fire. ⁵ For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel, for I shall bring peace upon the rulers, peace and health by Him. ⁶ Great shall be His government, and of His peace there is no end. His peace shall be upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it with righteousness and judgment, from that time forward, and unto ages of ages. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[6:9-22]

⁹ This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, who was perfect in his generation and well-pleasing to God. ¹⁰ So Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt before God and filled with unrighteousness. ¹² Thus the Lord God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³ Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with unrighteousness through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of square timber. You shall make the ark in compartments, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. ¹⁵ Thus you shall make the ark: three hundred cubits in length, fifty

cubits in breadth, and thirty cubits in height. ¹⁶ Now when you assemble the ark, you shall gradually finish it up to a cubit at the top, and set the door in its side. You shall make the ark with lower, second, and third stories. ¹⁷ And behold, I am bringing a flood of water on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life. Whatever is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark you, your sons, your wife, and your sons f wives with you. ¹⁹ From every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing on the earth after its kind, two of every kind, they will enter into the ark with you, male and female, to keep them alive. ²¹ You shall also take for yourself all kinds of food to eat, and you shall gather it both for yourself and for them." ²² Thus Noah did according to all the Lord God commanded him, so he did.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[8:1-21]

¹ *My Son*, You shall proclaim wisdom that discernment may obey you; ² For she is on the lofty summit And stands in the midst of the paths. ³ For she sits beside the gates of princes and sings at the entrances, ⁴ "You, O men, I exhort, and I utter my voice to the sons of men; ⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true. ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; there is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge. ¹⁰ Lay hold of instruction and not silver, and knowledge rather than tested gold, and choose perception rather than pure gold. ¹¹ For wisdom is better than precious stones, and every costly thing is not worthy of her. ¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding. ¹³ The fear of the Lord hates unrighteousness, and both rudeness and arrogance, and the ways of wicked men; and I hate the perverted ways of evil men. ¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine; ¹⁵ By me, kings reign, and princes write of righteousness; ¹⁶ By me, noblemen become great, and by me, monarchs have power in the land. ¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me. ¹⁸ Riches and glory belong to me, and abundant possessions, and righteousness; ¹⁹ It is better to enjoy my fruits than gold and precious stones, and my fruits are better than choice silver. ²⁰ I walk in the ways of righteousness, and I am conversant

with the paths of judgment; ²¹ That I may distribute substance to those who love me, and may fill their treasuries with good things.”



Tuesday of the Third Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[9:8-10:4]

Chapter 9

⁸ Thus says the Lord: All the people will know – Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria – who say in pride and arrogance of heart, ⁹ “The bricks fell, but let us hew stones; and let us cut down sycamores and cedars, and we shall build ourselves a tower.” ¹⁰ But God shall overthrow those who rise up against them on Mt. Zion, and scatter their enemies: ¹¹ the Syrians, from the rising of the sun, the Greeks from the setting of the sun, and those who shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. ¹² But the people did not turn until they were struck, yet they did not seek the Lord. ¹³ So the Lord took away head and tail from Israel, great and small, in one day. ¹⁴ The elder and those who admire persons, this is the head. The prophet who teaches lawlessness, this is the tail. ¹⁵ For those who bless this people lead them astray, and they lead them astray so as to destroy them. ¹⁶ Therefore God will have no joy in their young men, nor mercy on their orphans and widows. For all of them are lawless and evil. Every mouth speaks injustices. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. ¹⁷ For lawlessness burns like fire, and like dry grass, it shall be consumed by fire and burn in the thickets of the forest. It shall devour all the hills round about. ¹⁸ Because of the Lord's wrath the entire land is burned up, and the people are as fuel for the fire. No man will have mercy on his brother. ¹⁹ But one shall turn aside to the right hand, for he shall be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand and not be satisfied. Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm. ²⁰ Manasseh shall devour Ephraim and Ephraim Manasseh. Together they shall besiege Judah. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

Chapter 10

¹ “Woe to those who write evil things, for when they write such things, ² they turn aside judgment from the poor, and rob judgment from the needy of My people, that the widow may be their prey and the orphan a spoil. ³ What will they do in the day of visitation? For affliction will come to you

from afar, and to whom will you flee for help? Where will you leave your glory, ⁴ so as not to fall into captivity?" For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[7:1-5]

¹ Then the Lord God said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your family, because I have seen you righteous before Me in this generation. ² You shall also bring with you into the ark the clean cattle by sevens, male and female; and the unclean cattle by twos, male and female; ³ and the clean birds of heaven by twos, male and female, to keep seed alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴ For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will blot out from the face of the earth every living thing I made." ⁵ So Noah did all the Lord God commanded him.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[8:32-9:11]

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: blessed is the man who shall hearken to me And the man who shall guard my ways; ³³ Who watches daily at my doors, who keeps watch at the doors of my entryways; ³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord. ³⁵ But those who sin against me act ungodly toward their own souls, and those who hate me love death.

Chapter 9

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; she mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge." Wisdom: Let Us Attend! ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reprove the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; Instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning

of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased.



Wednesday of the Third Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[10:12-20]

¹² But it shall come to pass, when the Lord has completed all He will do on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, He will go against the arrogant heart of the king of the Assyrians and the glory of his haughty looks. ¹³ For he said: , “I shall act in my strength and by the wisdom of my understanding. I also shall remove the boundaries of the nations and plunder their strength. I shall shake their inhabited cities. ¹⁴ I shall overtake with my hand all the inhabited world as a nest, and take them as eggs that have been left. There is no one who can escape or oppose Me.” ¹⁵ Shall the ax glorify itself without him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself without him who saws with it? It is likewise if one should lift a rod or a piece of wood. ¹⁶ But it shall not be so, for the Lord of hosts will send dishonor against your honor; and He will kindle a burning fire against your glory. ¹⁷ So the Light of Israel will be as a fire, and He will sanctify him with burning fire; and it will devour the wood like grass on that day. ¹⁸ The mountains, the hills, and the forests will be consumed, and devour both soul and body, and he who flees will be like one fleeing from a burning flame. ¹⁹ Then the remnant will be few in number, and a child shall write them. ²⁰ It shall come to pass in that day that, the remnant of Israel, and those of Jacob who were saved, will never again obey those who wronged them; but they will trust in God, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.
[7:6-9]

⁶ Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. ⁷ Then Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, entered the ark because of the flood waters. ⁸ Also the clean and unclean birds, the

clean and unclean cattle, and everything that creeps on the earth, ⁹ entered with Noah into the ark, two by two, male and female, as God commanded him.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:12-25]

¹² My son, if you become wise in yourself, you shall also be wise toward your neighbor; But if you prove to be evil, you alone will go through troubles. ¹³ He who supports himself with lies will shepherd winds and chase flying birds; ¹⁴ For he abandoned the ways of his own vineyard and strayed from paths of his own farming; ¹⁵ And he will pass through a waterless desert, a land assigned to drought, and he gathers barrenness with his hands. ¹⁶ A woman in need of a morsel is without discernment and overbold; she has no sense of shame. ¹⁷ She sits upon the doors of her own house, upon a seat openly in the streets, ¹⁸ Calling to those who pass by and who go straight along their paths, ¹⁹ "He who is very lacking in discernment, let him turn aside to me; and he who is in need of discernment, I exhort, saying, ²⁰ 'Grasp with pleasure the secret bread and the sweet water of theft.'" ²¹ But he does not know that the inhabitants of the earth perish beside her, and he happens upon a snare of Hades. ²² But hurry off, do not continue in that place, neither set your eye toward her; ²³ For so you shall pass through strange water and cross beyond a strange river; ²⁴ And keep away from strange water, and do not drink from a strange fountain; ²⁵ That you may live a long time and add years of life to yourself.



Thursday of the Third Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[11:10-12:2]

Chapter 11

¹⁰ Thus says the Lord, "It shall come to pass in that day, there shall be a Root of Jesse who shall arise to rule nations. The Gentiles shall hope in Him,

and His resting place shall be honorable.”¹¹ It shall come to pass in that day, the Lord will show His hand again, to be zealous for the remnant left of His people: left by the Assyrians and by Egypt, Babylon and Ethiopia,¹² and by the Elamites, and from the rising of the sun, and out of Arabia.¹³ He shall set up a sign for the Gentiles and will assemble the lost ones of Israel. He shall gather together the dispersed of Judah, from the four corners of the earth.¹⁴ Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the enemies of Judah shall be destroyed. Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not afflict Ephraim.¹⁵ But they shall spread sails on the ships of foreigners, and together they shall plunder the sea and the people of the East and Edom. They shall lay their hands first on Moab, but the sons of Ammon shall obey them first.¹⁶ The Lord shall make desolate the Sea of Egypt, and He will lay His hand on the River with a violent wind, and will strike the seven channels, that men might pass across it in sandals.¹⁷ “There shall be a highway for the remnant of My people in Egypt, and it will be for Israel as in the day he came out of the land of Egypt.”

Chapter 12

¹ And in that day, you will say, “I will bless You, O Lord. Although You were angry with me, You turned away Your anger, and had mercy on me.² Behold, God is my Savior and Lord. I will trust in Him, and be saved by Him. I will not be afraid, for the Lord is my glory and my praise. He has become my salvation.”

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[7:11-8:3]

Chapter 7

¹¹ In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day, all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the floodgates of heaven were opened.¹² Then it rained on the earth forty days and forty nights.¹³ On the very same day Noah and his wife, his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives entered the ark.¹⁴ Also, all the wild animals after their kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing moving upon the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind,¹⁵ entered the ark with Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life.¹⁶ So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God commanded him. Then the Lord God shut him in the ark.¹⁷ Now the flood was on the earth forty days and forty nights. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.¹⁸ So the waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters.¹⁹ The waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the

whole heaven were covered. ²⁰ The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and covered all the high mountains. ²¹ And all flesh died that moves on the earth: birds and cattle, wild animals, and every creeping thing that moves on the earth, and every man. ²² Thus all things in whose nostrils was the breath of life, and everything on dry land, died. ²³ So He blotted out all living things on the face of the earth: both man and cattle, creeping things and the birds of heaven. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah and those with him in the ark remained alive. ²⁴ Now the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Chapter 8

¹ Then God remembered Noah, and whatever was with him in the ark: all the wild animals, all the cattle, all the birds, and all the creeping things. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. ² The fountains of the deep and the floodgates of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. ³ And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [10:1-23]

¹ A wise son makes his father glad, but a son without discernment is a grief to his mother. ² Treasures do not benefit lawless men, but righteousness delivers from death. ³ The Lord will not let the soul of the righteous man starve, but He overthrows the life of the ungodly. ⁴ Poverty humbles a man, but the hands of courageous men enrich others. ⁵ A son who is instructed will be wise, and he will use a man without discernment as a servant. ⁶ A son with understanding is kept safe from the heat, but a lawless son is blasted by the wind at harvest time. ⁷ The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of a righteous man, but untimely grief will cover the mouth of the ungodly. ⁸ The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies, but the name of an ungodly man is extinguished. ⁹ The wise man in heart will receive the commandments, but the man unguarded in speech will be overthrown in his perverseness. ¹⁰ He who walks in sincerity walks confidently, but he who perverts his ways will be known. ¹¹ He who winks his eyes deceitfully gathers grief for men, but he who reproves boldly is a peacemaker. ¹² A fountain of life is in the hand of a righteous man, but the mouth of an ungodly man will hide destruction. ¹³ Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all who are not lovers of strife. ¹⁴ He who brings forth wisdom from his lips beats a heartless man with a rod. ¹⁵ The wise will hide perception, but the mouth of a rash man approaches destruction. ¹⁶ The acquisition of riches is a fortified city, but poverty is the destruction of the ungodly. ¹⁷ The works of

the righteous produce life, but the fruits of the ungodly produce sins. ¹⁸ Instruction guards righteous ways of life, but instruction incapable of criticism goes astray. ¹⁹ Righteous lips cover hatred, but those who bring forth abuse are very lacking in discernment. ²⁰ You will not escape sin by a multitude of words, but you of discreet lips will be forbearing. ²¹ The tongue of a righteous man is silver tried in the fire, but the heart of an ungodly man shall fail. ²² The lips of righteous men understand lofty things, but men without discernment die in want. ²³ The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of a righteous man; it enriches him, and grief of heart will not be added to it.



Friday of the Third Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[13:2-13]

² Thus says the Lord, "Lift up a sign on the mountain of the plain and raise your voice to them. Do not fear; comfort with your hand; open the gates, O you rulers. ³ I command and I lead them. They are sanctified, and I lead them. My mighty ones come to fulfill My anger – rejoicing and insulting at the same time. ⁴ The sound of many nations upon the mountains, like that of many nations, the voice of kings and nations gathered together – the Lord of hosts commanded a warring nation, ⁵ to come from a far country, from the end of heaven, the Lord and His weapons, to destroy all the inhabited world. ⁶ Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand, and destruction will come from God. ⁷ Therefore every hand will grow weary, and every man's soul will be fearful. ⁸ The elders will be troubled. Pangs will take hold of them, like a woman in childbirth, and they will wail at one another and be amazed; and their countenance shall change, like a flame. ⁹ Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, a day that cannot be averted, a day of anger and wrath, to make all the inhabited world a desert, and to destroy the sinners from it. ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and Orion and all the ornament of heaven will not give their light. It will be dark when the sun goes forth, and the moon will not give its light. ¹¹ I will command evils for all the inhabited world and the ungodly because of their sins, and I will destroy the insolence of the lawless and humble the haughtiness of the arrogant. ¹² Those left behind will be more valuable than fine gold tried in the fire; and a man more precious than the stone of Ophir. ¹³ For heaven will be angry, and the

earth will be shaken from its foundations because of the fierce anger of the Lord of hosts, in the day His anger comes.”

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[8:4-21a]

⁴ Then the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. ⁶ So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark he had made. ⁷ Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters dried up from the earth. ⁸ He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. ⁹ But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned to him in the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and brought her to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ Then he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ The dove returned to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew the waters had receded from the earth. ¹² So he waited yet another seven days and again sent out the dove; however, she did not return to him any more. ¹³ And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year of Noah's life, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed, the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ Now in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. ¹⁵ Then the Lord God spoke to Noah, saying, ¹⁶ “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and their wives with you. ¹⁷ Also, bring out with you every living thing of all flesh: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, so they may abound on the earth, and increase and multiply on the earth.” ¹⁸ So Noah went out, along with his wife and his sons and their wives. ¹⁹ Every animal, every bird, and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, according to their kind, went out of the ark. ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to God, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered whole burnt offerings on the altar. ^{21a} So the Lord God smelled a sweet aroma.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[10:32-11:10]

Chapter 10

³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet.



Monday of the Fourth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[14:24-32]

²⁴ Thus says the Lord of hosts: "As I said, so it shall come to pass. As I purposed, so it shall remain – ²⁵ to destroy the Assyrians in My land and on My mountains. They shall be for trampling underfoot, and their yoke shall be taken away; and their renown shall be removed from their shoulders." ²⁶ This is the purpose the Lord purposed upon all the inhabited world. His hand is lifted up over all the nations of the inhabited earth. ²⁷ For who will reject what the holy God purposed? Who will turn away His uplifted hand? ²⁸ In the year King Ahaz died, this word came: ²⁹ "Do not be glad, all you foreigners, for the yoke of him who struck you is broken to pieces. For from

the seed of serpents shall come forth the young asps, and their offspring shall be flying serpents. ³⁰ The poor will be fed by him, and poor men will rest in peace, but he shall destroy your seed with hunger, and he will destroy your remnant. ³¹ Wail, gates of the cities, cry out, troubled cities, even all the foreigners, for smoke is coming from the north, and you will be no more!" ³² What will the kings of the nations answer? For the Lord founded Zion, and the humble of His people shall be saved.

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[8:21b-9:7]

Chapter 8

^{21b} Then the Lord God thought it over and said, "I will never again curse the earth because of man's works, although the mind of man is diligently involved with evil things from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. ²² While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and spring shall not cease by day or by night."

Chapter 9

¹ Thus God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Increase and multiply, and fill the earth, and have dominion over it. ² For the dread and fear of you shall be upon all the wild animals of the earth, all the birds of heaven, all that move upon the earth, and all the fish of the sea. I have put them under your authority. ³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as I did the green herbs. ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its lifeblood. ⁵ Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of all the wild animals I will require it; and I will require the life of man at the hand of his fellow man. ⁶ Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; because I made man in God's image. ⁷ So then, increase and multiply; and fill the earth and have dominion over it."

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[11:18-12:6]

Chapter 11

¹⁸ A righteous son is begotten unto life, but the persecution of an ungodly man is unto death. ¹⁹ Perverse ways are an abomination to the Lord, but all who are blameless in their ways are acceptable to Him. ²⁰ He who joins hands with the unrighteous will not go unpunished, but he who sows righteousness will receive a faithful reward. ²¹ Like a ring in the nose of a

wild swine, so is beauty to an evil-minded woman. ²² Every desire of the righteous is good, but the hope of the ungodly is destruction. ²³ There are those who sow their own things and produce more things, and there are those who gather but have less. ²⁴ Every sincere soul is blessed, but an angry man is not graceful. ²⁵ May the one who hoards grain leave it to the nations, but may blessing be upon the head of the one who shares it. ²⁶ He who plans good things seeks good grace, but he who seeks evil, it will capture him. ²⁷ He who trusts in riches, this man will fall, but he who helps the righteous, this man will rise. ²⁸ He who does not deal graciously with his own house will inherit the wind, and a man without discernment will be servant to one with discernment. ²⁹ A tree of life springs up from the fruit of righteousness, but the souls of the lawless will be taken away before their time. ³⁰ If the righteous man is scarcely saved, then where shall an ungodly man and a sinner appear?

Chapter 12

¹ He who loves instruction loves perception, but he who hates correction is without discernment. ² He who finds grace from the Lord becomes better, but a lawless man will be passed over in silence. ³ A man will not prosper by lawlessness, but the roots of righteous men will not be pulled out. ⁴ A courageous wife is a crown to her husband, but as a worm in a tree, so an evildoing wife destroys her husband. ⁵ The thoughts of the righteous are judgments, but the ungodly devise deceits. ⁶ The words of the ungodly are deceitful, but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.



Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[25:1-9]

¹ O Lord my God, I will glorify You; I will sing a hymn to Your name, for You have done wonderful things, an ancient and true counsel. So be it, O Lord. ² For You made cities into a mound; You made the foundations of their strong cities fall. The city of the ungodly shall not be built forever. ³ Therefore the poor people will bless You, and the cities of wronged people will praise You. ⁴ For You were a helper to every humbled city, and a protection to those who were disheartened by reason of poverty. You will deliver them from evil men, and be a shelter of the thirsty and a breath of life to the wronged. ⁵ They will bless You as discouraged people, thirsting in Zion because of

ungodly men, to whom You delivered us. ⁶ Then the Lord of hosts shall do this to all the nations on this mountain. They shall drink in gladness; they shall drink wine; they shall anoint themselves with ointment ⁷ on this mountain. Deliver all these things to the nations, for this is the counsel for all the nations. ⁸ Death prevailed and swallowed them, but again God wiped away every tear from every face; He took away the disgrace of His people away from all the earth; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. ⁹ Then it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God, in whom we hoped and rejoiced exceedingly; and we shall be glad in His salvation."

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[9:8-17]

⁸ Then God spoke to Noah and his sons with him, saying, ⁹ "Behold, I am establishing My covenant with you and with your seed after you, ¹⁰ and every living creature with you: the birds, the cattle, and all the wild animals of the earth, of all that came out of the ark with you. ¹¹ Thus I will establish My covenant with you, and never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; nor shall there ever again be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² Then the Lord God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you, and every living creature with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³ I am setting My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴ It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵ and I will remember My covenant between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ My rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will certainly remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh on the earth." ¹⁷ Again God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I established between Me and all flesh on the earth."

