

LECTIONARY

Advent and Christmas 2018

Epiphany 2019

Lent 2019

for use in the United Benefice of **Hornby** with Claughton
and **Whittington** with **Arkholme** and **Gressingham**

from Sunday 2 December 2018 to Sunday 14 April 2019

ADVENT 1

Sunday 2 December

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 33.14-16*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

when I will fulfil the promise I made
to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.

In those days,

and at that time,

I will cause a righteous branch
to spring up from David's line.

He shall execute justice
and righteousness
in the land.

In those days,

Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will live in safety;

and they shall call the city,
'our Lord and our Salvation.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 25.1-10

SECOND READING – *1 Thessalonians 3.12-13*

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

May the Lord make you increase and abound
in love for one another and for all,
just as we abound in love for you.

And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless
before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus
with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 21.25-28,34-36*

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

'There will be signs in the sun,

and in the moon,

and in the stars;

and on the earth,

there will be distress among the nations,
confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will faint from fear and dread

for what is coming upon the world,

for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see the Son of Man,

coming in a cloud,

with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place,

stand up and raise your heads,

because your redemption is drawing near.

Be on guard

so that your hearts are not weighed down

with excess and drunkenness

and the worries of this life,

for that day to catch you unexpectedly,

(for it will come upon all who live

on the face of the whole earth).

Be alert at all times,

praying that you may have the strength

to escape all these things

that will take place,

and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ADVENT 2

Sunday 9 December

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – *Malachi 3.1-4*

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

‘See, I am sending my messenger
to prepare the way before me.

The Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come to his temple -
the messenger of the covenant,
in whom you delight,’
says the Lord of hosts.

But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?

He is like a refiner’s fire,
and he will purify the descendants of Levi,
and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present offerings to the Lord
in righteousness.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem
will be pleasing to the Lord
as in the days of old
and as in former years.

This is the word of the Lord.

Benedictus

SECOND READING – *Philippians 1.3-11*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you.

and I am joyful in my prayers for you,
because of the way you have shared in the gospel,
from the first day until now.

I am confident of this:

that the one who began a good work among you
will bring it to completion
by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me
to think this way
about all of you,

because I know
that you hold me in your heart,
and that you share in God’s grace with me,
both in my imprisonment,
and in defending and confirming the gospel.

God is my witness
how I long for all of you
with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer:
that your love may overflow more and more
(with knowledge and full insight)
to help you to determine what is best,
so that in the day of Christ
you may be pure and blameless,
having produced the harvest of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ
for the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 3.1-6*

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius,
when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,
and Herod was ruler of Galilee,
during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,
the word of God came to John,
son of Zechariah,
in the wilderness.

He went into all the region
around the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins,
as it is written in the book
of the prophet Isaiah:

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked ways shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see
the salvation of God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ADVENT 3

Sunday 16 December

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – *Zephaniah 3.14-19*

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout out, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away

the judgements against you.

The Lord has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord,

is in your midst.

You shall fear disaster no more.

Do not fear, O Zion.

Do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord your God

is in your midst

as a mighty saviour.

I will delight in you with gladness.

renew you in love.

and rejoice over you with singing.

I will remove disaster from you,

and deal with all your oppressors,

so that you will no longer be ashamed.

I will save the lame,

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame

into praise and renown

in all the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

Canticle *Isaiah 12.2-6*

SECOND READING – *Philippians 4.4-7*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Again I say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness

be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything,

but in everything,

by prayer and supplication,

with thanksgiving,

let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding,

will guard your hearts and your minds

in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 3.7-18*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

When the crowds came out to be baptised by John,

he addressed them, saying:

'You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bear fruits worthy of repentance!

Do not begin to say,

'but we have Abraham as our father',

for I tell you,

God could turn these stones

into children of Abraham!

The axe is ready,

and trees that do not bear good fruit,

will be cut down and thrown into the fire!

The crowds asked John the Baptist,

'What should we do?'

He said to them,

'Whoever has two coats

must share with anyone who has none;

and whoever has food must do likewise.'

Tax-collectors came to be baptised,

and they asked him,

'Teacher, what should we do?'

He said to them,

'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'

Soldiers also asked him,

'And what should we do?'

He said to them,

'Do not extort money

using threats and false accusations;

be content with your pay.'

As the people were filled with expectation,

and all were questioning in their hearts

concerning John,

whether he might be the Messiah,

John answered them by saying,

'I baptise you with water;

but one is coming

who is more powerful than me.

I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire,

and he will separate the wheat from the chaff.'

With these and many other exhortations,

John proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ADVENT 4

Sunday 23 December

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – Micah 5.2-5a

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

O Bethlehem,

one of the smallest clans of Judah,
from you

shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

There will be desolation
until the time
when she who is in labour
has brought forth,
and the exiles can return.