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[12:8-24]

⁸ The mouth of a man of understanding is praised by a man, but the slothful of heart are treated with contempt. ⁹ It is better for a man in dishonor to serve himself than for him to surround himself with honor while in need of bread. ¹⁰ A righteous man has compassion on the lives of his cattle, but the affections of the ungodly are without mercy. ¹¹ He who works his own land will be satisfied with bread, but those who pursue vain things are in need of

discernment. ¹² He who is gladdened by wines in passing his time shall leave dishonor in his own strongholds. ¹³ The desires of the ungodly are evil, but the roots of the godly are in strongholds. ¹⁴ By the sin of his lips a sinner falls into snares, but a righteous man escapes from them. ¹⁵ He whose looks are gentle will show mercy, but he who contends in the gates will afflict souls. ¹⁶ By the fruits of his mouth, the soul of a man will be filled with good things, and the recompense of his lips will be given to him. ¹⁷ The ways of undiscerning men are right in their own eyes, but a wise man hearkens to counsels. ¹⁸ A man without discernment immediately proclaims his wrath, but an astute man hides his own dishonor. ¹⁹ A righteous man declares his honesty openly, but the witness of the unrighteous is deceitful. ²⁰ There are those who wound with a sword as they speak, but the tongues of the wise heal. ²¹ Truthful lips establish a testimony, but a hasty witness has an unrighteous tongue. ²² There is deceit in the heart of a man who devises evil things, but those who counsel peace shall be glad. ²³ Nothing unrighteous will ever be pleasing to the righteous, but the ungodly will be filled with evil things. ²⁴ Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but he who shows faithfulness is acceptable to Him.



Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[26:21-27:9]

Chapter 26

²¹ For behold, the Lord is bringing wrath from His holy place upon the inhabitants of the earth, and the earth will uncover its blood, and will not cover its slain.

Chapter 27

¹ In that day, God will bring His holy, great, and strong sword upon the fleeing dragon serpent, the perverse dragon serpent that flees; and He shall destroy the dragon. ² In that day, there shall be a beautiful vineyard, and a desire to begin a hymn against a city: ³ "I am a strong city, a besieged city; I water it in vain; for it shall be taken at night, and its wall shall fall by day. ⁴ There is no woman who has not taken hold of it. Who will appoint me to guard straw in a field? I rejected it because of this enemy. For that very reason therefore, the Lord God did all the things He ordered. I am burned down." ⁵ Those who dwell in it will cry out: "Let us make peace with Him, let

us make peace.”⁶ Those who come are the children of Jacob. Israel shall bud and put forth flowers, and the inhabited earth shall be filled with its fruit.⁷ As he struck, shall he not be thus struck? As he slew, shall he not be thus slain?⁸ Fighting and denouncing he shall send them away. Did you not think with a harsh spirit about killing them in a spirit of anger?⁹ Therefore the lawlessness of Jacob will be removed; and this is his blessing when I take away his sin, when they make all the stones of the altars beaten like fine dust. Their trees do not remain, and their idols shall be cut down like a distant forest.

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[9:18-10:1]

Chapter 9

¹⁸ Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan.¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.²⁰ Then Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard.²¹ So he drank of the wine and was drunk and naked in his house.²² Now Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walking backwards they covered their father's nakedness. Since their faces were turned away, they did not see his nakedness.²⁴ Thus when Noah became sober and knew what his younger son had done to him,²⁵ he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."²⁶ He also said, "Blessed be the Lord God of Shem, And Canaan shall be his servant.²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the habitations of Shem. Let Canaan be his servant as well."²⁸ Now Noah lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood.²⁹ So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died.

Chapter 10

¹ Now this is the genealogy of Noah's sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and sons were born to them after the flood.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[12:23-13:10]

Chapter 12

²⁵ A man of understanding is a throne of perception, but the heart of the undiscerning will meet with curses.²⁶ The hand of the chosen shall prevail

easily, but the deceitful shall be for captivity. ²⁷ A fearful word troubles the heart of a righteous man, but a good message makes him glad. ²⁸ A righteous arbiter shall be his own friend, but the decisions of the ungodly are unreasonable. ²⁹ Evil things shall pursue sinners, and the way of the ungodly will lead them astray. ³⁰ A deceitful man will not gain his prey, but a pure man is a precious possession. ³¹ In the ways of righteousness there is life, but the ways of remembering wrongs are unto death.

Chapter 13

¹ An astute son is obedient to his father, but a disobedient son is for destruction. ² A good man eats from the fruits of righteousness, but the souls of the lawless will destroy themselves before their time. ³ He who guards his mouth keeps his own soul, but he who is hasty with his lips will dismay himself. ⁴ Every idle man has desire, but the hands of the courageous are diligent. ⁵ A righteous man hates an unrighteous word, but an ungodly man is ashamed and will not have confidence. ⁶ Righteousness guards the simple, but sin makes the ungodly worthless. ⁷ There are those with nothing who make themselves rich, and there are those, though very rich, who humble themselves. ⁸ The ransom of a man's soul is his own wealth, but the poor man does not withstand a threat. ⁹ Light is with the righteous continually, but the light of the ungodly is extinguished. ¹⁰ Deceitful souls are led astray in sins, but the righteous have compassion and are merciful.



Thursday of the Fourth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[28:14-22]

Thus says the Lord, ¹⁴ Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men and rulers of this people in Jerusalem. ¹⁵ Because you said, "We made a covenant with Hades, and are in agreement with death, and if the rushing storm passes through, it will not come upon us, for we made falsehood our hope, and in falsehood we shall be protected"; ¹⁶ therefore, thus says the Lord: "Behold, I lay for the foundations of Zion a costly stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone for its foundations, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. ¹⁷ I will also cause judgment to be for hope, and My mercy to be for a standard. The sudden blast of wind will not pass by you who trust vainly in falsehood, ¹⁸ except it also take away your covenant of

death. Your hope in Hades will also not stand when the rushing storm passes through, for you will be beaten down by it. ¹⁹ When it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through by day, and by night there will be an evil hope." Learn to listen, ²⁰ you in difficult straits. We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together. ²¹ As the mountain of the ungodly will rise up and be in the valley of Gibeon, He will do His deeds in anger, a work of bitterness. His anger will behave strangely, and His bitterness will be strange. ²² So do not be glad, neither let your bands become strong; because I heard from the Lord of hosts the things He will perform upon all the earth.

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[10:32-11:9]

Chapter 10

³² These were the tribes of Noah's sons, according to their genealogy, in their nations; and from these the coastal nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

Chapter 11

¹ Now the whole earth was one language and one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and dwelt there. ³ Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them with fire." They had brick for stone and asphalt for mortar. ⁴ They also said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower, whose top will reach to heaven; and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the sons of men built. ⁶ Then the Lord said, "Indeed, the people are one race and one language, and they have begun to do what they said. Now they will not fail to accomplish what they have undertaken. ⁷ Come, let Us go down there and confuse their language, so they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city and the tower. ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the languages of all the earth; and from there the Lord God scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

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The Reading is from Proverbs.
[13:19-14:6]

Chapter 13

²¹ The desires of the godly gladden the soul, but the works of the ungodly are far from knowledge. ²² He who walks with the wise shall be wise, but he who walks with those without discernment will be known. ²³ Evil things shall pursue sinners, but good things will overtake the righteous. ²⁴ A good man will inherit sons of sons, but the wealth of the ungodly will be stored up for the righteous. ²⁵ The righteous shall live in wealth many years, but the unrighteous will be destroyed suddenly. ²⁶ He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him instructs him with care. ²⁷ A righteous man eats and satisfies his soul, but the souls of the ungodly are in want.

Chapter 14

¹ Wise women build houses, but those without discernment destroy them with their hands. ² He who walks uprightly fears the Lord, but he who is crooked in his ways will be dishonored. ³ From the mouth of a man without discernment comes a rod of arrogance, but the lips of wise men guard themselves. ⁴ Where there are no oxen, the stalls are clean, but where there are abundant crops, the strength of an ox is evident. ⁵ A faithful witness does not lie, but an unrighteous witness kindles lies. ⁶ You will seek wisdom in the company of evil men, and you will not find it; but perception is easily found with the discerning.



Friday of the Fourth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[29:13-23]

¹³ So the Lord said: "These people draws near to Me and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, and they worship Me in vain, teaching the commandments and doctrines of men. ¹⁴ Therefore behold, I will proceed to remove this people, and I shall remove them. I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise, and hide the understanding of the intelligent." ¹⁵ Woe to those who deepen their counsel, but not through the Lord! Woe to those who take counsel in secret and whose works are in darkness! They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us or what we do?" ¹⁶ Shall you not be considered as the clay of the potter? Shall what is molded of clay say to

him who molded it: , "You did not create me"? Or shall the work say to him who made it, "You did not make me wisely"? ¹⁷ Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be changed like Mount Carmel, and Mount Carmel be considered a forest? ¹⁸ In that day, the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of those in darkness and in a fog shall see. ¹⁹ The poor also shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness because of the Lord, and the hopeless among men shall be filled with gladness. ²⁰ The lawless man has come to an end, and the arrogant man has perished. Those who act lawlessly in malice are utterly destroyed, ²¹ as well as those who cause men to sin in word. They shall make all who condemn at the gates an offense, because they turned aside the righteous man with wrongdoing. ²² Therefore the Lord says this concerning the house of Jacob, whom He set apart out of Abraham: "Now Jacob shall not be ashamed, nor shall Israel now change his countenance. ²³ But when their children see My works, they shall sanctify My name for My sake, and will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and fear the God of Israel."

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[12:1-7]

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, "Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you; and in you all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴ Then Abram departed as the Lord said to him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ So Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son and all their possessions and every soul they acquired in Haran, and they departed for the land of Canaan. Thus they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the oak of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your seed I will give this land." And there Abram built an altar to the Lord, who appeared to him.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[14:15-26]

¹⁵ A simple man believes in every word, but an astute man comes to repentance. ¹⁶ A wise man fears and turns away from evil, but a man

without discernment persuades himself to mingle with a lawless man. ¹⁷ A quick-tempered man acts with recklessness, but a man with discernment bears many things. ¹⁸ Men without discernment will share in evil, but the astute will take hold of perception. ¹⁹ Evil men will slip and fall in the presence of good men, and the ungodly shall serve at the gate of the righteous. ²⁰ Friends will hate poor friends, but the friends of the rich are many. ²¹ He who dishonors the poor sins, but he who has mercy on the poor is very blessed. ²² Deceivers devise evil things, but good men devise mercy and truth. ²³ Devisers of evil things do not understand mercy and faithfulness, but mercies and faithfulness are with devisers of good things. ²⁴ To everyone who is careful there is an abundance, but he who is pleasure-taking and slothful shall be in want. ²⁵ The crown of the wise is astuteness, but the pastime of the undiscerning is evil. ²⁶ A faithful witness will rescue a soul from evil men, but a deceitful man kindles lies. ²⁷ In the fear of the Lord there is hope of strength, and to his children there remains support.



Monday of the Fifth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[37:33-38:6]

Chapter 37

³³ Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning the king of the Assyrians: "He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. ³⁴ By the way he came, by the same shall he return," says the Lord. ³⁵ "I will protect this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake." ³⁶ Then the Angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, they discovered all the dead bodies. ³⁷ Then Sennacherib king of the Assyrians departed and returned to Nineveh, and dwelt there. ³⁸ Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword, then escaped into the land of Ararat; and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

Chapter 38

¹ In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. Isaiah the prophet, the

son of Amoz, went to him and said: "Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'" ² Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, ³ and said: "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a true heart, and did what is pleasing in Your sight." So Hezekiah wept loudly. ⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying: ⁵ "Go and tell Hezekiah, Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: 'I heard your prayer, I see your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life. ⁶ I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of the Assyrians, and I will protect this city.'"

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[13:12-18]

¹² Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, but Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. ¹³ Now the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful before God. ¹⁴ Then God said to Abram, after Lot separated from him, "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ¹⁵ for all the land you see I give to you and your seed forever. ¹⁶ And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth; that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your seed also could be numbered. ¹⁷ Arise, walk in the land through its length and its breadth, for I will give it to you." ¹⁸ Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the oak of Mamre in Hebron, and built an altar there to the Lord.

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The Reading is from Proverbs.
[14:28-15:4]

Chapter 14

²⁸ The command of the Lord is a fountain of life, for it causes one to turn from the snare of death. ²⁹ The glory of a king is in a large nation, but the destruction of a ruler is in a lack of people. ³⁰ A longsuffering man is strong in discernment, but the fainthearted man is strongly without discernment. ³¹ A man with a gentle spirit is a healer of the heart, but a sensual heart is the moth of the bones. ³² He who oppresses the poor provokes his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy upon a poor man. ³³ In his evil an ungodly man will be rejected, but a righteous man has confidence in his own holiness. ³⁴ There is wisdom in the good heart of a man, but wisdom is unknown in the heart of those without discernment. ³⁵ Righteousness exalts a nation, but sins diminish tribes. ³⁶ A wise servant is acceptable to a king,

and by his own versatility he removes dishonor.

Chapter 15

¹ Wrath destroys even men of discernment; but a humble answer turns away anger, and a grievous word stirs up wrath. ² The tongue of the wise understands good things, but the mouth of those without discernment proclaims evil things. ³ The eyes of the Lord are in every place; they keep watch over both the evil and the good. ⁴ The healing of the tongue is a tree of life, and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.



Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[40:18-31a]

Thus says the Lord, ¹⁸ To whom then will you liken the Lord, and to what likeness will you compare Him? ¹⁹ Has the workman made an image, or has the goldsmith overspread it with gold, gilding it, making a likeness of Him? ²⁰ For the workman chooses wood that will not rot, and skillfully seeks to prepare a carved image that will not totter. ²¹ Will you not know? Will you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Do you not know the foundations of the earth? ²² It is He who possesses the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. It is He who stretches out heaven like a vault, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. ²³ He makes the rulers He establishes to rule to be as nothing; He makes the earth as nothing. ²⁴ Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He shall also blow on them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. ²⁵ "Now then, to whom will you liken Me, that I should be exalted?", says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high, and see. Who displayed these things? He who brings forth their host by number; He who calls them all by name. From the greatness of His glory to the strength of His might, nothing escapes Your notice. ²⁷ For why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, saying: "My way is hidden from God, and my God took away my judgment and departed"? ²⁸ So then, have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the God who created the ends of the earth, neither hungers nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives strength to the hungry, and sorrow to those who do not grieve. ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the elect shall be without

strength. ^{31a} But those who wait on God shall renew their strength.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[15:1-15]

¹ After these things the Word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield and will be your exceedingly great reward." ² But Abram said, "Lord, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus, the son of Masek, my domestic maidservant?" ³ Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed, my household servant is my heir." ⁴ And immediately the Voice of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but the One who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said to him, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your seed be." ⁶ And Abram believed God, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. ⁷ Then He said to him, "I am the God who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." ⁸ And he said, "Master and Lord, how will I know I will inherit it?" ⁹ So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ So he brought all these to Him and cut them in half, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² Now around sunset, a trance fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then He said to Abram, "Know for certain that your seed will be strangers in a land not their own, and will serve them; and they will afflict and humble them four hundred years. ¹⁴ Also, the nation they serve I will judge; and afterward, they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ But as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace, buried in a good old age."

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[15:8-21]

⁸ The lips of the wise are bound by perception, but the hearts of those without discernment are not safe. ⁹ The sacrifices of the ungodly are an abomination to the Lord, but the prayers of the upright are acceptable with Him. ¹⁰ The ways of the ungodly are an abomination to the Lord, but He loves those who pursue righteousness. ¹¹ The instruction of the simple is

known by those who pass by, but those who hate reproofs will die shamefully. ¹² Hades and destruction are manifest before the Lord; how can the hearts of men not be also? ¹³ An uninstructed man will not love those who reprove him, And he will not keep company with the wise. ¹⁴ When one's heart is glad, his face is cheerful, but when it is in grief, his face is sad. ¹⁵ The upright heart seeks perception, but the mouth of the uninstructed will know evil things. ¹⁶ The eyes of evil men are waiting for evil things all the time, but good men are at rest continually. ¹⁷ Better is a small portion with the fear of the Lord than great treasures with lack of fear. ¹⁸ Better is a dinner of herbs with friendship and grace than a fatted calf with hostility. ¹⁹ An angry man stirs up contention, but a longsuffering man even calms the rising quarrel. ²⁰ A longsuffering man will extinguish condemnations, but the ungodly man stirs up more. ²¹ The ways of idle men are strewn with thorny plants, but the thorny plants of the courageous are worn smooth.



Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[41:4b-14]

Thus says the Lord, ^{4b} I, God, am the first, and into the future I Am. ⁵ The Gentiles saw His righteousness and feared. The ends of the earth drew near and came together, ⁶ each one judging for his neighbor, that he might help his brother. One will say: "The craftsman is strong, as is the metalworker who strikes with the hammer, and forges at the same time." Sometimes one will say: "It is put together well, and they fastened it with nails. They arranged them, and they shall not be moved." ⁸ "But you, O Israel, are My servant, and Jacob, whom I chose, the seed of Abraham, whom I loved. ⁹ I took you from the ends of the earth, and called you from its height. I said to you: "You are My servant. I chose you, and have not forsaken you. ¹⁰ Fear not, for I am with you. Do not go astray, for I am your God, who strengthens you; and I will help and secure you with My righteous right hand." ¹¹ Behold, all your adversaries shall be put to shame and disgraced. For they shall be as though they do not exist, and all who oppose you shall perish. ¹² You shall seek but not find the men who rage against you, for those who war against you shall be as though they do not exist. ¹³ For I am

your God who holds your right hand, saying to you, "Fear not." ¹⁴ O Jacob, O Israel, few in number, I will help you, and I will redeem you, O Israel, says God.

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[17:1-9]

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am your God; be pleasing before Me and blameless. ² I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." ³ Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, ⁴ "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be your God and the God of your seed after you. ⁸ Also I will give you and your seed after you the land you are occupying as a sojourner, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." ⁹ Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your seed after you throughout their generations."

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The Reading is from Proverbs.
[15:22-33,36-38. Wisdom of Sirach 3:18. Proverbs 16:1-5.
15:34,35]

Proverbs - Chapter 15

²² A wise son gladdens a father, but a son without discernment treats his mother with contempt. ²³ The paths of one without understanding are in need of discernment, but a man with discernment walks uprightly. ²⁴ Those not honoring councils defer their deliberations, but counsel remains in the hearts of those who resolve to do it. ²⁵ The evil man will not obey counsel, nor will he speak anything appropriate, even something for the common good. ²⁶ The thoughts of a wise man are his ways of life, that he might turn aside and be saved from Hades. ²⁷ The Lord will destroy the houses of the arrogant, but He will strengthen the boundary of a widow. ²⁸ The thinking of the unrighteous man is an abomination to the Lord, but the words of the holy are sacred. ²⁹ He who receives bribes utterly destroys himself, but he who hates the receiving of bribes saves himself. ³⁰ Sins are cleansed by

almsgiving and faithfulness, and by the fear of the Lord everyone turns aside from evil. ³¹ The hearts of the righteous care about faithfulness, but the mouth of the ungodly answers evil things. ³² The ways of righteous men are acceptable before the Lord, and through them even enemies become friends. ³³ God is far from the ungodly, but He hears the prayers of the righteous.

³⁶ The eye that beholds good things gladdens the heart, but a good report enriches the bones. *The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.* ³⁷ He who rejects instruction hates himself, but he who gives heed to reproofs loves his soul. ³⁸ The fear of God is instruction and wisdom, and the beginning of glory will respond to it. *The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.*

Wisdom of Sirach – Chapter 3

¹⁸ The greater you are, the more humble you must be, and you will find grace before the Lord.