The one who is to come
shall stand and feed his flock
in the strength of the Lord -
in the majesty
of the name
of the Lord his God.

And the people shall live secure,
for his greatness
will be known
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be our peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

Canticle Magnificat

SECOND READING – Hebrews 10.1, 4-7, 10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The old law contained
only a shadow
of the good things to come.

Under the law,
the same sacrifices
were continually offered
year after year -
demonstrating
that they can never make perfect
those who bring them.

For it is impossible
for the blood of bulls and goats
to take away sins.

Consequently,
when Christ came into the world,
he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me.

In burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

See, O God, I have come to do your will.’

So now it is by God’s will
that we have been sanctified,
through the offering
of the body of Jesus Christ,
once for all.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 1.39-55

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

Mary set out and went with haste
to a town in the hill country of Judah,
where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting,
the child leapt in her womb,
and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
and exclaimed with a loud cry,
‘Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leapt for joy.

And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfilment
of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour
on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from this time forward,
all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is on those who honour him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

MIDNIGHT MASS 24 December

Readings for Christmas Day Set I

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 9.2,6-7b*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

On those who dwell
in the land of deep darkness -
on them, the light will shine.

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government
and of peace
there shall be no end,
for he will establish the throne of David,
and his kingdom,
and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness,
from this time forwards,
and for evermore.

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 96

SECOND READING – *Philippians 2.5-11*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death -
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
in heaven
and on earth
and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 2.1-14, (15-20)*

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

In those days a decree went out
from Emperor Augustus
that all the world should be registered.
This was the first registration,
and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went
from the town of Nazareth in Galilee
to Judea,
to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended
from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged
and who was expecting a child.

While they were there,
the time came for Mary to deliver her child,
and she gave birth to her firstborn son,
and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them at the inn.
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were afraid.

But the angel said to them,
'Do not be afraid; for see -
I am bringing you good news of great joy
for all the people:

to you is born, this day, in the city of David,
a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you:
you will find the child wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to God's people on earth!'

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
'Let us go now to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.'

So they went with haste
and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this,
they made known what had been told them
about this child;

and all who heard it were amazed
at what the shepherds told them.

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

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all that they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

CHRISTMAS MORNING 25 December

Readings for Christmas Day Set III

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 52.7-10*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger proclaiming peace,
bringing good news,
announcing salvation,
and saying to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for with their own eyes
they see the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
and redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth
shall see the salvation of our God.
This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 98

SECOND READING – *Hebrews 1.1-4*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago
God spoke to our ancestors
in many and various ways
by the prophets,
but in these last days
God has spoken to us by a Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things,
through whom he also created the worlds.
He is the reflection of God's glory
and the exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things
by his powerful word.
When he had made purification for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
having become as much superior to angels
as the name he has inherited
is more excellent than theirs.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 1.1-14*

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

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him
not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.
There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.
He came as a witness
to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.
The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.
He was in the world,
and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,
who were born,
not of blood,
or of the will of the flesh or of man,
but of God.
And the Word became flesh
and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Sunday 30 December

United Benefice Service in Gressingham
for the Patronal Festival of Saint John the Evangelist
Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – 1 Kings 19.11-13a

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord said to Elijah,
‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord,
for the Lord is about to pass by.’
Now there was a great wind,
so strong that it was splitting mountains,
and breaking rocks in pieces, before the Lord;
but the Lord was not in the wind.
And after the wind, an earthquake;
but the Lord was not in the earthquake.
And after the earthquake, a fire;
but the Lord was not in the fire.
And after the fire,
a sound of sheer silence.
When Elijah heard it,
he wrapped his face in his mantle
and went out,
and stood at the entrance of the cave.
Then came the voice of the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – 1 John 4.9-12, 16b

A reading from the first letter of John.

God’s love was revealed in this:
that God sent his only Son into the world
that we might live through him.
In this is love:
not that we loved God,
but that God loved us,
and sent his Son
to be the sacrifice for our sins.
Beloved,
since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another.
No one has ever seen God;
and yet if we love one another,
God lives in us,
and God’s love is perfected in us.
God is love,
and those who live in love
live in God,
and God lives in them.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – John 10.7-16

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees,
‘Very truly, I tell you,
I am the gate for the sheep.
All who came before me
are thieves and bandits;
but the sheep did not listen to them.
I am the gate.
Whoever enters by me will be saved,
and will come in,
and go out,
and find pasture.
The thief comes only to steal
and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life,
and have it abundantly.
I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
The hired hand,
who is not the shepherd,
and does not own the sheep,
sees the wolf coming,
and leaves the sheep and runs away -
and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.
The hired hand runs away
because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father,
and I lay down my life for the sheep.
I have other sheep
that do not belong to this fold.
I must bring them also,
and they will listen to my voice,
so there will be one flock,
and one shepherd.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

THE EPIPHANY

Sunday 6 January

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 60.1-6*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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

for darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried
on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea
shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover your land,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14

SECOND READING – *Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

By the grace of God,
and for your sake,

I have this commission;
for a glorious truth
(that was previously unknown)
has been made known to me
by revelation.

In former generations,
it was not made known,

but now,
by the Spirit,
it has now been revealed
to God's apostles and prophets:

that the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs,
members of the same body,
and sharers in the promise
in Christ Jesus
through the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Matthew 2.1-12*

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

In the time of King Herod,
after Jesus was born (in Bethlehem of Judea),

Magi from the East
came to Jerusalem, asking,

'Where is the child
born to be king of the Jews?

For we observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this,
he was troubled,

and all Jerusalem with him;
and calling together

all the chief priests,
and the scribes of the people,

he enquired of them
where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him,

'In Bethlehem of Judea;

for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem,
in the land of Judah,

are by no means least
among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the Magi,
and learned from them the exact time
when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

'Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him,

bring me word
so that I may also go
and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out;
and there, ahead of them, went the star
that they had seen at its rising,

until it stopped over the place
where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house,
they saw the child
with Mary his mother;

and they knelt down
and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure-chests,
they offered him gifts

of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream
not to return to Herod,

they left for their own country
by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

EPIPHANY 2

Sunday 13 January

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – Isaiah 62.1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says this:

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You will no longer be called 'Forsaken',
and your land shall no longer be called 'Desolate';
but you shall be called 'My delight is in her',
and your land shall be called 'Married';
for the Lord delights in you.
This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 36.5-10

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 12.4-11

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

There are varieties of gifts,
but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of ministries,
but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God
who activates all of them
in everyone.
To each is given
the manifestation of the Spirit
for the common good.
To one is given, through the Spirit,
the utterance of wisdom,
and to another, the utterance of knowledge,
according to the same Spirit;
to another, faith, by the same Spirit;
to another, gifts of healing, by the one Spirit;
to another, the working of miracles;
to another, prophecy;
to another, the discernment of spirits;
to another, various kinds of tongues;
to another, the interpretation of tongues.
All these are activated by one and the same Spirit,
who allots to each one individually
as the Spirit decides.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – John 2.1-11

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

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples
had also been invited to the wedding.
When the wine gave out,
the mother of Jesus said to him,
'They have no wine.'
And Jesus said to her,
'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?
My hour has not yet come.'
His mother said to the servants,
'Do whatever he tells you.'
Now standing there
were six stone water-jars,
for the Jewish rites of purification,
each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
Jesus said to them,
'Fill the jars with water.'
And they filled them up to the brim.
He said to them,
'Now draw some out,
and take it to the chief steward.'
So they took it.
When the steward tasted
the water that had become wine,
and did not know where it came from
(though the servants
who had drawn the water knew),
the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
'Everyone serves the good wine first,
and then the inferior wine
after the guests have become drunk.
But you have kept the good wine until now.'
Jesus did this,
the first of his signs,
in Cana of Galilee,
and revealed his glory;
and his disciples believed in him.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

EPIPHANY 3

Sunday 20 January

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 7-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

On the first day of the seventh month,
all the people gathered together
in the public square
by the city's main well.

The priest Ezra brought out
the book of the law of Moses,
which the Lord had given to Israel.
He brought it before the assembly,
both men and women,
and all who could hear with understanding.

He stood on a wooden platform
that had been made for the purpose,
and read from the book of the law,
from early morning until midday,
and the ears of all the people
were attentive to the book of the law,
and the Levites gave the interpretation
and the sense,
so that the people understood the reading.

All the people wept
when they heard the words of the law,
but Nehemiah the governor,
and Ezra the priest and scribe,
and the Levites who taught the people,
said to the people,

'This day is holy to the Lord your God.

Do not mourn or weep.

Go your way.

Eat the best food, and drink sweet wine,
and send portions to those
for whom nothing is prepared,
for this day is holy to our Lord.

Do not be grieved,

for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 19

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 12.12-20,27-31

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

The body is made up of many parts -
and so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit,
we are all baptised into one body -
Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -
and we are all filled with the same Spirit.

And this body does not consist of one part,
but of many.

The foot is no less a part of the body than the hand;
the ear no less than the eye.

If the whole body were an eye, it could not hear;
if the whole body were an ear, it could not smell.

But God has arranged
that many parts make up the whole body.

Now you are the body of Christ,
and each individually a part of it.