Proverbs - Chapter 16

¹ All the works of the humble are evident before the Lord, *but the Lord weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. The Lord has made everything for its purpose, but the ungodly will be destroyed in the evil day.* ² Every high-hearted man is unclean before the Lord, and he who joins hands with the unrighteous will not go unpunished. ³ The beginning of a good way is to do righteous things, and this is more acceptable to God than to offer sacrifices. ⁴ He who seeks the Lord will find knowledge with righteousness, and those who seek Him rightly will find peace. ⁵ All the works of the Lord are with righteousness, but the ungodly man is kept for an evil day.

Proverbs - Chapter 15

³⁴ Better is a small yield with the righteous than abundant fruits with the unrighteous. ³⁵ Let the heart of man think righteous things that he may make his steps straight under God.



Thursday of the Fifth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[42:5-16]

⁵ Thus says the Lord God, who made heaven and established it, who made firm the earth and the things in it, and who gives breath to the people in it,

and spirit to those who walk on it: ⁶ "I, the Lord God, called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand. I will strengthen You, and give You as the covenant of a race, as the light of the Gentiles, ⁷ to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners who are bound, and those who sit in darkness from the prison house. ⁸ I am the Lord God; this is My name. I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to carved images. ⁹ Behold, things from of old came to pass, and new things I will declare. Before they spring forth, I will tell you of them." ¹⁰ Sing to the Lord a new song, you His realm. Glorify His name from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea and sail on it, you coastlands and you who inhabit them. ¹¹ Be glad, O desert and its villages, the homesteads and those inhabiting Kedar. Those who dwell in Petra shall be glad; they shall shout from the tops of the mountains. ¹² They will give glory to God, and declare His virtues in the coastlands. ¹³ The Lord God of powers shall go forth and crush war. He shall stir up His zeal, and cry out against His enemies with strength. ¹⁴ I held My peace, and I will not always be silent and restrain Myself. Now I will be steadfast, like a woman in labor. I shall amaze and dry up together. ¹⁵ I will make the rivers into coastlands, and dry up marsh-meadows. ¹⁶ I will bring the blind by a way they did not know, and will cause them to tread paths they have not known. I will turn darkness into light for them, and make crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[18:20-33]

²⁰ Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah has been completed, and their sins are exceedingly great. ²¹ Therefore, I will go down now and see whether or not they are carrying out the outcry coming to Me concerning them." ²² Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained before the Lord. ²³ So Abraham drew near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the ungodly? ²⁴ Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous in it? ²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ²⁶ Then the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." ²⁷ So Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: ²⁸ But suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of

five?" He replied, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it." ²⁹ Again he spoke to Him and said, "But suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it for the sake of forty." ³⁰ Then he said, "Let not the Lord be offended, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it if I should find thirty there." ³¹ Again he said, "Since I have permission to speak to the Lord, suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it for the sake of twenty." ³² Then he said, "Let not the Lord be offended, and I will speak but once more, suppose ten should be found there?" So He said, "I would not destroy it for the sake of the ten." ³³ So the Lord went His way as soon as He finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

* * *

Reading is from Proverbs. [16:14-17:19a]

Chapter 16

¹⁴ He who receives instruction shall be in good things, and he who rebukes shall become wise; ¹⁵ He who guards his own ways shall keep his own soul, and he who loves his life shall use his mouth sparingly. ¹⁶ Arrogance goes before destruction and folly before a fall. ¹⁷ A gentle mind with humility is better than he who divides spoils with the arrogant. ¹⁸ A man wise in his deeds is a discoverer of good things, but he who trusts in God is the most blessed. ¹⁹ Men call the wise and understanding worthless, but those pleasing in speech will increase in understanding. ²⁰ Understanding is a fountain of life to those who possess it, but the instruction of those without discernment is evil. ²¹ The heart of a wise man shall understand the things from his own mouth, and he shall carry knowledge upon his lips. ²² Good words are a honeycomb, and their sweetness is a healing of the soul. ²³ There are ways that seem right to a man; however, their ends look to the depths of Hades. ²⁴ A man labors diligently for himself And expels destruction from himself; however, a perverse man carries destruction on his lips. ²⁵ A man without discernment digs up evil things for himself and stores up fire on his own lips. ²⁶ A perverse man spreads evil things, and a torch of deceit kindles evils and separates friends. ²⁷ A lawless man makes a trial of friends and leads them in ways not good. ²⁸ A man sets his eyes to calculate perverse things and determines every evil thing with his lips; this man is a furnace of wickedness. ²⁹ Old age is a crown of dignity, But it is found in the ways of righteousness. ³⁰ A patient man is better than a strong man, and he who controls his temper is better than he who captures a city.

³¹ All evil things come into the bosoms of the unrighteous, but all righteous things come from the Lord.

Chapter 17

¹ Better is a morsel with enjoyment in peace than a house full of many good things and unrighteous sacrifices with quarreling. ² A servant with discernment shall rule over masters without discernment, and will divide portions among brethren. ³ As silver and gold are tested in a furnace, so are chosen hearts before the Lord. ⁴ An evil man heeds the tongue of the lawless, but a righteous man pays no attention to false lips. ⁵ He who laughs at the poor provokes the One who made him, and he who rejoices in destruction will not be unpunished; but he who has compassion will be shown mercy. ⁶ The crown of old men is children of children, and the boasting of children is their fathers. ⁷ The entire world of goods belongs to the faithful, but to the faithless, not even a penny. ⁸ Faithful lips will not adapt to a man without discernment, nor lying lips to a righteous man. ⁹ Instruction awards benefits to those using it, and wherever it turns, it prospers them. ¹⁰ He who hides wrongdoings seeks love, but he who hates to cover them will separate friends and close relatives. ¹¹ A threat breaks the heart of a man with discernment, but a man without discernment, though flogged, has no perception. ¹² Every evil man stirs up controversy, but the Lord will send him a merciless messenger. ¹³ Care will befall a thoughtful man, but men without discernment devise evil things. ¹⁴ He who repays evil for good, evil will not be removed from his house. ¹⁵ The foundation of righteousness gives authority to words, but discord and quarreling precede poverty. ¹⁶ He who judges the unrighteous as righteous, and the righteous as unrighteous, he is unclean and abominable before God. ¹⁷ Why do goods belong to a man without discernment? for a heartless man is unable to gain wisdom. ¹⁸ He who makes his own house lofty seeks destruction, and the one who turns away from learning will fall into evils. ^{19a} Let a friend be with you on every occasion, and let brethren be useful in necessities.



Friday of the Fifth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[45:11-17]

¹¹ Thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, who made the things that are to come: "Ask Me concerning My sons and daughters; and command Me concerning the works of My hands. ¹² I made the earth and mankind upon it. With My hand I established heaven, and commanded all the stars. ¹³ I raised him up to be a king with righteousness, and all his ways are right. He shall build My city and return the captivity of My people, not with ransoms or gifts," says the Lord of hosts. ¹⁴ Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Egypt labored for you, and the merchandise of the Ethiopians and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall pass over to you. They shall be your servants, and follow behind you, bound with handcuffs. They shall bow down, and make supplication to you, because God is with you; and they shall say: 'There is no God besides You. ¹⁵ For You are God, the God of Israel, the Savior, yet we knew it not.' ¹⁶ All who oppose him shall be ashamed and disgraced, and shall walk in shame. Be restored to Me, O coastlands. ¹⁷ Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. They will not be ashamed or disgraced forever," says the Lord Almighty.

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.
[22:1-18]

¹ Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham! Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² Then He said, "Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ Thus Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." ⁶ So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole

burnt offering?"⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering." So the two of them went together.⁹ They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood.¹⁰ Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."¹² He then replied, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son."¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son.¹⁴ Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, "In the mountain the Lord was seen."¹⁵ Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,¹⁶ and said, "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son,¹⁷ I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies.¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice."

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[17:19b-18:5]

Chapter 17

^{19b} Let brethren be useful in necessities, for they are begotten for this reason.²⁰ A man without discernment applauds and rejoices over himself, as also the one who gives himself as surety for his friend.²¹ He who loves sin rejoices in quarrels, and the hard-hearted man does not assemble with good men.²² A changeable man will fall into evils with his tongue, and a heart without discernment is grief to the one possessing it.²³ A father does not delight in an uninstructed son; but a son with discernment gladdens his mother.²⁴ A cheerful heart makes a man healthy, but the bones of a sorrowful man dry him up.²⁵ The ways of a man who receives gifts unrighteously do not prosper, and the ungodly man shuns the ways of righteousness.²⁶ The face of a wise man shows understanding, but the eyes of the man without discernment are upon the ends of the earth.²⁷ A son without discernment is wrath to a father and grief to her who bore him.²⁸ It is not good to punish a righteous an, nor is it holy to plot against righteous princes.²⁹ He who refrains from uttering a harsh word is intelligent, And a

longsuffering man has discernment. ³⁰ Wisdom shall be imputed to a man without understanding who asks for wisdom, And anyone who holds his peace will seem to have discernment.

Chapter 18

¹ A man seeks a pretext when he wishes to separate from his friends, But he shall be reproached at every opportunity. ² A man lacking understanding has no need of wisdom, for he is rather led by lack of discernment. ³ When an ungodly man comes into the depth of evil things, he acts contemptuously, but dishonor and reproach come upon him. ⁴ A word in the heart of a man is deep water, and a river and a fountain of life spring up from it. ⁵ It is not good to admire the person of the ungodly, nor is it holy to pervert righteousness in judgment.



Monday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[48:17-49:4]

Chapter 48

¹⁷ Thus says the Lord who delivers you, the Holy One of Israel: "I am your God, who showed you how to find the way, wherein you should walk. ¹⁸ If only you had heeded My commandments, then your peace would be like a river, and your righteousness as a wave of the sea. ¹⁹ Your seed would also be like the sand, and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground. Neither would you be utterly destroyed now, nor would your name perish before Me." ²⁰ Go forth from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans. Proclaim a voice of gladness, and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say: "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob." ²¹ If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them. He will split the rock, the water shall flow, and My people will drink. ²² "There is no rejoicing," says the Lord, "for the ungodly."

Chapter 49

¹ "Listen to Me, O coastlands, and take heed, you Gentiles. It will stand for a long time," says the Lord. "He called My name from My mother's womb. ² He made My mouth like a sharp sword, and hid Me under the shadow of His hand. He made Me as a chosen arrow, and covered Me in His quiver. ³ He said to me: 'You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' ⁴

Then I said: 'I have labored in vain, and spent My strength for nothing. Therefore My judgment is from the Lord, and my labor is before My God.'"

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[27:1-41a]

¹ Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am." ² Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now therefore, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. ⁴ Then make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die." ⁵ Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son; and Esau went to the field to hunt game for his father. ⁶ So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her younger son, saying, "Indeed, I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, ⁷ 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.' ⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. ⁹ Go now to the sheep and bring me from there two kids, choice and good, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰ Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and bless you before his death." ¹¹ Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. ¹² Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing." ¹³ But his mother said to him, "Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me." ¹⁴ So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. ¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. ¹⁶ She also put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the exposed part of his neck. ¹⁷ Then she gave the savory food and the bread she had prepared into the hands of her son Jacob. ¹⁸ Thus he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." ²⁰ But Isaac said to his son, "How is it you have found it so quickly, my son?" He said, "Because the Lord your God brought it to me." ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are my son Esau or not." ²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are Esau's." ²³ Thus he did not

recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. ²⁴ Then he said, "Are you my son Esau?" He said, "I am." ²⁵ He said, "Bring your game to me, my son, and I will eat from it, that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." ²⁷ So he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing. Thus he blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field the Lord has blessed. ²⁸ Therefore, may God give you of the dew of heaven And of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. ²⁹ Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. And cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you." ³⁰ Now it happened, as soon as Isaac finished blessing Jacob his son, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. ³¹ He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me." ³² And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." ³³ Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him and indeed, he shall be blessed." ³⁴ When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father "Bless me – me also, O my father! ³⁵ But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing." ³⁶ Then Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing." So he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" ³⁷ Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed, I have made him your lord, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?" ³⁸ Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me – me also, O my father!" But when Isaac was troubled, Esau lifted up his voice and wept. ³⁹ Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above. ⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck." ^{41a} Thus Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him.

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**The Reading is from Proverbs.
[19:16–25]**

¹⁶ He who guards the commandment keeps his soul, but he who despises his ways shall perish. ¹⁷ The one who has mercy on the poor lends to God, and He will repay him according to his gift. ¹⁸ Instruct your son, for thus he shall be hopeful, but do not lift up your soul in arrogance. ¹⁹ A malicious man shall be punished severely, and if he commits injury, he will also add this to his soul. ²⁰ Hear, my son, the instruction of your father, that you may become wise in your last days. ²¹ There are many thoughts in the heart of a man, but the counsel of the Lord abides forever. ²² Mercy is fruit to a man, and a poor righteous man is better than a rich liar. ²³ The fear of the Lord is unto life for a man, and he shall lodge without fear in places where knowledge is not examined. ²⁴ A man who hides his hands in his bosom unrighteously, he will not even bring them up to his mouth. ²⁵ When a pestilent man is punished, a man without discernment becomes more astute, but if you reprove a discerning man, he will understand perception.



Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[49:6b–10]**

Thus says the Lord, ^{6b} "I give You as the covenant of a race and as the light of the Gentiles, that You should be the salvation to the ends of the earth." ⁷ Thus says the Lord, who delivers, You the God of Israel: "Sanctify Him who despises His life, who is abhorred by the nations and by the servants of rulers. Kings shall see Him and rise, and rulers also shall worship Him for the Lord's sake. For the Holy One of Israel is faithful, and He chose You." ⁸ Thus says the Lord: "In an acceptable time I heard You, and in the day of salvation I helped You. I give You as a covenant to the Gentiles, to establish the earth, and to inherit the inheritance of the desert; ⁹ saying to those in bonds: 'Go forth,' and to those in darkness, 'Reveal yourselves.' They shall feed along all their roads, and their pasture shall be along all the paths. ¹⁰ They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, nor shall the burning heat of the sun strike them; but He who has mercy on them will comfort them; and He shall lead them by the fountains of waters."

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[31:3-16]

³ Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to your father's land and to your family, and I will be with you." ⁴ So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field where the flocks were, ⁵ and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me. ⁶ Now you know that with all my might I served your father. ⁷ Yet your father deceived me and changed my wages ten times with respect to the male lambs, but God did not allow him to harm me. ⁸ If he said thus, 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. But if he said thus, 'The white shall be your wages,' then all the sheep bore white. ⁹ So God has taken away all your father's cattle and given them to me. ¹⁰ Now it came to pass, when the flocks conceived, I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the male goats and the rams that were speckled, spotted, and ash-colored speckled were mating with the sheep and the goats. ¹¹ Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' Thus I said, 'Here I am.' ¹² So He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the male goats and the rams mating with the sheep and the goats are speckled, spotted, and ash-colored speckled; for I have seen everything Laban is doing to you. ¹³ I am the God who appeared to you at Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and made a vow to Me. Now then, arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your nativity, and I will be with you.'" ¹⁴ Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? ¹⁵ Are we not considered strangers by him? For he sold us, and also completely consumed our money. ¹⁶ For all the riches and glory God has taken from our father are really ours and our children's; now then, whatever God has said to you, do it."

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[21:3-20]

My son, ³ To do righteous things and to speak the truth are more pleasing before God than the blood of sacrifices. ⁴ A high-minded man is bold-hearted in his arrogance, and the lamp of the ungodly is sin. ⁵ He who produces treasures with a lying tongue pursues worthless things upon the snares of death. ⁶ Destruction shall entertain the ungodly, for they are not willing to do righteous things. ⁷ To the crooked, God sends crooked ways, for His works are pure and upright. ⁸ It is better to dwell in a corner in the

open air than with wrongdoing in plastered rooms and in a shared house. ⁹ The soul of the ungodly will not be shown mercy by anyone among men. ¹⁰ When the intemperate man is punished, the simple man becomes more astute, and a wise man of understanding shall receive knowledge. ¹¹ A righteous man understands the hearts of the ungodly, and he despises the ungodly in their evils. ¹² He who closes his ears that he might not listen to the weak, he will also call upon someone, and there will be no one listening. ¹³ A secret gift calms anger, but he who refrains from giving gifts stirs up strong anger. ¹⁴ It is the joy of the righteous to do judgment, but a holy man is unclean before evildoers. ¹⁵ A man who wanders from the way of righteousness shall rest in an assembly of giants. ¹⁶ A man in need loves merriment, loving wine and oil as wealth. ¹⁷ A lawless man is the outcast of a righteous man. ¹⁸ It is better to live in a desert than with a contentious, talkative, and quick-tempered woman. ¹⁹ A treasury of desire will rest upon the mouth of a wise man, but men without discernment shall swallow it. ²⁰ The way of righteousness and mercy shall find life and glory.



Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

[58:1-11a]

Thus says the Lord, ¹ "Cry aloud with strength, and spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their sins, and to the house of Jacob their lawlessness. ² They seek Me day by day, and desire to know My ways. As a people who did righteousness, and did not forsake the judgment of their God, they now ask Me about righteous judgment, and desire to draw near to God, ³ saying: 'Why have we fasted, but You did not see it? Why have we humbled our souls, but You did not know it?' Because in the days of your fasts, you seek your own wills, and mistreat those under your authority. ⁴ If you fast for condemnations and quarrels, and strike a humble man with your fists, why do you fast to Me as you do today, so your voice may be heard in crying? ⁵ I did not choose this fast, and such a day for a man to humble his soul; nor if you should bow your neck like a ring and spread sackcloth and ashes under yourself, could you thus call such a fast acceptable. ⁶ I did not choose such a fast," says the Lord; "rather, loose every bond of wrongdoing; untie the knots of violent dealings; cancel the debts of the oppressed; and tear apart every unjust contract. ⁷ Break your

bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house. If you see a naked man, clothe him, nor shall you disregard your offspring in your own household. ⁸ Then your light shall break forth as the morning, and your healing shall spring forth quickly. Your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of God shall cover you. ⁹ Then you shall cry out, and God will hear you. While you are still speaking, He will say: 'Behold, I am here.' If you take away your fetter and the pointing of the finger, and the word of grumbling, ¹⁰ and if you give bread to the hungry from your soul, and satisfy the humble soul, then your light shall rise up in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as midday. ^{11a} God shall be with you continually."

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[43:26-31a. 45:1-16]

Chapter 43

²⁶ Thus when Joseph came home, they brought the present in their hand to him in the house, and bowed down before him to the earth. ²⁷ Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" ²⁸ So they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." Then he said, "Blessed be that man in God"; and they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves. ²⁹ Then Joseph lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother you said you would bring to me?" So he said, "May God grant you mercy, my son." ³⁰ Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. Then he went into his inner chamber and wept there. ^{31a} He then washed his face and came out; and he composed himself.

Chapter 45

¹ Now Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² Then he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph then said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were stunned in his presence. ⁴ But Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me." So they came near. Then he said, "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ Now therefore, do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to save life. ⁶ For this is the second year of famine in the land, and five years still remain in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ For God sent me before you to preserve

you as a remnant on the earth, and to sustain you as a great remnant. ⁸ So now, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry then and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, "God made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your sheep and oxen, and all you have. ¹¹ There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all you have, come to poverty; for five years of famine still remain.'" ¹² And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ Therefore, you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. ¹⁵ Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after this his brothers talked with him. ¹⁶ Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [21:22-22:4]

Chapter 21

²² He who guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from tribulation. ²³ A troublemaker is called rash, arrogant, and boastful, and he who bears malice is called lawless. ²⁴ Desires kill a slothful man, for his hands choose not to do anything. ²⁵ The ungodly man desires evil all day long, but the righteous man shows mercy and compassion unsparingly. ²⁶ The sacrifices of the ungodly are an abomination to the Lord, for they offer them lawlessly. ²⁷ A false witness shall perish, but an obedient man will speak guardedly. ²⁸ An ungodly man resists shamelessly to the face, but the upright man himself understands his ways. ²⁹ There is no wisdom, there is no courage, there is no counsel for the ungodly. ³⁰ The horse is prepared for the day of war, but help is from the Lord.