God has appointed in the church
apostles, prophets, and teachers;
deeds of power, gifts of healing,
forms of assistance and leadership,
and various kinds of tongues.

Not all are apostles, or prophets, or teachers;
not all work miracles or gifts of healing;
not all speak in tongues or interpret.

But all should strive for the greater gifts -
and the most excellent gift is love.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 4.14-21

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

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit,
returned to Galilee,
and a report about him
spread through all the surrounding country.

He began to teach in their synagogues
and he was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth,
where he had been brought up,
he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day,
as was his custom.

He stood up to read,
and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.

He unrolled the scroll
and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

He rolled up the scroll,
gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.
Then he began to say to them,

'Today this scripture has been fulfilled
in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

EPIPHANY 4 – CANDLEMAS

Sunday 27 January

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – Jeremiah 1.4-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord came to me saying,

‘Before you were even born, I chose you
and appointed you
to be a prophet to the nations.’

And I said,

‘O Lord, I do not know how to speak,
for I am only a boy.’

But the Lord said to me,

‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”;
for you shall go to all those
to whom I send you,
and speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you.’

Then the Lord reached out his hand

and touched my lips, saying,

‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you
over nations and over kingdoms,
to uproot and tear down,
to destroy and overthrow,
to build up and to plant anew.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 71.1-6

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 12.31-13.1-13

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

All should strive for the greater gifts -

but let me show you the most excellent way of all.

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

but do not have love,

I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers,

and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,

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

but do not have love,

I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions,

and if I hand over my body to martyrdom,

but do not have love,

I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind;

love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way;

it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

but rejoices in the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

Prophecies will come to an end, tongues will cease,

even knowledge will come to an end,

for we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part,

but when the complete comes,

the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child,

I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child;

but when I became an adult,

I put an end to childish ways.

For now, we see as though in a mirror, dimly,

but then we shall see face to face.

For now, I know only in part;

then I will know fully,

even as I have been fully known.

But these three endure for ever:

faith, hope, and love;

and the greatest of these is love.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 2.41-52

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem

for the festival of the Passover;

and when he was twelve years old,

they went up as usual for the festival.

When the festival was ended,

and they started to return,

the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem,

but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travellers,

they went a day’s journey;

then they started to look for him

among their relatives and friends.

When they did not find him,

they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days,

they found him in the temple,

sitting among the teachers,

listening to them,

and asking them questions -

and all who heard him were amazed

at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him,

they were overwhelmed;

and his mother said to him,

‘Child, why have you treated us like this?

Look, your father and I have been searching for you
in great anxiety.’

Jesus said to them,

‘Why were you searching for me?

Did you not know

that I must be in my Father’s house?’

But they did not understand what he said to them.

Then Jesus returned with them to Nazareth,

and was obedient to them;

and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature,

and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

EPIPHANY 5

Sunday 3 February

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 6.1-8*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died,

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne,

high and lofty;

and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

Seraphs were in attendance above him,

each with six wings,

and they called out to another saying:

‘Holy, holy, holy

is the Lord of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The foundations of the thresholds shook

at the voices of those who called,

and the house filled with smoke.

And I said:

‘Woe is me! I am lost,

for I am a man of unclean lips,

and I live among a people of unclean lips;

yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me,

holding a live coal

that had been taken from the altar

with a pair of tongs.

The seraph touched my mouth with it and said:

‘Now that this has touched your lips,

your guilt has departed

and your sin is blotted out.’

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,

‘Whom shall I send,

and who will go for us?’

And I said,

‘Here am I; send me!’

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 138

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 15.1-10a*

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

I would remind you, brothers and sisters,

of the good news that I proclaimed to you,

which you in turn received,

in which you stand, and are saved:

that Christ died for our sins

(in accordance with the scriptures);

that he was buried;

that he was raised on the third day

(in accordance with the scriptures);

that he appeared to Cephas,

then to the twelve,

then to more than five hundred brothers and sisters

at one time,

(most of whom are still alive).

Then he appeared to James,

then to all the apostles.

Last of all,

as to one untimely born,

he appeared also to me.

For I am the least of the apostles,

unfit to be called an apostle,

because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God,

I am what I am,

and God’s grace towards me

has not been in vain.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 5.1-11*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus was standing by the sea of Galilee,

and the crowd was pressing in on him

to hear the word of God.

Jesus saw two boats by the shore.

(The fishermen had left them,

and were washing their nets.)

Jesus got into one of the boats

(the one belonging to Simon),

and asked him to put out a little way from the shore.

Then Jesus sat down

and taught the crowds from the boat.

When Jesus had finished speaking,

Jesus said to Simon,

‘Put out into the deep water,

and let down your nets for a catch.’