Chapter 22

¹ A good name is to be chosen more than much wealth, and good grace more than silver and gold. ² The rich man and the poor man meet with one another, but the Lord made both. ³ An astute man, seeing an evil man severely punished, is himself instructed, but those passing by without discernment suffer loss. ⁴ The fear of the Lord and riches and glory and life Are the offspring of wisdom.



Thursday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[65:8-16a]

⁸ Thus says the Lord: "As the grape shall be found in a cluster, and they shall say: 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing from the Lord in it,' so shall I do for the sake of him who serves Me. For his sake I will not destroy them all. ⁹ I will bring forth the seed of Jacob and the seed of Judah, and they shall inherit My holy mountain. My elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there. ¹⁰ There shall be in the forest a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor shall be for the resting place of herds for My people, who sought Me. ¹¹ But you are those who forsook Me, and forget My holy mountain, and prepare a table for the devil, and fill a drink-offering to Fortune. ¹² I will deliver you to the sword, and all of you shall fall in the slaughter; because I called you, but you did not obey; I spoke, but you refused to listen. You did evil in My sight, and did not choose the things I willed." ¹³ Therefore, thus says the Lord: "Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall hunger. Behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall thirst. Behold, My servants shall be glad, but you shall be ashamed. ¹⁴ Behold, My servants shall rejoice exceedingly in gladness, but you shall cry out because of the pain in your heart; and you shall wail from the crushing of your spirit. ¹⁵ For you shall leave your name as an example of excess to My elect, and the Lord shall destroy you. But those who serve Him shall be called by a new name, ^{16a} which shall be blessed upon the earth. For they shall bless the true God."

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.
[46:1-7]

¹ Now Israel took his journey with all he had, and came to the Well of Oath, and offered a sacrifice to the God of his father Isaac. ² Then God spoke to Israel in a vision of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" So he said, "Here I am." ³ So God said to him, "I am the God of your fathers; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. ⁴ I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again, and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes." ⁵ Then Jacob arose from the Well of Oath, and

the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their baggage, and their wives in the carts Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶ So they took their livestock and their goods which they had acquired in the land of Canaan and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his seed with him. ⁷ His sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his seed he brought with him to Egypt.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [23:15-24:5]

Chapter 23

¹⁵ My son, if your heart becomes wise, you will also gladden my heart; ¹⁶ And your lips shall spend time with the words on my lips, if they be upright. ¹⁷ Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be in fear of the Lord the whole day long. ¹⁸ For if you keep these words, you shall have offspring, and your hope will not depart from you. ¹⁹ Hear, my son, and become wise, and direct aright the thoughts of your heart. ²⁰ Do not be a wine-bibber, neither provide contributions of meats or goods at drinking parties. ²¹ For every drunkard and fornicator shall become impoverished, and every sluggard shall clothe himself with tattered and ragged garments. ²² Hear, my son, your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother because she has grown old. ²³ A righteous father rears his child well, and his soul rejoices in a wise son. ²⁴ Let your father and mother be glad in you, and let her who bore you rejoice. ²⁵ My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways; ²⁶ For a house of prostitution is a pierced vessel and a strange and empty well; ²⁷ For he shall perish suddenly, and every lawless man shall be destroyed. ²⁸ Who has woe? Who has tumult? Who has condemnation? Who has unpleasantness and gossip? Who has afflictions with no purpose? Whose eyes are pale? ²⁹ Is it not those who linger long with wines? Is it not those who hunt for the whereabouts of drinking parties? ³⁰ Do not be drunk with wine, but keep company with righteous men, and keep company in public walks; ³¹ For if you set your eyes to the bowls and cups, afterward you will walk about more naked than ground meat. ³² And at last, he stretches himself out as one bitten by a serpent, and the venom spreads through him as one bitten by a horned serpent. ³³ When your eyes behold a strange woman, then your mouth will speak twisted things; ³⁴ And you will lie down as in the heart of the sea and as a pilot in a great storm; ³⁵ And you will say, "They beat me, but I did not suffer, and they mocked me, but I knew it not; ³⁶ When will it be morning, That I may go seek those with whom I may company?"

Chapter 24

¹ My son, do not envy evil men, neither desire to be with them; ² For their heart ponders a lie, and their lips speak of sufferings. ³ A house is built with wisdom, and it is built up with understanding. ⁴ Storehouses are filled with perception from all honorable and good riches. ⁵ It is better to be a wise man of strength and a man having discernment, than to be a man who has a large estate.



Friday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[66:10-24]

¹⁰ "Be glad, O Jerusalem, and celebrate holy days in her. All you who love her, rejoice exceedingly, and all you who mourn over her; ¹¹ that you may nurse and be satisfied by the breast of her consolation; that you may take pleasure in nursing because of the entrance of her glory." ¹² For thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will turn to them like a river of peace and like a brook, to flood them with the glory of the Gentiles. Their children shall be taken up on shoulders, and comforted on knees. ¹³ Like someone a mother comforts, so also will I comfort you, and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem." ¹⁴ You shall see, and your heart will rejoice. Your bones shall rise up like a pasture, and the Lord's hand shall be known by those who fear Him; but He shall threaten the disobedient. ¹⁵ For behold, the Lord shall come like a fire, and His chariots like a sudden blast of wind, to render His vengeance with anger, and His renunciation with a flame of fire. ¹⁶ For all the earth shall be judged in the fire of the Lord, and all flesh with His sword; and many shall be wounded by the Lord. ¹⁷ "Those who purify and cleanse themselves in the gardens and porches, who eat the meat of a pig or any abomination, they shall be destroyed together at the same time," says the Lord; ¹⁸ "and I know their works and their reasoning. I am coming to gather all the nations and tongues, and they shall come and see My glory. ¹⁹ And I will leave signs upon them, and those among them who are saved, I will send forth to the Gentiles: to Tarshish, and Pul and Lud and Tubal, and to Greece and to the coastlands far off, to those who have not heard My name, nor seen My glory; and they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. ²⁰ They shall bring your brethren from among all the Gentiles as a gift to the Lord, with horses and chariots, in litters drawn by mules and covered with sunshades,

to the holy city of Jerusalem," says the Lord, "just as the children of Israel would bring Me their sacrifices with psalms into the house of the Lord. ²¹ I shall take some of them to be My priests and Levites," says the Lord. ²² "For just as the new heaven and the new earth, which I make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "so shall your seed and your name remain. ²³ It shall come to pass from month to month and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall worship before Me in Jerusalem," says the Lord. ²⁴ "They shall go forth and see the dead bodies of the men who transgressed against Me, for their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be extinguished; and they shall be a vision to all flesh."

Vespers
The Reading is from Genesis.
[49:33-50:26]

Chapter 49

³³ Thus when Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was added to his people.

Chapter 50

¹ Now Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him, and kissed him. ² Then Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. ³ Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. ⁴ So when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found grace in your sight, speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, ⁵ 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, in the grave I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.'" ⁶ Then Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear." ⁷ So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, ⁸ as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their sheep and oxen they left in the land of Goshen. ⁹ There also went up with him both chariots and horses, and it was a very great gathering. ¹⁰ Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father. ¹¹ So when the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called the Mourning of Egypt, which is beyond the Jordan. ¹² Thus his sons did for him just as he commanded them. ¹³ For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, opposite Mamre, which Abraham bought from Ephron the

Hittite as property for a burial place. ¹⁴ After he buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father. ¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil we did to him." ¹⁶ So they came to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, ¹⁷ 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "I beg you, forgive the injustice of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.'" Now, forgive the injustice of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ So Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I belong to God. ²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your households." Thus he comforted them and spoke to their heart. ²² So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers. Then Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. ²³ Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation and the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees. ²⁴ Then Joseph said to his brethren, "I am about to die; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." ²⁵ Thus Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶ So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [31:8-31]

My son, ⁸ Open your mouth for the word of God, and judge all men fairly; ⁹ Open your mouth and judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and helpless. ¹⁰ Who will find a courageous wife? for such a one is more valuable than precious stones. ¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her; she will not be at a loss for fine spoils; ¹² For to her husband, she provides good things all his life. ¹³ She weaves wool and linen cloth and is productive with her hands. ¹⁴ She is like a ship trading afar off, so she procures her livelihood. ¹⁵ She also rises before dawn and gives food to her household, and appoints tasks for her maidservants. ¹⁶ Seeing a farm, she buys it, and from the fruits of her hands she plants her plot of land. ¹⁷ Strongly girding her loins, she strengthens her arms for work. ¹⁸ She experiences work as a good thing, and her lamp is not quenched all night. ¹⁹ She extends her arms to do profitable things, and she applies her hands to the spindle. ²⁰ She opens her hands to the poor and reaches out with her fruit to the needy. ²¹

Her husband is not anxious about those at home when he spends a long time elsewhere, for all her household are clothed. ²² She makes a double upper garment for her husband and garments of fine linen and purple for herself. ²³ Her husband is respected at the gates and when he sits in council with the elders who inhabit the land. ²⁴ She makes and sells fine linens and girdles to the Canaanites. ²⁵ She opens her mouth carefully and lawfully and controls her tongue. ²⁶ She clothes herself with strength and dignity and rejoices in the last days. ²⁷ She runs her household carefully, and she does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ She opens her mouth wisely and lawfully, and her charity raises her children, and they become rich, and her husband praises her, ²⁹ "Many daughters acquire riches; many do mighty things, yet you excel and surpass all." ³⁰ Desires to please are deceitful, and the beauty of a wife is vain; for a wise wife is blessed, and let her in fear, praise the Lord. ³¹ Give to her from the fruits of her hands, and let her husband praise her at the gates.



Palm Sunday

Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis.

[49:1-2,8-12]

¹ Now Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days. ² Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father.

⁸ Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion's cub; from being a shoot, my son, you have grown up. He bows down, and slept as a lion and a cub; and who shall rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from his loins, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the expectation of the nations. ¹¹ Binding his colt to a vine, and his donkey's colt to its branch, he will wash his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes. ¹² His eyes are gladdened from the wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zephaniah.
[3:14-19]

Thus says the Lord, ¹⁴ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Be glad and rejoice with all your whole heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your iniquities and ransomed you from your enemies. The Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer see any evil. ¹⁶ At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, "O Zion, be of good courage; do not let your hands grow slack. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you. The Mighty One shall save you. He shall bring gladness upon you and will renew you with His love. He will delight over you with joy as in a day of feasting. ¹⁸ I shall gather together your broken ones. Alas! who has taken up a reproach against her? ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will act among you for your sake," says the Lord. "I will save the oppressed and welcome those being rejected. I will make them a praise and renowned throughout the whole earth."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zechariah.
[9:9-15a]

Thus says the Lord, ⁹ "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Proclaim it aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you; He is righteous and saving; He is gentle and mounted upon a donkey, even a young foal. ¹⁰ He will utterly destroy the chariots out of Ephraim and the horse out of Jerusalem. The bow of war shall be utterly destroyed, and there shall be abundance and peace among the nations. He shall rule over the waters as far as the sea and over the rivers to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ "And by the blood of your covenant, you freed your prisoners from the pit having no water. ¹² You prisoners from the congregation, you shall live in the fortress, and for one day of your exile, I will repay to you double. ¹³ For I have bent you, O Judah, for Myself as a bow; I have it filled Ephraim. And I will arouse your sons, O Zion, against the sons of the Greeks, and I will handle you as the sword of a warrior." ¹⁴ And the Lord will be over them, and He shall go forth like a lightning bolt. The Lord Almighty shall sound with the trumpet and shall go forth with the tumult of His threat. ^{15a} The Lord Almighty will shield them.



Monday of Great and Holy Week

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel. [1:1-19]

¹ Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was in the midst of the captivity by the River Chebar, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. ² On the fifth day of the month, in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity, ³ the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was upon me. ⁴ I looked, and behold, a sweeping wind came from the north, and a great cloud was in it, with a surrounding brightness and fire flashing forth from it. In its midst was something like the appearance of amber in the middle of the fire, and a brightness in it. ⁵ In the midst, there was as it were the likeness of four living creatures. This was their appearance, and the likeness of a man upon them. ⁶ Each had four faces, and each had four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight, and their feet were winged. There were sparks like gleaming brass, and their wings were light. ⁸ The hand of a man was underneath their wings on their four sides. ⁹ The faces of those four did not turn as they proceeded, and they went with each face opposite the other. ¹⁰ This was the likeness of their faces: the face of a man, the face of a lion on the right side of the foursome, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle. ¹¹ Their wings were spread out above them. Each had two wings joined together, and two wings covered up their bodies. ¹² Each went straight forward wherever the spirit was going, and did not turn back. ¹³ In the midst of the living creatures there was an appearance as of burning coals of fire, as an appearance of lamps turning among the living creatures. There was the brightness of fire, and out of the fire, lightning came forth. ¹⁴ I looked and behold, there was one wheel on the earth next to each living creature with its four faces. ¹⁵ The appearance of the wheels was like the appearance of beryl, and each of the four had one likeness; and their work was as it were a wheel within a wheel. ¹⁶ They went on their four sides, and did not turn when they went. ¹⁷ Neither did their backs turn, and they were high. I saw them, and the backs of all four were full of eyes all around. ¹⁸ When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. ¹⁹ Wherever the cloud happened to be, there was the spirit ready to go. The living creatures went, and the wheels went with them, for the spirit of life was in the wheels.

Vespers
The Reading is from Exodus.
[1:1-20]

¹ Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; ³ Isachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; ⁴ Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. ⁵ All those who were the seed of Jacob were seventy-five persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already). ⁶ Now Joseph died, as well as all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷ Then the children of Israel increased and multiplied, became numerous, and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. ⁸ But there arose a new king over Egypt who knew not Joseph. ⁹ Then he said to his nation, "Look, the race of the children of Israel is a great multitude and is stronger than we; ¹⁰ come, let us outwit them, lest they multiply, and it happen in the event of war that they also join our enemies and fight against us and so escape out of the land." ¹¹ Therefore he set taskmasters over them to afflict their works; and they built for Pharaoh strong cities – Pithom and Raamses and On, which is Heliopolis. ¹² But the more they humbled them, the more they multiplied and grew; and the Egyptians greatly abhorred the children of Israel. ¹³ So the Egyptians tyrannized the children of Israel by force. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with hard labor – in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their labor in which they made them serve was by violence. ¹⁵ Then the king of the Egyptians spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; ¹⁶ and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women and see they are about to give birth, if it is a male, then you shall kill him; but if a female, let her live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing and saved the male children alive?" ¹⁹ Thus the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the women of Egypt; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them." ²⁰ Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty.

* * *

The Reading is from the Book of Job.
[1:1-12]

¹ There was a man in the land of Ausitis whose name was Job. That man was true, blameless, righteous, and God-fearing, and he abstained from every

evil thing. ² Now he had seven sons and three daughters, ³ and his cattle consisted of seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys in the pastures. Moreover he possessed a very large number of house servants. His works were also great on the earth, and that man was the most noble of all the men of the East. ⁴ His sons would visit one another and prepare a banquet every day, and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ When the days of their drinking were ended, Job sent and purified them; and he rose early in the morning and offered sacrifices for them according to their number, as well as one calf for the sins of their souls. For Job said, "Lest my sons consider evil things in their mind against God." Therefore Job did this continually. ⁶ Then as it so happened one day, that behold, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil also came with them. ⁷ The Lord said to the devil, "Where did you come from?" So the devil answered the Lord and said, "I came here after going about the earth, and walking around under heaven." ⁸ Then the Lord said to him, "Have you yet considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth: a blameless, true, and God-fearing man, and one who abstains from every evil thing?" ⁹ So the devil answered and said before the Lord, "Does Job worship the Lord for no reason? ¹⁰ Have you You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his cattle have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your Your hand and touch all he has, and see if he will bless You to Your face." ¹² Then the Lord said to the devil, "Behold, whatever he has I give into your hand; but do not touch him." Thus the devil went out from the Lord.



Tuesday of Great and Holy Week

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

[1:20-27a]

²⁰ When the living creatures went, the wheels went; when the living creatures came to a stop, the wheels stopped; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up with them, for the spirit of life was in the wheels. ²¹ The likeness above the heads of the living creatures was like a firmament, like the appearance of crystal, spread out over their wings above. ²² Their wings were outspread underneath the firmament, clapping their wings one to the other, two wings joined to each, and two

wings covering up their bodies. ²³ I heard the sound of their wings when they went, like the sound of much water; and when they stood still, their wings rested. ²⁴ Then behold, a voice came from above the firmament, above their head. ²⁵ There was as it were the appearance of a sapphire stone, and the likeness of a throne upon it. Upon the likeness of the throne there was as it were the appearance of a man above. ²⁶ Then I saw as it were the outward appearance of amber from the appearance of the waist and upward. From the appearance of the waist and downward I saw as it were the appearance of fire with brightness round about. ^{27a} Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the condition of the surrounding brightness. This was the vision of the likeness of the Lord's glory.

Vespers
The Reading is from Exodus.
[2:5-10]

⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, and her maidens walked along the riverside; and seeing the ark among the reeds, she sent a maid to get it. ⁶ So when she opened the ark, she saw the child crying, and the daughter of Pharaoh had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" ⁸ So Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." Then the maiden went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter then said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ Now when the boy was grown, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son; and she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

* * *

The Reading is from the Book of Job.
[1:13-22]

¹³ Now there was a day when Job's sons and daughters were drinking wine in the house of their elder brother, ¹⁴ and behold, a messenger came to Job and said, "The yokes of oxen were plowing, and the female donkeys were feeding beside them. ¹⁵ Then raiders came and took them captive, and killed the servants with the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said to Job, "Fire fell from heaven and burned up the sheep, and likewise consumed the shepherds; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ¹⁷ While he was still

speaking, another messenger came and said, "Horsemen formed three bands against us, surrounded the camels, took them captive, and killed the servants with the sword. I alone have escaped to tell you!"¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine with their elder brother,"¹⁹ and suddenly a great wind came from the desert, and struck the four corners of the house; and it fell on your children, and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"²⁰ Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved off the hair of his head; and he fell to the ground, and worshiped, saying,²¹ "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. As it seemed good to the Lord, so also it came to pass. Blessed be the name of the Lord."²² In all these things that happened, Job did not sin against the Lord, or charge God with folly.



Wednesday of Great and Holy Week

The Sixth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.
[2:3-3:3]

Chapter 2

³ Then the Lord said to me, "Son of man, I am sending you to the house of Israel, to the ones provoking Me. They have provoked Me, they and their fathers, up to this very day. ⁴ Then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord.' ⁵ Now then, if they listen or are put off — for they are a rebellious house — still they will know you are a prophet in their midst. ⁶ "But you, Son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be dismayed by their looks, for they will swarm and sting you, and crowd against you on every side. You will live in the midst of scorpions. Do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, for they are a house of provocation. ⁷ You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or are put off, because they are a house of provocation. ⁸ You, son of man, listen to the One who speaks to you. Do not be one who rebels like the house of provocation, but open your mouth wide, and eat what I give you." ⁹ Then I looked, and behold, there was a hand reaching out to me, and the roll of a book was in it. ¹⁰ He unrolled it before me, and there written on the inside and the outside were words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

Chapter 3

¹ Then He said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll, and go and speak to the children of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and he fed me the scroll. ³ Then

He said to me, "Son of man, your mouth shall eat and your stomach will be filled with this scroll that is given you." So I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

Vespers
The Reading is from Exodus.
[2:11-22. 18:4]

Chapter 2

¹¹ Thus it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and saw their burdens. He also saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren, of the sons of Israel. ¹² So he looked this way and that, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ When he went out the second day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you hitting your neighbor?" ¹⁴ He replied, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses was alarmed and said, "Surely this thing is known." ¹⁵ Thus when Pharaoh heard this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. ¹⁶ Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, who fed the sheep of their father Jethro; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. ¹⁸ When they came to Reuel their father, he said to them, "How is it you came so soon today?" ¹⁹ They replied, "An Egyptian delivered us from the shepherds; and he also drew enough water for us, and watered our sheep." ²⁰ So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." ²¹ Then Moses dwelt with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. ²² So the woman conceived and bore Moses a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."