Simon answered,

‘Master, we have worked all night long

but have caught nothing.

Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’

When they had done this,

they caught so many fish

that their nets were beginning to break.

So they signalled their partners in the other boat

to come and help them,

and they came and filled both boats,

so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it,

he fell to his knees before Jesus, saying,

‘Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’

For he, and all who were with him, were amazed

at the catch of fish that they had taken;

and so also were James and John,

the sons of Zebedee,

who were partners with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon,

‘Do not be afraid;

from now on you will be catching people.’

When they had brought their boats to shore,

they left everything

and followed Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

EPIPHANY 6

Sunday 10 February

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 17.5-8*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Woe to those who trust in mere mortals,
who make mere flesh their strength;
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.
They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when prosperity comes.
They shall live
in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.
But blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose confidence is in the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes;
its leaves shall stay green.
In the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.
This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 1

SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 15.12-20*

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

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead,
how can some of you say
there is no resurrection of the dead?
If there is no resurrection of the dead,
then Christ has not been raised;
and if Christ has not been raised,
then our proclamation has been in vain
and your faith has been in vain.
We are even found to be misrepresenting God,
because we testified of God
that he raised Christ -
and this is not the case
if the dead are not raised.
For if the dead are not raised,
then Christ has not been raised.
If Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile,
and you are still in your sins,
and those who have died in Christ
have perished.
If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we (of all people) are most to be pitied.
But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 6.17-26*

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

Jesus came down from the mountain,
with the twelve disciples,
and stood on a level place,
with a great crowd of his disciples
and a great multitude of people
from all Judea and Jerusalem,
and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon.
They had come to hear him,
and to be healed of their diseases;
and those who were troubled with unclean spirits
were cured.
And all in the crowd were trying to touch him,
for power came out from him,
and healed all of them.
Then he looked up at his disciples and said:
'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.
Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.
Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude you,
revile you, and defame you
on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice on that day and leap for joy,
for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.
But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.
Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.
Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.
Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did
to the false prophets.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

EPIPHANY 7

Sunday 17 February

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – 1 Samuel 26.7-13,22-23

A reading from the First book of Samuel.

David, and his nephew Abishai, went by night
to the place where Saul's army was encamped.
Saul lay sleeping within the encampment,
with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
His chief military offices and army lay around him.
Abishai said to David,
'God has given your enemy into your hand today;
now therefore let me pin him to the ground
with one stroke of the spear;
I will not strike him twice.'
But David said to Abishai,
'Do not destroy him;
for who can raise his hand
against the Lord's anointed,
and be guiltless?
As the Lord lives, the Lord will strike him down;
or his day will come to die;
or he will go down into battle and perish.
See, let us take the spear that is by his head,
and the water-jar, and let us go.'
So David took the spear that was by Saul's head,
and the water-jar, and they went away.
No one saw it, or knew it, nor did anyone awake;
for they were all asleep,
because a deep sleep from the Lord
had fallen upon them.
Then David went over to the other side,
and stood on top of a hill far away,
with a great distance between them,
and David called out to Saul,
'Here is your spear, O king!
Let one of the young men come over and get it!
The Lord gave you into my hand today,
but I would not raise my hand
against the Lord's anointed,
for it is the Lord who will reward everyone
according to their righteousness
and their faithfulness.'
This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 37.1-7

SECOND READING – 1 Cor 15.35-37a,42-44,47,49

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

Some ask, 'How will the dead be raised,
and what kind of body will they have?'
Consider a seed that is sown:
it must die before it comes to life.
And you do not sow the plant that it will become,
but only a bare seed.
So it is with the resurrection of the dead.
What is sown is perishable,
but what is raised is imperishable.

It is sown in dishonour, raised in glory;
sown in weakness, raised in power;
sown a physical body, raised a spiritual body.
Adam comes from the earth, from the dust;
Christ comes from heaven.
We have borne the image of Adam;
we will bear the image of Christ.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 6.27-38

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
Jesus said to his disciples,
'To you who listen, I say:
Love your enemies.
Do good to those who hate you.
Bless those who curse you.
Pray for those who abuse you.
If anyone strikes you on the cheek,
offer the other also.
If someone takes away your coat,
offer your shirt also.
Give to everyone who asks,
and if anyone takes what belongs to you,
do not demand it back.
Do to others
as you would have them do to you.
If you love those who love you,
what credit is that to you?
For even sinners love those who love them.
If you do good to those who do good to you,
what credit is that to you?
For even sinners do the same.
If you lend to those
from whom you hope to receive,
what credit is that to you?
Even sinners lend to sinners,
to receive as much again.
But love your enemies.
Do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.
Your reward will be great,
and you will be children of the Most High;
for God also is kind
even to the ungrateful
and the wicked.
Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
Do not judge, and you will not be judged.
Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.
Forgive, and you will be forgiven.
Give, and it will be given to you -
a good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, running over,
will be poured into your lap -
for the measure you give
will be the measure you receive.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

EPIPHANY 8

Sunday 24 February

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – Isaiah 55.10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

The rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there
until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
producing bread to eat and seed to sow.