Chapter 18

⁴ And the name of the other was Eliezer (for he said, "The God of my father is my help, and He rescued me from the hand of Pharaoh").

* * *

The Reading is from the Book of Job.
[Job 2:1-15]

¹ Then again as it so happened another day, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil also came among them to

present himself before the Lord. ² The Lord said to the devil, "Where did you come from?" Then the devil said before the Lord, "I came here from walking around under heaven and going about all the earth." ³ Then the Lord said to the devil, "Have you considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth: an innocent, true, blameless, and God-fearing man, and one who abstains from every evil thing? Moreover he still holds fast to his integrity, though you told me to destroy his possessions without cause." ⁴ Then the devil answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin. Whatever a man has he will pay in full for his life." ⁵ Yet truly, stretch out Your hand, and touch his bones and his flesh, and see if he will bless You to Your face." ⁶ So the Lord said to the devil, "Behold, I give him over to you; only spare his life." ⁷ Thus the devil went out from the Lord, and struck Job with malignant sores from head to foot. ⁸ So he took a potsherd to scrape away the discharge and sat on a dunghill outside the city. ⁹ When a period of time passed, his wife said to him, "How long will you hold out, saying, ¹⁰ 'Behold, I will wait a little longer, looking for the hope of my salvation?' ¹¹ Listen, your memory is wiped out from the earth: your sons and daughters, the pangs and pains of my womb, which I suffered in vain and with hardships. ¹² You yourself are sitting down, spending the nights in the open air among the rottenness of worms; ¹³ and I go about as a wanderer and a handmaid from place to place and from house to house, waiting for the setting of the sun, so as to rest from my labors and pains that now beset me. ¹⁴ But say a word against the Lord and die!" ¹⁵ Then Job looked at her and said, "You have spoken as one of the foolish women speaks. If we accepted good things from the Lord's hand, shall we not endure evil things?" In all these things that happened to him, Job did not sin with his lips against God.



Thursday of Great and Holy Week

Matins

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.
[11:17-12:5a,9b-11a,14-15]

Chapter 11

¹⁷ O Lord, teach me, and I will know. Then I saw their purpose. ¹⁸ For I did not know I was like an innocent lamb, led to be sacrificed. They plotted an evil device against me, saying, "Come, let us put wood in his bread, and destroy him root and branch from the land of the living, so his name might

not be remembered any longer.” ¹⁹ But, O Lord, You who judge righteously, who tests minds and hearts, let me see Your vengeance on them, for I have revealed my righteous plea to You. ²⁰ “Therefore thus says the Lord, against the men of Anathoth, against those who seek my life, and who say, ‘Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, lest you die by our hands’ — ²¹ Behold, I will visit them. The young men shall die by the sword, and their sons and daughters shall die by famine. ²² There shall be no remnant of them, for I will bring calamities on the inhabitants of Anathoth in the year of their visitation.”

Chapter 12

¹ O Lord, You are righteous, that I may plead my case with You, to speak to You concerning judgments. Why does the way of the ungodly prosper, and all who deal treacherously flourish? ² You planted them, and they took root. They bear children, and are fruitful. You are near in their mouth, but far from their mind. ³ But You, O Lord, know me. You have proven my heart before You. Set them apart for the day of slaughter. ⁴ How long will the land mourn, and the grass of the field wither, because of the vices of those who dwell in it? The cattle and the birds are destroyed, because they said, “God will not see our ways.” ^{5a} Your feet run, and grow weary.

^{9b} Gather together all the wild beasts of the field, and let them come to devour her. ¹⁰ Many shepherds destroyed My vineyard, and defiled My portion. They turned My pleasant portion into an impassable desert. ^{11a} It was made a complete ruin.

¹⁴ For thus says the Lord: “Concerning all the evil neighbors who touch My inheritance, which I divided to My people Israel—behold, I shall draw them away from their land, and will cast out Judah from their midst. ¹⁵ Then it shall come to pass, after I cast them out, that I will return them, and have mercy on them. I will settle them, each in his inheritance and each in his land.”

The Vesperal Divine Liturgy The Reading is from Exodus. [19:10-19]

¹⁰ Again the Lord said to Moses, “Go down and solemnly charge the people and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. ¹¹ Let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the Lord will descend upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, ‘Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely die. ¹³ Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow, whether man or beast, he shall not live.’ When the thunders, the trumpets, and the cloud depart from the mountain,

they shall ascend the mountain.”¹⁴ So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified them, and they washed their clothes.¹⁵ Then he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives.”¹⁶ So it was that on the third day, in the morning, there were thunderings and lightnings, and a dark cloud on Mount Sinai; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, and all the people in the camp trembled.¹⁷ And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke, because God descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the people were exceedingly amazed.¹⁹ And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

* * *

The Reading is from the Book of Job.
[38:1b-21. 42:1-5]

Chapter 38

^{1b} The Lord spoke to Job out of the whirlwind and clouds, saying: ² “Who is this who hides counsel from Me, and holds words in his heart, and thinks to conceal them from Me?” ³ Gird your waist like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. The Majestic Creator ⁴ Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know. Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ To what were its foundations fastened, or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ When the stars were made, and all My angels praised Me in a loud voice? ⁸ I shut up the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb. ⁹ I made the clouds its garment, and wrapped it in mist. ¹⁰ I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors. ¹¹ I said, ‘This far you may come, but no further, And here your waves must stop.’ ¹² Did I order the morning light in your time, and did the morning star see its appointed place, ¹³ To lay hold of the ends of the earth, and to shake the ungodly out of it? ¹⁴ Or did you take clay of the ground, and form a living creature, and set it with the power of speech upon the earth? ¹⁵ Have you removed light from the ungodly, and crushed the arm of the arrogant? ¹⁶ Have you come upon the fountain of the sea, and walked in the tracks of the deep? ¹⁷ Do the gates of death open to you for fear, and did the door-keepers of Hades quake when they saw you? ¹⁸ Have you been instructed in the breadth of the earth under heaven? Tell Me now, what is the extent of it? ¹⁹ In what kind of land does the light dwell, and what kind is the place of darkness? ²⁰ If you would bring Me to their boundaries, and also if you understand their paths, ²¹ Then I know you were born at that time, and the number of your years is great.”

Chapter 42

¹ Then Job answered the Lord and said: ² "I know You can do all things, and nothing is impossible for You. ³ For who is he who hides counsel from You? Who keeps back his words and thinks to hide them from You? Who will tell me what I knew not. Things too great and wonderful, which I did not know? ⁴ But hear me, O Lord, that I also may speak. I will ask You, and please teach Me. ⁵ I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear. But now my eye sees You."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. [50:4-11]

⁴ The Lord gives Me the tongue of the learned, so as to know when to speak a word at a fitting time; and He causes My ear to listen each morning. ⁵ The Lord's instruction opens My ears, and I am not disobedient, nor do I contradict Him. ⁶ I gave My back to whips, and My cheeks to blows; and I turned not away My face from the shame of spitting. ⁷ The Lord became My helper; therefore, I was not disgraced. But I made My face like a solid rock, and knew I would not be ashamed. ⁸ For He who pronounces Me righteous draws near. Who is he who judges Me? Let him oppose Me at the same time. Who is he who judges Me? Let him come near Me. ⁹ Behold, the Lord will help Me. Who will harm Me? Behold, all of you will grow old like a garment, and old age will devour you, as a moth does a garment. ¹⁰ Who among you fears the Lord? Let him listen to the voice of His Servant. You who walk in darkness and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon God. ¹¹ Behold, all of you kindle a fire, and feed a flame. Walk in the light of your fire and the flame you kindled. This happened to you for My sake, and you shall lie down in sorrow.



Friday of Great and Holy Week

The First Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zechariah. [11:10-13]

Thus says the Lord, ¹⁰ "And I shall take my staff Beauty, and I shall cast it away, to break My covenant which I made with all the people. ¹¹ And in that day they will be scattered about. And the Canaanites shall know the flock is

kept safe, for this is the word of the Lord.”¹² And I shall say to them, “If it is fitting in your judgment, give me My payment, or refuse it.” And they established My wage at thirty pieces of silver.¹³ And the Lord said to me, “Drop them into the smelting furnace and see if it is proven, as in the same manner I was proven for their sake.” And I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the smelting furnace in the house of the Lord, *as the Lord commanded me.*

The Third Hour

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[50:4-11]**

⁴ The Lord gives Me the tongue of the learned, so as to know when to speak a word at a fitting time; and He causes My ear to listen each morning.⁵ The Lord's instruction opens My ears, and I am not disobedient, nor do I contradict Him.⁶ I gave My back to whips, and My cheeks to blows; and I turned not away My face from the shame of spitting.⁷ The Lord became My helper; therefore, I was not disgraced. But I made My face like a solid rock, and knew I would not be ashamed.⁸ For He who pronounces Me righteous draws near. Who is he who judges Me? Let him oppose Me at the same time. Who is he who judges Me? Let him come near Me.⁹ Behold, the Lord will help Me. Who will harm Me? Behold, all of you will grow old like a garment, and old age will devour you, as a moth does a garment.¹⁰ Who among you fears the Lord? Let him listen to the voice of His Servant. You who walk in darkness and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon God.¹¹ Behold, all of you kindle a fire, and feed a flame. Walk in the light of your fire and the flame you kindled. This happened to you for My sake, and you shall lie down in sorrow.

The Sixth Hour

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[52:13-54:1]**

Chapter 52

*Thus says the Lord,*¹³ Behold, My Servant shall have wisdom, and He shall be exalted and glorified exceedingly.¹⁴ Just as many shall be astonished at You, so Your form and glory shall be dishonored by men.¹⁵ Thus many nations shall marvel at Him, and kings shall shut their mouth, because they to whom no report was brought concerning Him shall see; and they who did not hear shall understand.

Chapter 53

¹ O Lord, who has believed our report, and to whom was the arm of the Lord

revealed? ² We proclaimed His presence as a Child, as a Root in a thirsty land. He had no form or glory, and we saw Him; and He had no form or beauty. ³ But in comparison to all men, His form was lacking in honor. He was a man in suffering, and knew how to bear sickness. His face was turned away, and He was dishonored and not esteemed. ⁴ He bears our sins and suffers for us, yet we considered Him to be in pain, suffering, and ill-treatment. ⁵ But He was wounded because of our lawlessness, and became sick because of our sins. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His bruise we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray. Man has gone astray in his way, and the Lord delivered Him over for our sins. ⁷ Although He was ill-treated, He opened not His mouth. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. ⁸ In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth, and because of the lawlessness of My people, He was led to death. ⁹ I will appoint evil men for His burial and rich men for His death, because He committed no lawlessness, nor was deceit found in His mouth. ¹⁰ The Lord wishes to cleanse Him of His wound, and if You give an offering for sin, Your soul shall see a long-lived seed. ¹¹ The Lord wishes to take away the pain of His soul, to show Him light, to form Him with understanding, and to pronounce righteous the Righteous One who serves many well; and He shall bear their sins. ¹² Therefore He shall inherit many, and will divide the spoil with the strong, because His soul was delivered over to death. He was considered among the lawless, and He bore the sins of many, and was delivered over because of their sins.

Chapter 54

¹ "Be glad, O barren woman who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman," says the Lord.

The Ninth Hour

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.
[11:17-12:5a,9b-11a,14-15]

Chapter 11

¹⁷ O Lord, teach me, and I will know. Then I saw their purpose. ¹⁸ For I did not know I was like an innocent lamb, led to be sacrificed. They plotted an evil device against me, saying, "Come, let us put wood in his bread, and destroy him root and branch from the land of the living, so his name might not be remembered any longer." ¹⁹ But, O Lord, You who judge righteously, who tests minds and hearts, let me see Your vengeance on them, for I have revealed my righteous plea to You. ²⁰ "Therefore thus says the Lord, against the men of Anathoth, against those who seek my life, and who say, 'Do not

prophesy in the name of the Lord, lest you die by our hands' — ²¹ Behold, I will visit them. The young men shall die by the sword, and their sons and daughters shall die by famine. ²² There shall be no remnant of them, for I will bring calamities on the inhabitants of Anathoth in the year of their visitation."

Chapter12

¹ O Lord, You are righteous, that I may plead my case with You, to speak to You concerning judgments. Why does the way of the ungodly prosper, and all who deal treacherously flourish? ² You planted them, and they took root. They bear children, and are fruitful. You are near in their mouth, but far from their mind. ³ But You, O Lord, know me. You have proven my heart before You. Set them apart for the day of slaughter. ⁴ How long will the land mourn, and the grass of the field wither, because of the vices of those who dwell in it? The cattle and the birds are destroyed, because they said, "God will not see our ways." ^{5a} Your feet run, and grow weary.

^{9b} Gather together all the wild beasts of the field, and let them come to devour her. ¹⁰ Many shepherds destroyed My vineyard, and defiled My portion. They turned My pleasant portion into an impassable desert. ^{11a} It was made a complete ruin.

¹⁴ For thus says the Lord: "Concerning all the evil neighbors who touch My inheritance, which I divided to My people Israel—behold, I shall draw them away from their land, and will cast out Judah from their midst. ¹⁵ Then it shall come to pass, after I cast them out, that I will return them, and have mercy on them. I will settle them, each in his inheritance and each in his land."

Vespers

The Reading is from Exodus. [33:11-23]

¹¹ Thus the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Then he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. ¹² Then Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you above all, and you have also found grace in My sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, reveal Yourself to me, that I may see You clearly, and find grace in Your sight, and know this great nation is Your people." ¹⁴ So He said, "I Myself will go before you, and give you rest." ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If You, Yourself, do not go up with us, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how then will it be known that Your people and I found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So both I and Your people shall be glorified beyond all the nations on the earth." ¹⁷ The Lord then said to

Moses, "I will also do this thing you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you above all." ¹⁸ Moses replied, "Reveal Yourself to me." ¹⁹ Then God said, "I will pass before you in My glory, and I will proclaim My name, the Lord, before you. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." ²⁰ But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man can see My face and live." ²¹ Moreover, the Lord said, "Here is a place by Me: you shall stand on the rock. ²² So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand, while I pass by. ²³ Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

* * *

The Reading is from the Book of Job.
[42:12-20]

¹² Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand donkeys. ¹³ He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ And he named the first, Day, the second, Cassia, and the third, Amalthia's Horn. ¹⁵ In all the land, there were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. ¹⁶ After this affliction, Job lived one hundred and seventy years, and all the years he lived were two hundred forty-eight; and Job saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. ¹⁷ So Job died, old and full of days. ¹⁸ It is written that he will rise with those whom the Lord resurrects. ¹⁹ This man is described in the Syriac book as living in the land of Ausitis, on the borders of Edom and Arabia. Previously his name was Jobab. ²⁰ He took an Arabian wife and begot a son named Ennon. But he himself was the son of his father Zare, one of the sons of Esau, and of his mother, Bosorra. Thus, he was the fifth son from Abraham.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[52:13-54:1]

Chapter 52

Thus says the Lord, ¹³ Behold, My Servant shall have wisdom, and He shall be exalted and glorified exceedingly. ¹⁴ Just as many shall be astonished at You, so Your form and glory shall be dishonored by men. ¹⁵ Thus many nations shall marvel at Him, and kings shall shut their mouth, because they

to whom no report was brought concerning Him shall see; and they who did not hear shall understand.

Chapter 53

¹ O Lord, who has believed our report, and to whom was the arm of the Lord revealed? ² We proclaimed His presence as a Child, as a Root in a thirsty land. He had no form or glory, and we saw Him; and He had no form or beauty. ³ But in comparison to all men, His form was lacking in honor. He was a man in suffering, and knew how to bear sickness. His face was turned away, and He was dishonored and not esteemed. ⁴ He bears our sins and suffers for us, yet we considered Him to be in pain, suffering, and ill-treatment. ⁵ But He was wounded because of our lawlessness, and became sick because of our sins. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His bruise we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray. Man has gone astray in his way, and the Lord delivered Him over for our sins. ⁷ Although He was ill-treated, He opened not His mouth. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. ⁸ In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth, and because of the lawlessness of My people, He was led to death. ⁹ I will appoint evil men for His burial and rich men for His death, because He committed no lawlessness, nor was deceit found in His mouth. ¹⁰ The Lord wishes to cleanse Him of His wound, and if You give an offering for sin, Your soul shall see a long-lived seed. ¹¹ The Lord wishes to take away the pain of His soul, to show Him light, to form Him with understanding, and to pronounce righteous the Righteous One who serves many well; and He shall bear their sins. ¹² Therefore He shall inherit many, and will divide the spoil with the strong, because His soul was delivered over to death. He was considered among the lawless, and He bore the sins of many, and was delivered over because of their sins.

Chapter 54

¹ "Be glad, O barren woman who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman," says the Lord.



Saturday of Great and Holy Week

Matins (The Lamentations Service) The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel. [37:1-14]

¹ Again the hand of the Lord came upon me,, and brought me by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me in the midst of the plain, which was full of human bones. ² So He led me round about them, and, behold, there was a great multitude of bones on the face of the plain. They were very dry. ³ Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord, You know this." ⁴ Then He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord to these bones: "Behold, I will bring the Spirit of life upon you. ⁶ I will put muscles on you, and bring flesh upon you. I will cover you with skin, and put my Spirit into you. Then you shall live, and know that I am the Lord."'" ⁷ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and it came to pass while I prophesied, that, behold, there was a shaking, and the bones came together, each one to its joint. ⁸ So I looked, and, behold, muscle and flesh grew upon them, and skin covered them over; but no breath was in them. ⁹ Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, 'Thus says the Lord: "Come from the four winds, and breathe upon these dead men; and let them live."'" ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them; and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great assembly. ¹¹ Again the Lord spoke to me, saying, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope has perished, and we are lost.' ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will open your tombs, bring you up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your tombs to lead you, My people, up from their graves. ¹⁴ I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live; and I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it," says the Lord."'