So shall it be with the word that I speak:

it will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish that which I intend,
and succeed in the purpose for which I send it.

You shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace.

The mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field
shall clap their hands.

The cypress will grow in place of the thorn bush,
the flowering myrtle in place of the brier.

All this will be a memorial,
an everlasting sign,

honouring for ever the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 92.1-4, 11-14

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 15.51-58

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

Listen, and I will tell you a mystery!

We will not all die,
but we will all be changed,
in a moment,
in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,
and the dead will be raised,
and we shall be changed.

The mortal and perishable
will be raised immortal and incorruptible.

Then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’

‘Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?’

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

Therefore, my beloved,
be steadfast, immovable,
always excelling in the work of the Lord,
because you know
that in the Lord
your labour is not in vain.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 6.39-49

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

Jesus taught them in parables, saying:

‘If a blind person leads a blind person,
they will both fall into a pit.

The one who is following
can do no better
than the one who is leading -
just as the one who is taught
can only match the standard
of the one who is teaching.

Why do you see the speck in your neighbour’s eye,
but do not notice the log in your own eye?

Or how can you say to your neighbour,
“Friend, let me take the speck out of your eye,”
when you yourself
do not see the log in your own eye?

Such hypocrisy!

First take the log out of your own eye,
and then you will see clearly
to take the speck out of your neighbour’s eye.

A good tree does not produce bad fruit,
and bad tree does not produce good fruit.

A tree is known by its fruit.

You do not find figs on a thorn bush,
or grapes on a bramble.

The good person produces good deeds
from the good stored up in their heart.

But the wicked person
produces wicked words and wicked deeds
from the wickedness stored up in their heart.

If you call me “Lord, Lord,”
you should surely act on what I say.

This is what it is like
when someone comes to me,
and hears my words,
and acts on them:
it is as though they have built a house,
having first dug deeply,
and laid the foundations on rock.

When the flood comes,
and the torrent breaks against that house,
the waters cannot shake it,
because it is well built.

But the one who hears my words,
and does not act on what they hear,
is like the one who builds a house
without a foundation,
and it falls when the river bursts out against it.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Sunday 3 March

Last Sunday of Epiphany

Last Sunday before Lent

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – Exodus 34.29-32

A reading from the book of Exodus.

As Moses came down from Mount Sinai,
with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand,

he did not know

that his face had become radiant
because he had been speaking with God.

When Aaron, and all the Israelites, saw it,
they were afraid to come near him.

But Moses called to them;

and Aaron, and all the leaders of the congregation,
returned to him;
and Moses spoke with them.

Afterwards, all the Israelites came near,
and Moses gave them, as commandments,
all that the Lord had spoken with him
on Mount Sinai.

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 99

SECOND READING – 2 Corinthians 3.7-9

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

Now if the ministry of the law,
chiselled in letters,
on stone tablets,
came in such glory
that the people of Israel
could not gaze at Moses' face
because of the glory of his face
(a glory now set aside),

how much more
will the ministry of the Spirit
also come in glory?

For if there was glory
in the ministry of condemnation by the law,
how much more
does the ministry of justification
abound in glory!

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 9.28-36

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

Jesus went up on the mountain to pray,
taking with him Peter, and John, and James.

And while he was praying,
the appearance of his face changed,
and his clothes became dazzling white.

And there with him appeared Moses and Elijah,
speaking with him.

They appeared in glory
and were speaking of his departure,
which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now Peter and his companions
were weighed down with sleep;
but became fully awake
when they saw his glory
and Moses and Elijah standing with him.

As Moses and Elijah were preparing to depart,
Peter said to Jesus,

'Master, it is good for us to be here;
let us make three shelters,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'

Peter did not know what he was saying.

While Peter was saying this,
a cloud came and overshadowed them;
and they were afraid.

Then, from the cloud, came a voice, that said:
'This is my Son, my Chosen;
listen to him!'

When the voice had spoken,
they looked and saw Jesus alone.

And the disciples kept silent,
and in those days,
told no one
any of the things they had seen.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

LENT 1 – Sunday 10 March

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – Deuteronomy 26.1-11

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people, saying:

When you have come into the land
that the Lord your God is giving you
as an inheritance to possess,
and you possess it, and settle in it,
you shall take some of the first fruits
of all that you harvest
from the soil of the land
that the Lord your God is giving you,
and you shall put it in a basket
and go to the place
that the Lord your God will choose
as a dwelling for his name.