The Vesperal Liturgy The Reading is from Genesis. [1:1-13]

¹ In the beginning God made heaven and earth. ² The earth was invisible and without adornment; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God

was hovering over the face of the water. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ God saw the light; it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day. ⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water"; and it was so. ⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. ⁸ So God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good; and there was evening and morning, the second day. ⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its places, and the dry land appeared. ¹⁰ So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth." It was so. ¹² Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. ¹³ So evening and morning were the third day.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[60:1-16]

¹ "Shine, shine, O Jerusalem, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. ² Behold, darkness and gloom shall cover the earth upon the nations, but the Lord will shine on you; and His glory shall be seen upon you. ³ Kings shall come to your light, and the Gentiles to your brightness. ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see your children gathered together. Behold, all your sons come from afar, and your daughters shall be lifted upon their shoulders. ⁵ Then you will see, fear and be amazed in your heart, because the wealth of the sea and of nations and peoples shall change their course, and turn to you. ⁶ Herds of camels shall come to you, and the camels of Midian and Ephah shall cover you. All those from Sheba shall come bearing gold, and they shall bring frankincense, and proclaim the good news of the Lord's salvation. ⁷ All the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, and the rams of Nebaioth shall come to you. They shall offer acceptable sacrifices upon My altar, and My house of prayer shall be glorified. ⁸ Who are these who fly like clouds, and like doves with young? ⁹ The coastlands waited for Me, and the ships of Tarshish among the first, to bring your children from afar, and silver and gold with them for the sake of the Lord's name, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified. ¹⁰ Foreigners shall

build your walls, and their kings shall defend you; for I struck you because of My wrath, and I loved you because of My mercy. ¹¹ Your gates shall be opened continually, and they shall not be shut day or night, to bring you the power of the Gentiles, and their kings leading them. ¹² For the nations and their kings who will not serve you shall perish, and those nations will be utterly desolate. ¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with the cypress, the pine, and the cedar together, to glorify My holy place. ¹⁴ The sons of those who humbled and provoked you shall go to you in fear, and you shall be called City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁵ Because you were forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you. Therefore I will make you an eternal joy, the gladness of generations to generations. ¹⁶ You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, and eat the wealth of kings. You shall know I am the Lord who saves you, and the God of Israel who delivers you.

* * *

The Reading is from Exodus.
[12:1-11]

¹ Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, ² "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. ³ Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the family households, a lamb for each home. ⁴ If there be too few in a household, let him and his neighbor next to his house, take it according to the number of souls; he will make his count in lambs, according to the needs of each one. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You shall take it from the sheep or the kids. ⁶ Then you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire — its head with its legs and its entrails. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until morning, nor shall you break a bone of it; and what remains of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ Thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Pascha.'"

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jonah.
[1:1-4:11]

Chapter 1

¹ Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of her wickedness has come up to me." ³ But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish, paid his fare, and boarded the ship to set sail to with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. ⁴ But the Lord raised up a great wind upon the sea, and there came about a mighty tempest, and the ship was in danger of breaking up. ⁵ And the mariners were afraid and cried out, each one to his god. And they cast out the cargo of the ship into the sea, attempting to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, had gone to sleep, and was snoring. ⁶ The captain came to him and said: "Why are you snoring? Get up, and call upon your God, that your God may keep us safe, so we do not perish." ⁷ And each one said to his shipmate: "Come! Let us cast lots and find out on whose account this calamity is upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. ⁸ Then they said to him: "Tell us, what is your occupation? Where do you come from and from what country and people are you?" ⁹ And he said to them: "I am a servant of the Lord, and I worship the Lord God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him: "What is this that you did?" For the men knew he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. ¹¹ Then they said to him: "What should we do to you that the sea will calm itself for us?" For the sea continued to be tempestuous, and the waves rose up even higher. ¹² And Jonah said to them: "Take me up and cast me into the sea, and the sea will grow calm for you, for I know this great tempest is upon you because of me." ¹³ And the men tried hard to return to the land, but were unable to do so, for the sea arose and grew even more tempestuous against them. ¹⁴ Then they cried out to the Lord and said: "Please, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man's life, nor bring righteous blood upon us; for you, O Lord, have brought this about." ¹⁵ So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶ And the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and vowed vows.

Chapter 2

¹ Now the Lord commanded a huge sea creature to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the sea creature three days and three nights. ² And from the belly of the sea creature, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, ³ and said: "I cried out in my affliction to the Lord, my God, and He heard my voice; out of the belly of Hades, You heard the cry of my voice. ⁴ You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea, and rivers encompassed me; all

Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me. ⁵ And I said: 'I have been driven away from Your sight; shall I again look with favor toward Your holy temple?' ⁶ Water is poured over me, to my soul; the lowest depth encircled me, my head plunged into the clefts of the mountains. ⁷ I descended into the earth, the bars of which are everlasting barriers; yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God. ⁸ When my soul was failing from me, I remembered the Lord. May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple. ⁹ Those who follow vanity and lies forsake their own mercy. ¹⁰ But with a voice of thanksgiving and praise, I will sacrifice to You. As much as I vowed, I shall offer up to You, to You, the Lord of Deliverance." ¹¹ Then the Lord commanded the sea creature, and it cast up Jonah onto the dry land.

Chapter 3

¹ Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying: ² "Arise, and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach there according to the message I previously spoke to you." ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, just as the Lord spoke. Nineveh was an exceedingly great city to God, a journey of about three days. ⁴ And Jonah began to enter into the city, going a day's journey, where he proclaimed and said: "Yet three days and Nineveh shall be overthrown." ⁵ And the men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. ⁶ Then the word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and put on sackcloth, and sat upon ashes. ⁷ And it was proclaimed and spoken in Nineveh by the king and by his great men, saying: "Let not the men, cattle, oxen, or sheep taste anything, eat, or drink water." ⁸ So the men and the cattle were clothed with sackcloth, and they cried out fervently to God; and they each turned back from their evil ways, and from the wrongdoings of their hands, saying: ⁹ "Who knows if God shall have a change of heart and turn from His fierce anger, that we should not perish?" ¹⁰ And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways. And God had a change of heart about the evil which He said He would do to them, and He did not do it.

Chapter 4

¹ But Jonah was deeply grieved and was troubled. ² So he prayed to the Lord and said: "O Lord, were these not my words, when I was yet in my land? Therefore I saw the need to flee to Tarshish; because I knew You to be compassionate and merciful, long-suffering, and abundant in mercy, and willing to change your heart concerning evils. ³ And now, Master, Lord, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the Lord said to Jonah: "Are you exceedingly grieved?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and seated himself over opposite it. There he made for himself a tent and sat under its shade, until he might observe what would happen to the city. ⁶ And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonah, to be a shade over his head, to shield him from his discomforts.

Jonah rejoiced with great joy because of the gourd. ⁷ But early the next morning, God commanded a worm, and it smote the gourd, and the gourd withered up. ⁸ And when the sun rose, God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah, and he grew faint and despaired of his life. And he said: "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹ Then God said to Jonah: "Are you exceedingly grieved on account of the gourd?" And he said: "I am exceedingly grieved even unto death." ¹⁰ And the Lord said: "You took pity on the gourd, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came up during the night and perished before the next night. ¹¹ And shall I Myself not take pity upon Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty- thousand people, who do not know either their right hand or their left — and the many livestock?"

* * *

The Reading is from Joshua. [5:10-15]

¹⁰ Then the children of Israel kept Pascha, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, to the west of Jericho, across the Jordan in the plain. ¹¹ They ate of the unleavened and new wheat of the land. ¹² On this day, the manna ceased, after they ate from the wheat of the land. Thus, the children of Israel no longer had manna, for they enjoyed the fruits in the land of the Phoenicians in that year. ¹³ Then it came to pass, when Joshua was at Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a sword drawn in his hand. So Joshua came near and said to him, "Are you for us or on the side of our adversaries?" ¹⁴ He said to him, "I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord." Then Joshua fell on his face upon the earth, and said to him, "O Master, what do you command your servant?" ¹⁵ The chief captain of the Lord said to Joshua, "Loose the shoe from your feet; for the place on which you stand is holy."

* * *

The Reading is from Exodus. [13:20-15:19]

Chapter 13

²⁰ So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham by the desert. ²¹ Moreover, God led them, by day in a pillar of cloud to show them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire. ²² Thus the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, did not depart from before all the people.

Chapter 14

¹ Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp at the village, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before them by the sea. ³ For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are wandering in the land; the desert has closed them in.' ⁴ Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them; and I will be glorified in Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know I am the Lord." So they did. ⁵ Now it was told the king of the Egyptians that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" ⁶ So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. ⁷ Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. ⁸ Thus the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and his servants, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with a high hand. ⁹ So the Egyptians pursued them, all the cavalry and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the village, opposite Baal Zephon. ¹⁰ Now when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the desert? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the word we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert." ¹³ Then Moses said to the people, "Be of good courage. Stand still, and see the Lord's salvation, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Now lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it; and let the children of Israel go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. ¹⁷ I indeed will harden Pharaoh's heart and all the Egyptians, and they will go in after them. So I will be glorified in Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horses. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians will know I am the Lord, when I am glorified upon Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horses." ¹⁹ Now the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud also went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel, and the night passed; but there was such darkness and blackness, they did not come near one another all that night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord carried back the sea by a strong south wind all that night, and made the sea dry ground. Thus the waters were divided. ²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the

waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen. ²⁴ Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud; and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. ²⁵ He bound the axels of their chariot wheels, and caused them to proceed with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians." ²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots and the riders." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were trying to flee. But the Lord shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all of Pharaoh's army that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. ²⁹ But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. The waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰ So the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Thus Israel saw the Lord's mighty hand and the things He did to the Egyptians; therefore, the people feared the Lord, and believed God and His servant Moses.

Chapter 15

¹ Now Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to God, and spoke, saying: "Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified. Horse and rider He has thrown into the sea. ² The Lord became my helper and the shield of my salvation; He is my God, and I will glorify Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him. ³ The Lord brings wars to nothing; the Lord is His name. ⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and army He cast into the sea; His chosen captains also were drowned in the Red Sea. ⁵ The sea covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone. ⁶ Your right hand, O God, is glorified in strength; Your right hand, O God, dashed the enemy in pieces. ⁷ In the greatness of Your glory You broke the adversaries to pieces; You sent forth Your wrath; it consumed them like stubble. ⁸ By the Spirit of Your anger the waters were gathered together; the waves stood upright in the midst of the sea; the depths congealed in the heart of the sea. ⁹ The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoils; I will satisfy my soul; I will destroy with my sword; my hand shall have dominion.' ¹⁰ You sent forth Your Spirit; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. ¹¹ Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorified in holiness, Marvelous in praises, doing wonders? ¹² You stretched out Your right hand; the earth swallowed them up. ¹³ In righteousness You guided Your people whom You redeemed; in strength You called them to Your holy resting place. ¹⁴ The nations heard and were angry; pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia. ¹⁵ The princes of Edom and the chiefs of the Moabites were

dismayed; trembling took hold of them; all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away. ¹⁶ Fear and dread fell upon them; by the greatness of Your arm, let them become as stone, till Your people pass over, O Lord, till Your people pass over, whom You purchased. ¹⁷ Bring them in and plant them in the mountain of their inheritance, in Your prepared habitation, O Lord, which Your hands made ready; the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands established. ¹⁸ 'The Lord reigns forever and ever and ever.' ¹⁹ For Pharaoh's horses went with his chariots and horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea."

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**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zephaniah.
[3:8a-15]**

Thus says the Lord, ^{8a} "On account of this, wait for Me," says the Lord, "until the day of My rising up, as a testimony.

⁹ For then I shall transform for the people a language for her generation, for all to call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him under one yoke. ¹⁰ From the boundaries of the rivers of Ethiopia they will bring offerings to Me. ¹¹ In that day, you will not be ashamed of all your practices in which you acted profanely against Me. For at that time I will take away from you the contempt of your arrogance, and you shall no longer be haughty upon My holy mountain. ¹² And I will leave among you a gentle and humble people, who will show reverence to the name of the Lord. ¹³ The remnant of Israel will not commit unrighteousness nor speak vanities; neither will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they will feed and lie down, and there will be no one terrifying them." ¹⁴ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Be glad and rejoice with all your whole heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your iniquities and ransomed you from your enemies. The Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer see any evil.

* * *

**The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings).
[17:8-24]**

⁸ Again the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, ⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath of Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the city, there was a widow gathering firewood. Elijah called to

her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup so I can drink."¹¹ She went to get it, and Elijah called after her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."¹² But the woman said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have any bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar. You see I am gathering a couple of sticks, so I can go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we can eat it and die."¹³ But Elijah said to her, "Take courage, and do as you say, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me. Afterward make some for yourself and your son."¹⁴ For thus says the Lord:, "The bin of flour shall not be used up, and the jar of oil shall not run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth."¹⁵ So the woman went and did it. Thus she and he and her children ate for many days.¹⁶ The bin of flour was not used up, and the jar of oil did not run dry, according to the word the Lord spoke by Elijah.¹⁷ Now after this, the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. His sickness was so serious there was no breath left in him.¹⁸ So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? You came to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son."¹⁹ But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms, and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed.²⁰ Then Elijah cried out to the Lord and said, "Woe is me. O Lord! The witness of the widow with whom I lodge, you have embittered her by killing her son."²¹ Then he stretched himself out on the child three times, and called on the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, let the soul of this child come back to him."²² So it happened, and the child cried out.²³ He took the child and brought him down from the upper room of the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "Behold, your son lives."²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. [61:10-62:5]

Chapter 61

¹⁰ Let my soul rejoice exceedingly in the Lord, for He clothed me with the garment of salvation, and the tunic of gladness. He put a miter around me like a bridegroom, and adorned me with ornaments like a bride.¹¹ As the earth causes its flower to grow, and as a garden its seeds, so shall the Lord cause righteousness to rise up, and exceeding joy before all the Gentiles.

Chapter 62

¹ For Zion's sake I will not be silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until My righteousness goes forth as light, and My salvation burns like a lamp.² The Gentiles will see your righteousness, and kings your glory; and

one will call you by your new name, which the Lord shall name. ³ You shall also be a crown of beauty in the Lord's hand, and the diadem of a kingdom in the hand of your God. ⁴ You shall no longer be called Forsaken, and your land shall not be called Desert; for you shall be called My Will, and in your land, the Inhabited Earth. ⁵ As a young man lives in wedlock with a virgin, so shall your sons dwell with you, and as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so the Lord shall rejoice over you.

* * *

The Reading is from Genesis.
[22:1-18]

¹ Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham! Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² Then He said, "Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ Thus Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." ⁶ So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering." So the two of them went together. ⁹ They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." ¹² He then replied, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son." ¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. ¹⁴ Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, "In the mountain the Lord was seen." ¹⁵ Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said, "By Myself

I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, ¹⁷ I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice.”

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[61:1-10]

¹ The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because of which He anointed Me. He sent Me to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; ² to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, the day of recompense, and to comfort all who mourn; ³ to give those who mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of gladness to those who mourn; the garment of glory instead of a spirit of indifference. They shall be called Generations of Righteousness, The Planting of the Lord for Glory. ⁴ They shall build the ancient deserts, raise up those formerly abandoned, and renew the desert cities that laid waste for generations. ⁵ Foreigners shall come and shepherd your sheep, and aliens shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; ⁶ but you shall be called Priests of the Lord, and the Ministers of God. You shall eat the strength of nations, and be admired because of their wealth. ⁷ So they shall inherit the land a second time, and eternal gladness shall be upon their head. ⁸ For I am the Lord, who loves righteousness and hates robberies of wrongdoing. I will give their labor to the righteous and will make with them an everlasting covenant. ⁹ Their seed and their offspring shall be known among the Gentiles. All who see them shall know these are the seed blessed by God; ¹⁰ and they shall have exceeding gladness in the Lord.

* * *

The Reading is from 4th Kingdoms (2nd Kings).
[4:8-37]

⁸ Now one day Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a persuasive woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. ⁹ And the woman said to her husband, “Look now, I know this is a holy man of God, who comes to us regularly. ¹⁰ Let us make a small room upstairs; and let us put a bed for him there, with a table, a stool, a chair, and a lamp stand. And it shall be when

he comes to us, he will turn aside into this place.”¹¹ Now it happened one day that he came and he went there, and turned aside into the upper room and lay down there.¹² Then he said to his servant, Gehazi, “Call this Shunammite woman.” He called her, and she stood before him.¹³ And he said to Gehazi, “Say now to her, ‘Hear me. You have shown us all this care. What can I do for you? Do you have any request for the king or the commander of the army?’ But she answered, “I dwell among my own people.”¹⁴ So Elisha said, “What then is to be done for her?” And his servant, Gehazi, replied, “She for certainly has no son, and her husband is old.”¹⁵ Then Elisha called her, and she stood by the door.¹⁶ And Elisha said, “About this time next year, you shall embrace a son.” So she said, “No, my lord, do not lie to your maidservant!”¹⁷ Then as Elisha told her, the woman conceived, and she bore a son when the appointed time came.¹⁸ And the child grew. And it came to pass when he went out to his father, to the reaping,¹⁹ that he said to his father, “My head, my head!” His father said to a servant, “Carry him to his mother.”²⁰ So he carried him to his mother, and he lay upon her knees till noon and died.²¹ She took him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She went out, and closed the door as she left.²² She called to her husband and said, “Please bring to me one of the young men and one of the donkeys. I will ride quickly to the man of God and come back.”²³ So he said, “Why go to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath.” And she replied, “It is well.”²⁴ She saddled the donkey, and said to her servant, “Lead onward and do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you.”²⁵ She rode and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. And when the man of God saw her, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look, it is that Shunammite woman!”²⁶ Please run now to meet her, and say to her, ‘Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?’ And she answered, ‘Peace.’”²⁷ Now she came to the man of God on the hill and took hold of him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, “Leave her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord hid it from me, and did not tell me.”²⁸ So she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not tell you not to deceive me?”²⁹ Then Elisha said to Gehazi, “Prepare yourself, take my staff in your hand and be on your way. If you meet anyone, you will not greet him. And if anyone greets you, you will not answer him. You shall lay my staff on the face of the child.”³⁰ Then the mother of the child said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So Elisha arose and followed her.³¹ Now Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the child's face; but there was neither voice nor hearing. So he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, “The child is not awakened.”³² Elisha went into the house, and there was the child, lying dead on his bed.³³ He went into the room, and shut the door against the other two, and prayed to the Lord.³⁴ Then when he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he bowed himself down upon him, and the flesh of the

child warmed. ³⁵ He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and he went up and bowed himself down upon the child seven times, and the child opened his eyes. ³⁶ Then Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And she came to where he was and he said, "Take your son." ³⁷ So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[63:11b-64:4a]

Chapter 63

Thus says the Lord, ^{11b} Then He remembered the days of old, He who brought up the shepherd of His sheep from the land. Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in them? ¹² Where is He who led Moses with His right hand, the arm of His glory? He overpowered the water by His presence, to make for Himself an everlasting name. ¹³ He brought them through the deep, like a horse through the desert, yet they did not grow weary. ¹⁴ Like cattle through the plain, the Spirit came down from the Lord, and guided them. Thus You led Your people, to make Yourself a glorious name. ¹⁵ Return from heaven, and look from Your holy and glorious dwelling-place. Where is are Your zeal and Your strength; where is the multitude of Your mercy and Your compassion, so as to be patient with us? ¹⁶ You are our Father, although Abraham did not know us, and Israel did not acknowledge us; but You, O Lord, are our Father. You delivered us, and from the beginning Your name was upon us. ¹⁷ Why have you led us astray, O Lord, from Your path, and hardened our hearts, so as not to fear You? Return for the sake of Your servants, for the sake of the tribes of Your inheritance, ¹⁸ that we may inherit a small portion of Your holy mountain. ¹⁹ For our adversaries trampled down Your sanctuary, and we have become like as we were from the beginning, when You did not rule us, neither did we call upon Your name. ²⁰ If You open heaven, trembling shall take hold of the mountains before You, and they shall melt, like as wax melts before the fire.

Chapter 64

¹ The fire shall burn up the adversaries, and the Lord's name shall be manifest among the adversaries; and the nations shall be troubled by Your presence. ² When You do glorious things, trembling shall take hold of the mountains because of You. ³ From of old we have not heard, nor have our eyes seen any God but You, and Your works, which You shall do for those who wait for Your mercy. ^{4a} For mercy shall meet with those who do righteousness, and they shall remember your ways.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.
[38:31-34]**

Thus says the Lord, ³¹ "Behold, days are coming," says the Lord, "when I shall make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not according to the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took hold of their hand, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not abide in My covenant, and I disregarded them," says the Lord. ³³ "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will surely put My laws into their mind, and write them on their hearts. I will be as God to them, and they shall be as My people. ³⁴ Each shall not teach his neighbor, and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their wrongdoings, and I will no longer remember their sins."