You shall go to the priest
who is in office at that time,
and say to him,

‘Today I declare, to the Lord your God,
that I have come into the land
that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’

When the priest takes the basket from your hand
and sets it down
before the altar of the Lord your God,
you shall make this response
before the Lord your God:

‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor;
he went down into Egypt,
and lived there as an alien, few in number;
and there he became a great nation,
mighty and populous.

When the Egyptians treated us harshly,
and afflicted us,
by imposing hard labour on us,
we cried to the Lord,
the God of our ancestors.

The Lord heard our voice,
and saw our affliction,
our toil, and our oppression.

The Lord brought us out of Egypt,
with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,
with a terrifying display of power,
and with signs and wonders;
and brought us into this place,
and gave us this land,
a land flowing with milk and honey.

So now I bring the first fruits of the ground
that you, O Lord, have given me.’

You shall set down your offering
before the Lord your God,
and bow down before the Lord your God.

Then you, together with the Levites,
and the aliens who reside among you,
shall celebrate with all the bounty
that the Lord your God has given to you
and to your house.

This is the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING – Romans 10.8b-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Scripture declares:

‘The word is near you -
on your lips, and in your heart’.

This is the now the word of faith that we proclaim -
because if you confess with your lips
that Jesus is Lord,
and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

By believing with your heart, you are justified;
and by confessing with your lips you are saved.

Scripture also declares:

‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame’;
so there is no distinction between Jew and Greek:
the same Lord is Lord of all,
and is gracious to all who call upon him;
and ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved.’

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 4.1-13

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

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan,
and was led, by the Spirit, into the wilderness,
where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

He ate nothing at all during those days,
and when they were over, he was famished.

The devil said to him,

‘If you are the Son of God,
command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’

Jesus answered him,

‘It is written, “You cannot live by bread alone.”’

Then the devil led him up
and showed him in an instant
all the kingdoms of the world.

And the devil said to him,

‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority;
for it has been given over to me,
and I give it to anyone I please.

If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’

Jesus answered him,

‘It is written,
“Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem,
and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,
saying to him,

‘If you are the Son of God,
throw yourself down from here,
for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,”

and “On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’

Jesus answered him, ‘It is also said,

“Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

When the devil had finished every test,
he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Psalm 91.1-2, 9-16

LENT 2 – Sunday 17 March

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – *Genesis 15.12-15,18b*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

As the sun was going down,
a deep sleep fell upon Abram,
and a deep and terrifying darkness
descended upon him.

Then the Lord said to Abram,

‘Know this for certain:

that your offspring shall be aliens
in a land that is not theirs,
and they shall be slaves there,
and they shall be oppressed
for four hundred years;

but I will bring judgement
on the nation that enslaves them,
and afterwards
they shall come out
with great possessions.

As for yourself,

you shall go to your ancestors in peace -
you shall be buried in a good old age -
and to your offspring
I shall give this land -
from the river of Egypt,
to the great river Euphrates.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 27

SECOND READING – *Philippians 3.18 - 4.1*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

It is with tears

that I say again
that there are many who live
as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Their end is destruction;

their god is the belly;
and their glory is in their shame.

Their minds are set on earthly things -
but our citizenship is in heaven.

From there, we await a Saviour,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will transform our lowly body
to be conformed to the body of his glory,
by the same power that enables him
to make all things subject to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters,
whom I love and long for,
my joy and crown,
stand firm in the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 13.31-35*

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

Some Pharisees came
and said to Jesus,
‘Get away from here,
for Herod wants to kill you.’

Jesus said to them,
‘Go and tell that fox from me,
“Listen, I am casting out demons
and performing cures
today and tomorrow,
and on the third day I finish my work.

Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day
I must be on my way,
because it is impossible
for a prophet to be killed
away from Jerusalem.”

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
the city that kills the prophets,
and stones those who are sent to it!

How often have I desired
to gather your children together
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
and you were not willing!

See, your house is desolate.