* * *

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Daniel.
(The Prayer of Azariah and the Hymn of the Three Young Men)
[Daniel 3:1-89]**

¹ In his eighteenth year, King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image. Its height was sixty cubits and its width, six cubits, and he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ² Then Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather together the high officials, the commanders, the governors, the rulers, and all those in authority, along with all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. ³ So the governors, the high officials, the leaders, the great rulers all those in authority who ruled the provinces came to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up, and they stood before the image Nebuchadnezzar made. ⁴ Then the herald cried out in a loud voice, "To you it is commanded, O peoples and tribes and languages, ⁵ that in what hour you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, you shall fall down and worship the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. ⁶ But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace." ⁷ So at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, all the peoples, tribes, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. ⁸ Then Chaldean men came forward and brought charges against the Jews, ⁹ and said to King

Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever. ¹⁰ You, O king, made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, ¹¹ but does not fall down and worship the golden image shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. ¹² Now there are certain Jews you set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Those men did not obey your decree, O king; and they do not serve your gods, nor do they worship the golden image you set up." ¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So the men were brought before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar then answered and said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods, or worship the golden image I set up? ¹⁵ Now then, if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, that you shall fall down and worship the golden image I made. But indeed, if you do not worship it at that time, you shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Then what god is there who will deliver you from my hands?" ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "We have no need to answer you in regard to this thing. ¹⁷ For there is God in the heavens, whom we serve, and He is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace; and He will deliver us from your hands, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image you set up." ¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of anger, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So he commanded them to heat the furnace seven times more, until it burned to its fullest. ²⁰ Then he commanded certain very strong men to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Thereupon, those men were bound together with their sandals, caps, leg-coverings, and clothing, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace was exceedingly hot, ²³ these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴ But they walked about in the midst of the flame, singing to God and praising the Lord.

Prayer of Azariah

²⁵ Then Azariah stood and prayed thus, and opened his mouth in the midst of the fire, and said: ²⁶ "Blessed are You, and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name unto the ages. ²⁷ For You are righteous in all You did for us, and all Your works are true. Your ways are upright, and all Your judgments are true. ²⁸ The judgments You made are true, according to all You brought on us And on the holy city of our fathers, because in truth and judgment, You did all these things on account of our sins. ²⁹ For we sinned and acted awelessly, to depart from You. We sinned in every way, and did not obey Your commandments. ³⁰ Neither did

we treasure or do as You commanded, that it might go well with us. ³¹ Everything You brought on us, and all You did to us, You did in true judgment. ³² You delivered us into the hands of lawless and rebellious enemies, and to an unjust king—the most evil in any land. ³³ Now it is not for us to open our mouth, for this has become a shame and disgrace to Your servants, and to those who worship You. ³⁴ For Your name's sake, do not hand us over to the end, and do not reject Your covenant. ³⁵ Do not withdraw Your mercy from us for the sake of Abraham, who is loved by You, and for the sake of Isaac, Your servant, and of Israel, Your holy one, ³⁶ As You spoke to them, saying that You would multiply their seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand along the seashore. ³⁷ Yet we have been diminished in number, O Master, more than all the nations, and we are humbled in all the earth today because of our sins. ³⁸ At this time, there is no prince, no prophet, and no leader; there is no whole burnt offering, no sacrifice, no offering, and no incense; there is no place to bear fruit before You, and to find mercy. ³⁹ Yet with a contrite soul and humbled spirit, may we receive mercy, as with whole burnt offerings of rams and bulls, and as with thousands of fatted lambs. ⁴⁰ So let this be our sacrifice before You today, and may it be accomplished for those who follow You; for there is no shame for those who trust in You. ⁴¹ Now we are following You with all our heart, and we fear You and seek Your face. ⁴² Do not put us to shame, but deal with us according to Your kindness, and according to the abundance of Your mercy. ⁴³ Deliver us by Your wondrous works, and give glory to Your name, O Lord. ⁴⁴ May all those who inflict evils upon Your servants be put to shame, and humiliated in their power; and let their strength be crushed. ⁴⁵ Let them know that You alone are the Lord God, and glorious over all the inhabited earth.” ⁴⁶ Now the king's servants, who cast them in, did not cease to stoke the furnace with naphtha, pitch, coarse fiber, and brush-wood. ⁴⁷ The flame shot forty-nine cubits above the furnace, ⁴⁸ and it broke out, and burned those it found around the furnace of the Chaldeans. ⁴⁹ But the Angel of the Lord went down into the furnace to join Azariah and his companions, and shook off the fiery flame of the furnace. ⁵⁰ He made the inside of the furnace to be as though a dew-laden breeze was blowing through it, so the fire did not touch them at all, or cause them pain, or trouble them.

Hymn of the Three Young Men

⁵¹ Then the three, as if with one mouth, sang, glorified, and blessed God in the furnace, saying:

⁵² “Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, For You are praiseworthy, And exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

⁵³ Blessed is Your name and the temple of your glory, And You are praised exceedingly, And exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

⁵⁴ You are blessed in the holy temple of Your glory, And are highly praised, And exceedingly glorious unto the ages.

⁵⁵ Blessed are You on the throne of Your kingdom, And You are praised, And

exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

⁵⁶ Blessed are You who behold the depths, And sit upon the cherubim. You are praiseworthy, And exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

⁵⁷ Blessed are You in the firmament of heaven, For You are praised and glorified unto the ages.

⁵⁸ Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord., And sing a hymn to the Lord, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁵⁹ Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶⁰ Bless the Lord, you heavens, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶¹ Bless the Lord, all you waters above heaven, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶² Bless the Lord, all you powers of the Lord, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶³ Bless the Lord, you sun and moon, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶⁴ Bless the Lord, you stars of heaven, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶⁵ Bless the Lord, every shower and dew, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶⁶ Bless the Lord, all you winds, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶⁷ Bless the Lord, you fire and heat, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶⁸ Bless the Lord, you winter cold and summer heat, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁶⁹ Bless the Lord, you dews and snows, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷⁰ Bless the Lord, you frost and cold, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷¹ Bless the Lord, you hoar-frosts and snows, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷² Bless the Lord, you night and day, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷³ Bless the Lord, you light and darkness, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷⁴ Bless the Lord, you lightning and clouds, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷⁵ Let the earth bless the Lord, And let it sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷⁶ Bless the Lord, you mountains and hills, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷⁷ Bless the Lord, all you things growing on the earth, And sing a hymn to

Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷⁸ Bless the Lord, you springs, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁷⁹ Bless the Lord, you seas and rivers, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸⁰ Bless the Lord, you sea-monsters and everything that moves in the waters, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸¹ Bless the Lord, all you birds of heaven, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸² Bless the Lord, all you wild animals and cattle, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸³ Bless the Lord, O children of men, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸⁴ Bless the Lord, O Israel, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸⁵ Bless the Lord, O priests of the Lord, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸⁶ Bless the Lord, O servants of the Lord, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸⁷ Bless the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸⁸ Bless the Lord, O holy ones and humble in heart, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

⁸⁹ Bless the Lord, O Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael, And sing a hymn to Him, And exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.”



PENTECOSTARION

Wednesday of Mid-Pentecost

Vespers

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Micah.
[4:2d,3a,5. 6:2-5a,8. 5:3a,3c,4a]

Chapter 4

Thus says the Lord, ^{2d} For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ^{3a} And He will judge between many peoples and rebuke strong nations afar off.

⁵ For all the peoples shall walk each one his own way, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Chapter 6

Thus says the Lord Almighty, ² Hear, O mountains, the judgment of the Lord, and you valleys, the foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against His people, and He will contend with Israel. ³ O My people, what have I done to you? How have I grieved you? Answer Me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent you Moses, and Aaron, and Miriam. ^{5a} O My people, remember now what *your enemies* plotted against you.

⁸ *The Lord* has shown you, O man, what is good. Or what does the Lord seek from you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to be ready to walk with the Lord your God?

Chapter 5

^{3a} And He shall stand and see, and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord,

^{3c} for now they will be magnified unto the ends of the earth.

^{4a} And she will have peace.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[55:1. 12:3-4. 55:2b-3a,6-13]

Chapter 55

Thus says the Lord, ¹ "You who are thirsty, go to the water, and all who have no money, go and buy wine and fat, and eat and drink without money and price.

Chapter 12

For thus says the Lord Almighty to you, ³ You will draw water with gladness from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day, you will say, "Praise the Lord; call upon His name. Declare His glorious things among the Gentiles and make mention that His name is exalted.

Chapter 55

My people, ^{2b} Listen to Me and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. ^{3a} Incline your ears, and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you.

⁶ Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. ⁷ Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. ⁸ "For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways," says the Lord. ⁹ "But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. ¹⁰ For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, ¹¹ so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. ¹² For you shall go forth with gladness, and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. ¹³ Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle; and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail, *says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel.*

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [9:1-11]

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he

will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."



The Ascension of Christ

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[2:2-3a]

Thus says the Lord, ² Now it shall come to pass in the last days, the mountain of the Lord and the house of God shall be visible on the tops of the mountains, and exalted above the hills. All the Gentiles shall come to it. ^{3a} Many Gentiles shall travel and say: "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will proclaim His way to us, and we shall walk in it."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy Isaiah.
[62:10-63:3a,7-9]

Chapter 62

Thus says the Lord, ¹⁰ Go through My gates, make a way for My people, throw the stones off the road, and lift up a standard for the Gentiles." ¹¹ For behold, the Lord caused this to be heard to the ends of the earth: "Say to the daughter of Zion: Behold, your Savior is come, and has His reward, and His work before His face." ¹² One shall call them a holy people, the redeemed of the Lord, and you shall be called: A City Sought For and Not Forsaken.

Chapter 63

¹ Who is this who comes from Edom, with red garments from Bozrah, so beautiful in His apparel, with force of strength? "I speak of righteousness and saving judgment." ² Why are Your garments red and Your apparel as one who treads in a winepress? ^{3a} "I am full of the treading of grapes, and

there is no man with Me among the nations.

⁷ I remembered the Lord's mercy, the praises of the Lord in all things in which the Lord recompenses us. The Lord is a good judge to the house of Israel, and He deals with us according to His mercy, and according to the multitude of His righteousness. ⁸ He said, "Surely My people, My children, have not rejected Me?" So He became their salvation. ⁹ Not an elder or an angel, but the Lord Himself saved them from all their tribulation, because He loved them, and spared them. He redeemed, and took them up, and lifted them up all the days of old.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zechariah. [14,1a,4a,8-11]

Thus says the Lord, ^{1a} Behold, the days of the Lord come,
^{4a} And on that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east.

⁸ And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and half toward the western sea. So it will be in both summer and spring. ⁹ And the Lord shall be King of all the earth, and in that day, the Lord shall be one Lord, and His name one name, ¹⁰ encircling all the land, even the wilderness from Geba until to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Rama shall remain in her place; from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate; to the Gate of the Corners; and to the Tower of Hananeel, as far as the king's winepresses, ¹¹ they will dwell in her, and it will no longer be a curse. Jerusalem shall dwell securely.



The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Reading is from Genesis. [14:14-20a]

¹⁴ Now when Abram heard his brother Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ So he divided his forces against them by

night, and he and his servants attacked and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. The Blessing of Melchizedek ¹⁷ Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. ¹⁸ Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; ^{20a} and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands."

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[1:8-11,15-17a]

⁸ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them." ⁹ So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. ¹⁰ The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. ¹¹ May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.'

¹⁵ "So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. ¹⁶ Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. ^{17a} You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgment is Gods.'"

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[10:14-21]

¹⁴ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. ¹⁶ Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. ¹⁸ He administers justice for the

resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. ²¹ He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes."



The Sunday of Pentecost

The Reading is from the Book of Numbers.
[11:16-17,24b-29]

¹⁶ So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather to Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you yourself know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of testimony, so they may stand there with you. ¹⁷ Then I will descend and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit upon you and put Him upon them; and they shall help you bear the wrath of the people, that you yourself may not bear them alone.

^{24b} *And Moses* gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and placed them around the tabernacle. ²⁵ Then the Lord descended in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit upon him, and put Him upon the seventy men of the elders; and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, although they never did so again. ²⁶ But two men remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other, Medad, and the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those registered, but had not come to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ So a young man ran and told Moses, and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ Then Joshua the son of Nun, who was near Moses, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Lord Moses, forbid them." ²⁹ Then Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people might be prophets, when the Lord would put His Spirit upon them."

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Joel.
[2:23-3:5]

Chapter 2

Thus says the Lord, ²³ And you children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He gives food that is right for you, and He will shower you as before with the early and the late rain. ²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the wine presses of wine and olive will overflow. ²⁵ "And I will restore to you the years the grasshopper and the locust have eaten, and for the blight, and the caterpillar, even for My great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶ You will eat abundantly and be satisfied and will praise the name of the Lord your God for what He has so wondrously done unto you. And My people will not be put to shame forever. ²⁷ Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel; that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other but Me. And at no time will My people be put to shame forever.

Chapter 3

¹ "After this it shall come to pass that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ² And in those days I shall pour out My Spirit on My servants and on My handmaids. ³ And I shall give wonders in the heavens, and upon the earth, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ⁴ The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes to pass. ⁵ And it shall be that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord Himself said, and there shall be proclamation of the good news to those whom the Lord Himself called.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.
[36:24-28]

Thus says the Lord, ²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your land. ²⁵ I shall sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be cleansed from all your uncleanness, and I will also cleanse you from all your idols. ²⁶ I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I shall take the heart of stone from your flesh, and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I shall put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My requirements, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ²⁸ You will dwell in the land I gave to your fathers. You will be My people, and I shall be your God.



The Sunday of All Saints

Vespers

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord,* All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



READINGS COMMON TO THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF HOLY ONES

General Service for the Feasts of our Lord Jesus Christ
including the Prefeast and Leavetaking

The Reading is from Exodus.
[24:12-18]

¹² Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments I wrote, that you may teach them." ¹³ So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and they went up to the mountain of God. ¹⁴ But he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them." ¹⁵ Then Moses and Joshua went up the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ Now the glory of God descended on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. Then on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ The sight of the Lord's glory was like a burning fire on the top of the mountain before the children of Israel. ¹⁸ So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up the mountain; and he was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[4:1a,6-7,9-15]

^{1a} *Moses spoke to the people of Israel saying,* "Now, O Israel, listen to the ordinances and judgments I teach you today to observe, that you may live.

⁶ Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the Gentiles, who will hear all these ordinances and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' ⁷ For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?

⁹ Only take heed to yourself and diligently guard your soul, lest you forget all the things your eyes saw, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; and you shall teach them to your sons and the sons of your sons, ¹⁰ especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb on the day of assembly, when the Lord said to me, 'Gather the people

to me and let them hear My words, so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on earth, and may teach their sons.’¹¹ Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness gloom, storm, and a great voice.¹² The Lord spoke to you from the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice.¹³ So He declared to you His covenant, the Ten Commandments, which He commanded you to perform; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.¹⁴ Then the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you ordinances and judgments, so you might observe them in the land you are crossing over to inherit.¹⁵ So be careful to guard your souls, for you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb on the mountain from the midst of the fire.”

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[5:1-7,9b-10,23-26,28a. 6:1-5,13,18a]

Chapter 5

¹ Now Moses called all Israel, and said to them, “Hear, O Israel, the ordinances and the judgments I speak in your hearing on this day, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them.² The Lord our God made a covenant with you in Horeb.³ The Lord did not make this covenant with your fathers, but with you, all of you alive here today.⁴ The Lord spoke to you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire.⁵ I stood between the Lord and you at that time to declare to you the words of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. And He said,⁶ ‘I am the Lord your God who brings you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.⁷ There shall be no different gods before my face.

^{9b} Because I am the Lord your God, a jealous God,¹⁰ but showing mercy to thousands who love Me and keep my commandments.’

²³ So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the fire, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near me, all the leaders of your tribes and your elders. Then you said, ‘Surely the Lord our God showed us His glory and His greatness, and we heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We saw this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives,²⁵ Now therefore, let us not die, because this great fire will destroy us; and if we continue to hear the voice of the Lord our God many more, we shall die.²⁶ For who of flesh heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?’

^{28a} The Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me.

Chapter 6

¹ Now these are the commandments, the ordinances, and the judgments the Lord our God commanded to teach you, that you may do them in the land you are crossing over to inherit, ² and may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His ordinances and commandments I command you today, you and your sons and the sons of your sons, all the days of your life, so your days may be prolonged. ³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you, and you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers told you `to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.'" ⁴ These are the ordinances and the judgments the Lord commanded the children of Israel in the desert, when they came from the Land of Egypt: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart, from your whole soul, and from your whole power.

¹³ You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and you shall cling to Him and take oaths in His name.

^{18a} So you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may be well with you."



The Services Common to Festivals of the Holy Virgin Mary

The Reading is from Genesis. [28:10-17]

¹⁰ Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. ¹¹ So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. ¹⁴ Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not

know it.”¹⁷ So he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel. [43:27-44:4]

Chapter 43

²⁷ “It will be when these days are over, on the eighth day, the priests shall offer your whole burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar, and I shall accept you,” says the Lord.

Chapter 44

¹ Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, that faces toward the east, but it was shut. ² So the Lord said to me, “This gate shall be shut. It shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the Lord God of Israel will enter by it; therefore, it shall be shut. ³ As for the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will go in by way of the gate chamber, and go out the same way.” ⁴ Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [9:1-11]

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ “He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me”; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ “Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased.”



The General Service to the Holy Cross

The Reading is from Exodus. [15:22-16:1a]

Chapter 15

²² Thus Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the desert and found no water to drink. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore he named that place Bitterness. ²⁴ Then the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ So he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. There He proved him, ²⁶ and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is pleasing in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His ordinances, I will put none of the diseases on you that I brought on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord your God who heals you." ²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Chapter 16

^{1a} Now they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs. [3:11-20]

¹¹ My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord, neither grow weary under His reproof. ¹² For whom the Lord loves He instructs, and chastises every son He receives. ¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment; ¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her; ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her. ¹⁷ For length of days and years of life are in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and glory; ¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and

mercy upon her tongue. ¹⁹ Her ways are good ways, and her paths are in peace. ²⁰ She is a tree of life for all who cleave to her, and she is security for those who lean upon her as upon the Lord.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[60:11-16]**

¹¹ *Thus says the Lord, Your gates, Jerusalem, shall be opened continually and they shall not be shut day or night, to bring you the power of the Gentiles, and their kings leading them.* ¹² For the nations and their kings who will not serve you shall perish, and those nations will be utterly desolate. ¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with the cypress, the pine, and the cedar together, to glorify My holy place. ¹⁴ The sons of those who humbled and provoked you shall go to you in fear, and you shall be called City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁵ Because you were forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you; therefore, I will make you an eternal joy, the gladness of generations to generations. ¹⁶ You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, and eat the wealth of kings. You shall know I am the Lord who saves you, and the God of Israel who delivers you.



The Service Common to the Holy Angels and the Bodiless Powers of Heaven

**The Reading is from Joshua.
[5:13-15]**

¹³ Then it came to pass, when Joshua was at Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a sword drawn in his hand. So Joshua came near and said to him, "Are you for us or on the side of our adversaries?"* ¹⁴ He said to him, "I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord." Then Joshua fell on his face upon the earth, and said to him, "O Master, what do you command your servant?" ¹⁵ The chief captain of the Lord said to Joshua, "Loose the shoe from your feet; for the place on which you stand is holy."

* * *

The Reading is from Judges.
[6:2a,6b-7,11-24]

^{2a} *It came to pass in that day that the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel.*

^{6b} and the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord.

¹¹ Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree in Ephrathah which belonged to Joash the father of Esdri, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide from the presence of the Midianites. ¹² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, mighty one of the armies!" ¹³ Gideon said to Him, "It is I, my Lord? If the Lord is with us, why then have these evils come upon us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has driven us out and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." ¹⁴ Then the Angel of the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with this strength of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Indeed, I have sent you." ¹⁵ And Gideon said to Him, "Be gracious with me, my Lord, for how can I save Israel? My thousand is weakened in Manasseh, and I am the smallest in my father's house." ¹⁶ And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "The Lord will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." ¹⁷ Then Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found mercy in Your sight, then You shall do everything for me today that You have told me. ¹⁸ Do not leave here, I pray, until I come to You and I will bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I am. I will wait until you come back." ¹⁹ So Gideon went in and prepared a goat kid, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. He put the meat in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and approached. ²⁰ The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. ²¹ Then the Angel of the Lord stretched out the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight. ²² Now Gideon perceived this was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, "O Lord, my Lord! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face." ²³ Then the Lord said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die." ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it the Peace of the Lord to this day.

* * *

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[14:7b-20]**

Thus says the Lord, ^{7b} All the earth cries aloud with gladness. ⁸ Indeed, the trees of Lebanon rejoice against you and the cedar of Lebanon, saying: 'From the time you fell asleep, no one has come up to cut us down.' ⁹ Hades from below was embittered to meet you. All the mighty who ruled over the earth rose up to meet you. Those who raised from their thrones all the kings of the nations, ¹⁰ all shall answer and say to you, 'You also were conquered, even as we, and are numbered among us. ¹¹ Your glory and great gladness have come down to Hades. They will spread decay under you, and the worm will be your covering.' ¹² How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, who rose up in the morning! He who sends for all the nations is crushed to the earth. ¹³ For you said in your mind: 'I will ascend into heaven and place my throne above the stars of heaven. I will sit on a lofty mountain, on the lofty mountains toward the north. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the clouds; I will be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ But now you shall descend to Hades, to the foundations of the earth. ¹⁶ Those who see you will marvel at you, and they will say, 'This is the man who greatly upset the earth, who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷ and who made all the inhabited world a desert. He destroyed its cities, and did not set free those in captivity.' ¹⁸ All the kings of the nations sleep in honor, every man in his house. ¹⁹ But you shall be cast forth on the mountains, like a loathsome dead person, with many dead pierced with swords, who go down into Hades; and as a garment defiled in blood, you will not be clean. ²⁰ So you will not be clean, because you destroyed My land, and killed My people. You, an evil seed, will not endure forever.



**General Service to the Prophet John the Baptist,
the Forerunner of the Lord**

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
[40:1-5,9. 41:17b-18. 45:8. 48:20b-21a. 54:1]**

Chapter 40

¹ Comfort, yes, comfort My people, says God. ² O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord's hand double for her sins. ³ The

voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. ⁵ The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

⁹ O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength, ; lift it up, be not afraid.

Chapter 41

^{17b} I, the Lord God, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. ¹⁸ But I will open rivers in the mountain and fountains in the midst of the plains. I will make the desert into marsh-meadows, and the dry land into aqueducts.

Chapter 45

⁸ Let heaven above be glad, and let the clouds sprinkle righteousness. Let the earth bring forth mercy and righteousness together.

Chapter 48

^{20b} Proclaim a voice of gladness, and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say: , "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob."

^{21a} If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them.

Chapter 54

¹ Be glad, O barren woman who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman.

* * *

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Malachi. [3:1a,2,3a,5a,5c,6a,7b,12a,17,18b,24,22-23]

^{1a} *Thus says the Lord Almighty:* "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me, and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come into His temple,

² But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can withstand His appearance? For He enters like a refiner's fire and as soap in one's wash.

^{3a} He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver and gold.

^{5a,c} And I will draw near to you in judgment, a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My name, and those who do not fear Me," says the Lord Almighty.

^{6a} "For I am the Lord your God; I have not changed. But you, O sons of Jacob,

^{7b} You have turned away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty,

^{12a} And all nations will call you blessed,”

¹⁷ “They shall be mine, says the Lord Almighty, in the day that I make them My possession, and I will choose them as a man chooses his own son who serves him.

^{18b} Then you shall return, and you will discern between the righteous and the wicked.

²⁴ Be in remembrance of the Law of Moses, of My servant as I commanded him, with its statutes and judgments, at Horeb for all Israel.

²² Behold, I will send you Elijah, before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²³ And he will turn the heart of the father to his son, and a man's heart to his neighbor, lest I come and strike the earth completely,’ says the Lord Almighty, God the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7a,16a,17a,19b-20. 5:1-7]

Chapter 4

^{7a} But though a righteous man may die before his time, he shall be at rest.

^{16a} But a righteous man who is dead shall condemn the ungodly who are living,

^{17a} For they will see the end of the wise man, but will not understand what the Lord purposed for him.

^{19b} Because *the Lord* will dash them headlong and speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations. They shall be left dry and barren to the very end; they shall be in pain, and their memory shall perish. ²⁰ They will come with dread In the day of reckoning for their sins, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

Chapter 5

¹ Then the righteous man will stand with confidence in the presence of those who afflict him; and those who reject his labors, ² when they see him, will be shaken with dreadful fear; and they shall be amazed at his unexpected salvation. ³ They will speak among themselves with regret, and in anguish of spirit they will groan and say, ⁴ “This is the man whom we fools once held in derision and made a byword of disgrace. We considered his life to be madness and his death without honor. ⁵ How has he been numbered among the sons of God? And how is his portion among the saints? ⁶ Therefore we went astray from the way of truth, for the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. ⁷ We were satisfied with the paths of lawlessness, and we traveled through impassable deserts; but the way of the Lord we have not known.”



The General Service to the Holy Fathers in Remembrance of Councils

The Reading is from Genesis. [14:14-20a]

¹⁴ Now when Abram heard his brother Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ So he divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. The Blessing of Melchizedek ¹⁷ Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. ¹⁸ Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; ^{20a} and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands."

* * *

The Reading is from Deuteronomy. [1:8-11,15-17a]

⁸ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them." ⁹ So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. ¹⁰ The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. ¹¹ May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.'

¹⁵ "So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. ¹⁶ Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with

him. ^{17a} You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgment is Gods."

* * *

**The Reading is from Deuteronomy.
[10:14-21]**

¹⁴ *Moses spoke to the sons of Israel:* "Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. ¹⁶ Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. ¹⁸ He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Therefore, love the resident aliens, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. ²¹ He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes."



The General Service to a Prophet

**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]**

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand

truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

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¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7a,16a,17a,19b-20. 5:1-7]

Chapter 4

^{7a} But though a righteous man may die before his time, he shall be at rest.

^{16a} But a righteous man who is dead shall condemn the ungodly who are living,

^{17a} For they will see the end of the wise man, but will not understand what the Lord purposed for him.

^{19b} Because *the Lord* will dash them headlong and speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations. They shall be left dry and

barren to the very end; they shall be in pain, and their memory shall perish. ²⁰ They will come with dread In the day of reckoning for their sins, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

Chapter 5

¹ Then the righteous man will stand with confidence in the presence of those who afflict him; and those who reject his labors, ² when they see him, will be shaken with dreadful fear; and they shall be amazed at his unexpected salvation. ³ They will speak among themselves with regret, and in anguish of spirit they will groan and say, ⁴ "This is the man whom we fools once held in derision and made a byword of disgrace. We considered his life to be madness and his death without honor. ⁵ How has he been numbered among the sons of God? And how is his portion among the saints? ⁶ Therefore we went astray from the way of truth, for the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. ⁷ We were satisfied with the paths of lawlessness, and we traveled through impassable deserts; but the way of the Lord we have not known."



The General Service to an Apostle

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[3:21-4:6] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Chapter 3

²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. ²⁴ Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Chapter 4

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. ⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[4:11-16] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of John.
[4:20-5:5] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Chapter 4

Beloved, ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother.

Chapter 5

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



The Service Common to Two or More Apostles

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter. [1:3-9] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter. [1:13-15] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

Beloved, ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct.

* * *

The Reading is from the First Epistle General of Peter. [2:11-24] (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. ¹³ Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do

good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. ¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.



The General Service to One Hierarch

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:8a,7a. 3:13-16,18. 8:32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9. 22:24,22. 15:4b]

Chapter 10

^{8a} The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies,

^{7a} The blessing of the Lord is upon his head.

Chapter 3

¹³ Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment;

¹⁴ For the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵ And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. ¹⁶ She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her.

¹⁸ Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Chapter 8

³² Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken unto me and the man who shall guard my ways;

³⁴ For my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord.

⁴ You, O men, I exhort, and utter my voice to the sons of men.

¹² I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

¹⁴ Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me.

⁵ Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. ⁶ Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true, ⁷ For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; There is nothing in them crooked or twisted. ⁹ All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge.

Chapter 22

²⁴ Therefore, I teach you a true word

²² that your hope might be in the Lord

Chapter 15

^{4b} and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit.

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.

[10:31-11:12]

Chapter 10

³¹ A righteous man will never fail, but the ungodly shall not inhabit the earth.

³² The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. ³³ The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Chapter 11

¹ Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. ² Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. ³ When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. ⁴ Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. ⁵ The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. ⁶ When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. ⁷ A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. ⁸ There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. ⁹ A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. ¹⁰ A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet. ¹¹ A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council, but a man faithful in spirit

conceals matters. ¹² Those for whom there is no leadership fall like leaves, but there is salvation in much counsel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[Proverbs 29:2a. Wisdom of Solomon 4:1b-c,14a.
6:11,18a,21b,22b. 7:15c,16a,21b,22a,26,27d,29.
10:9,10a,10d,12. 7:30b. 1:8c. 2:1a,10-11a,12a,12b,12d,13-
16c,17,19-22a. 16:13a. Wisdom of Sirach 2:11b. Wisdom of
Solomon 16:8b. Wisdom of Sirach 2:11a. Proverbs 3:37]

Proverbs – Chapter 29

^{2a} When the righteous are praised, the people shall rejoice;

Wisdom of Solomon - Chapter 4

^{1b} For immortality is in its memory,

^{1c} because it is known both by God and by man,

^{14a} for his soul was pleasing to the Lord.

Chapter 6

¹¹ Therefore long for my words (*concerning wisdom*): yearn for them, and you will be instructed.

^{18a} Now this love is the keeping of her laws.

^{21b} Honor wisdom, that you may reign forever.

^{22b} I will hide no mysteries from you.

Chapter 7

^{15c} For *God* is also the guide of wisdom and the corrector of the wise.

^{16a} For both we and our words are in His hand.

^{21b} For wisdom, the artisan of all things, taught me,

^{22a} so in herself, wisdom is a spirit that is rational, holy,

²⁶ for she is the radiance of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the operative power of God and the image of His goodness.

^{27d} She makes *holy souls* friends of God and prophets.

²⁹ For wisdom is more beautiful than the sun and more than every constellation of stars. Compared with light she is found to be superior.

Chapter 10

⁹ Wisdom rescued from troubles those who served her,

^{10a} she guided a righteous man on straight paths.

^{10d} She gave him knowledge of holy things,

¹² she protected him from his enemies, kept him safe from those who plotted against him. And arbitrated a strong contest for him, so he might know that godliness is more powerful than anything,

Chapter 7

^{30b} but evil cannot overcome wisdom,

Chapter 1

^{8c} nor will justice, when it cross-examines, pass him by.

Chapter 2

^{1a} For they said among themselves, as they reasoned incorrectly:

¹⁰ "Let us oppress the righteous poor man, let us not spare a widow, nor respect the aged gray hair of an old man.

^{11a} "Let our might be our law of righteousness.

^{12a} "Let us lie in ambush for the righteous man,

^{12b} because he is useless to us and opposes our deeds

^{12d} and accuses us of sins against our upbringing.

¹³ "He claims to have knowledge of God, and he calls himself a child of the Lord. ¹⁴ He has become for us as a refutation of our purposes; even seeing him is a burden to us, ¹⁵ because his life is unlike that of others; for his paths go in a different direction.

^{16a} "We are considered by him as a hybrid,

^{16b} and he avoids our ways as something immoral,

^{16c} he considers the last things of the righteous as blessed.

¹⁷ "Let us see if his words are true, and let us put these last things to the test at the end of his life.

¹⁹ "Let us test him with insult and torture that we may know his gentleness and test his patient endurance. ²⁰ Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for there shall be a visitation because of his words." ²¹ So they reasoned these things and were led astray, for their malice blinded them.

^{22a} But they did not know the mysteries of God,

Chapter 16

^{13a} who has authority over life and death,

Wisdom of Sirach – Chapter 2

^{11b} who forgives sins and saves in time of affliction,

Wisdom of Solomon – Chapter 16

^{8b} the One who saves from every evil;

Wisdom of Sirach – Chapter 2

^{11a} because the Lord is compassionate and merciful,

Proverbs – Chapter 3

³⁷ the Lord opposes the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.



The Service Common to Two or More Hierarchs

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⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



The General Service for a Monk or Nun

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^{19b} Because *the Lord* will dash them headlong and speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations. They shall be left dry and barren to the very end; they shall be in pain, and their memory shall perish. ²⁰ They will come with dread In the day of reckoning for their sins, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

Chapter 5

¹ Then the righteous man will stand with confidence in the presence of those who afflict him; and those who reject his labors, ² when they see him, will be shaken with dreadful fear; and they shall be amazed at his unexpected salvation. ³ They will speak among themselves with regret, and in anguish of spirit they will groan and say, ⁴ "This is the man whom we fools once held in derision and made a byword of disgrace. We considered his life to be madness and his death without honor. ⁵ How has he been numbered among the sons of God? And how is his portion among the saints? ⁶ Therefore we went astray from the way of truth, for the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. ⁷ We were satisfied with the paths of lawlessness, and we traveled through impassable deserts; but the way of the Lord we have not known."



The General Service to One Holy Martyr (Including Female
Martyr, Monk-Martyr, and Nun-Martyr)

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord*, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I

am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

* * *

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7-15]

⁷ But though a righteous man may die before his time, He shall be at rest. ⁸ For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; ⁹ But discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. ¹⁰ There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was caught up lest evil change his understanding, or deceit deceive his soul. ¹² For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. ¹³ He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, ¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil.

Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, ¹⁵ That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect, and that He watches over His holy ones.



The General Service to Two or More Holy Martyrs (Including Female Martyrs, Monk-Martyrs, and Nun-Martyrs)

The Reading is from Isaiah.
[43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord,* All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[5:15-6:3a]

Chapter 5

¹⁵ The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. ¹⁷ He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. ¹⁸ He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield ²⁰ And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. ²¹ Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; ²² And hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. ²³ A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Chapter 6

¹ Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. ^{3a} For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High.



The General Service to a Monk Confessor

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [3:1-9]

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune; ³ And their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. ⁶ He tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. ⁸ They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. ⁹ Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[4:7a,16a,17a,19b-20. 5:1-7]

Chapter 4

^{7a} But though a righteous man may die before his time, he shall be at rest.

^{16a} But a righteous man who is dead shall condemn the ungodly who are living,

^{17a} For they will see the end of the wise man, but will not understand what the Lord purposed for him.

^{19b} Because *the Lord* will dash them headlong and speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations. They shall be left dry and barren to the very end; they shall be in pain, and their memory shall perish. ²⁰ They will come with dread In the day of reckoning for their sins, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

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¹ Then the righteous man will stand with confidence in the presence of those who afflict him; and those who reject his labors, ² when they see him, will be shaken with dreadful fear; and they shall be amazed at his unexpected salvation. ³ They will speak among themselves with regret, and in anguish of spirit they will groan and say, ⁴ "This is the man whom we fools once held in derision and made a byword of disgrace. We considered his life to be madness and his death without honor. ⁵ How has he been numbered among the sons of God? And how is his portion among the saints? ⁶ Therefore we went astray from the way of truth, for the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. ⁷ We were satisfied with the paths of lawlessness, and we traveled through impassable deserts; but the way of the Lord we have not known."



The General Service to Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers

The Reading is from Isaiah. [43:9-14a]

⁹ *Thus says the Lord*, All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My servant whom I choose, that you may know and believe and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I am God and besides Me there is no one who saves. ¹² I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. ¹³ "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of my hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" ^{14a} Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

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The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [3:1-9]

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The Service to Saints Andrew of Constantinople, Isidore of Rostov, Maxim and Basil of Moscow and other Fools for Christ's Sake

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.
[3:1-9]

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READINGS FROM THE BOOK OF NEEDS

The Service for the Consecration of a Church

Vespers

The Reading is from 3rd Kingdoms (1st Kings).

[8:20-21a, 25b-28]

²⁰ Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; ^{21a} and said, "O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below,

^{25b} "If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be sufficient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? ²⁶ Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, ²⁷ that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' to hear the prayer Your servant prays in this place, day and night. ²⁸ You will hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful."

* * *

The Reading is from Proverbs.
[3:21-37]

²¹ God by wisdom founded the earth and prepared the heavens with discernment. ²² With perception the depths were broken up, And the clouds flowed with dew. ²³ My son, do not be careless, but keep my counsel and thinking, ²⁴ That your soul may live, And grace may be around your neck. ²⁵ And there will be healing for your flesh And care for your bones, ²⁶ That you may walk confidently in peace in all your ways, And your foot may not stumble. ²⁷ For if you sit down, you will be without fear, And if you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant. ²⁸ And do not be afraid of intimidation when it comes upon you, Nor of the attack of the ungodly when it comes at you; ²⁹ For the Lord will be over all your ways, And He will plant your feet firmly, that you may not be shaken. ³⁰ Do not withhold doing good to the needy, When you may give a helping hand; ³¹ Do not say, when you are able to do good, "Come back tomorrow, and I will give you something"; For you do not know what the next day will bring forth. ³² Do not devise evil things against your friend Who dwells beside you and trusts in you. ³³ Do not be ready to quarrel with a man in vain, Lest he do you some harm. ³⁴ Do not incur the reproach of evil men, Neither seek their ways; ³⁵ For every lawless man is unclean before the Lord, And he does not sit among the righteous. ³⁶ The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly, but He blesses the dwellings of the righteous. ³⁷ The Lord opposes the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.

* * *

**The Reading is from Proverbs.
[9:1-11]**

¹ Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. ² She offered her sacrifices; She mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. ³ She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, ⁴ "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, ⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; ⁶ Forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge. ⁷ He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. ⁸ Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. ¹¹ For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased."



The Order for the Blessing of a Bell

**The Reading is from the Book of Numbers.
[10:1-10]**

¹ Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them to call the congregation and to break the camps. ³ You shall blow the trumpets among them, and all the congregation shall be gathered at the door of the tabernacle of testimony. ⁴ But if they blow one trumpet, all the rulers, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you. ⁵ Then you shall blow the trumpet signal, and the camps camping on the east side shall break camp. ⁶ Again, you shall blow the trumpet signal a second time, and the camps camping on the south side shall break camp; and you shall blow the trumpet signal a third time, and the camps camping on the west side shall break camp; and you shall blow the trumpet signal a fourth time, and the camps camping on the north side shall break camp. They shall blow the trumpet signal when they break camp. ⁷ Then when you have gathered the

congregation together, you shall blow the trumpet, but not the trumpet signal. ⁸ The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and this shall be your custom perpetually throughout your generations. ⁹ If you should go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, you shall sound the trumpet signal, and you will be remembered before the Lord, and you will be saved from your enemies. ¹⁰ Also in the days of your gladness, and in your feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your whole burnt offerings and the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a remembrance for you before your God: I am the Lord your God.”