And I tell you,

you will not see me again
until the time comes
when you say,
“Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

LENT 3 – Sunday 24 March

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – Exodus 3.1b-6, 9-15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses led his flock beyond the wilderness,
and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
There the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses,
in a flame of fire, out of a bush.
Moses looked, and the bush was blazing,
yet it was not consumed.
Moses said, 'I must turn aside,
and look at this great sight,
and see why the bush is not burned up.'
When the Lord saw that Moses had turned aside to see,
God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!'
Moses said, 'Here I am.'
And the Lord said, 'Come no closer!
Remove the sandals from your feet,
for the place on which you are standing
is holy ground.
I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.'
And Moses hid his face,
for he was afraid to look at God.
Then the Lord said,
'The cry of the Israelites has come to me;
I have seen how the Egyptians oppress them.
So come, I will send you to Pharaoh,
to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.'
But Moses said to God,
'Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh,
and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?'
God said, 'I will be with you;
and this shall be the sign for you,
that it is I who sent you:
when you have brought the people out of Egypt,
you shall worship God on this mountain.'
But Moses said to God,
'If I come to the Israelites and say to them,
"The God of your ancestors has sent me to you",
and they ask me, "What is his name?"
what shall I say to them?'
And God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.
Thus you shall say to the Israelites,
"I am has sent me to you.
The Lord, the God of your ancestors,
the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,
and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you".
This is my name for ever,
and my title for all generations.'
This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 103

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 10.1-6,9-13

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

My brothers and sisters,
you know that our ancestors were guided
through the wilderness
by the cloud above them,
and that they all passed through the sea.

They were baptised into Moses,
both in the cloud, and in the sea.
They ate the spiritual food,
and they drank the spiritual drink -
for they drank
from the spiritual rock that followed them,
and the rock was Christ.
Nevertheless, God was not pleased with them,
and they were struck down in the wilderness.
Now these things occurred as examples for us,
so that we might not desire evil as they did.
We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did,
and were destroyed by serpents.
And do not complain as some of them did,
and were destroyed by the destroyer.
These things happened to them
to serve as an example,
and they were written down to instruct us
(on whom the ends of the ages have come).
So if you think you are standing,
watch out that you do not fall.
No testing has overtaken you
that is not common to everyone.
God is faithful, and will not let you be tested
beyond your strength,
but with the testing,
will also provide the way out,
so that you may be able to endure it.
This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 13.1-9

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
There were some present
who told Jesus about the Galileans
whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.
Jesus said to them:
'Do you think
that because these Galileans suffered in this way
they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?
No, I tell you;
but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.
Or those eighteen who were killed
when the tower of Siloam fell on them -
do you think that they were worse offenders
than all the others living in Jerusalem?
No, I tell you; but unless you repent,
you will all perish just as they did.'
And he told them this parable:
'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard;
and he came looking for fruit on it, and found none.
So he said to the gardener,
"See here! For three years
I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree,
and still I find none.
Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?"
The gardener replied,
"Sir, let it alone for one more year,
until I dig around it and put manure on it.
If it bears fruit next year, well and good;
and only if not, cut it down."
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

LENT 4 – Sunday 31 March

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – *Joshua 5.9-12*

A reading from the book of Joshua.

After the people had crossed over the river Jordan,
the Lord said to Joshua:

‘Today I have rolled away from you
the disgrace of Egypt;
and so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped at Gilgal,
they kept the Passover,
in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month,
in the plains of Jericho.

On the day after the passover, on that very day,
they ate the produce of the land:
unleavened cakes, and parched grain.

The manna ceased
on the day they ate the produce of the land,
and the Israelites no longer had manna;
they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.
This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 32

SECOND READING – *2 Corinthians 5.17-20*

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

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

Everything old has passed away.

Everything has become new.

This is the work and gift of God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself,
not counting their trespasses against them;
and entrusting to us
the message of reconciliation.

God is making his appeal through us,
making us ambassadors for Christ.

We appeal to you on behalf of Christ:
be reconciled to God!

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32*

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

All the tax collectors and sinners
were coming near to listen to Jesus.

And the Pharisees and the scribes
were grumbling and saying,

‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

So he told them this parable:

‘There was a man who had two sons.

The younger of them said to his father,
“Father, give me the share of the property
that will belong to me.”

So he divided his property between them.

A few days later the younger son gathered all he had
and travelled to a distant country,
and there he squandered his property
in dissolute living.

When he had spent everything,
a severe famine took place throughout that country,
and he began to be in need.

So he went and hired himself out
to one of the citizens of that country,
who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

He would gladly have filled himself with the pods
that the pigs were eating;
and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself, he said,
“Even my father’s hired workers have bread enough,
and to spare;

but here am I, dying of hunger!

I will get up, and go to my father,

and I will say to him, ‘Father,

I have sinned against heaven, and before you;

I am no longer worthy to be called your son;

treat me like one of your hired workers.”

So he set off and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him,
and was filled with compassion.

He ran, and put his arms around him, and kissed him.

Then the son said to him,

“Father,

I have sinned against heaven and before you;

I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

But the father said to his servants,

“Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one -
and put it on him.

Put a ring on his finger, and sandals on his feet.

And get the fatted calf and kill it,

and let us eat and celebrate,
for this son of mine was dead, and is alive again;
he was lost, and is found!”

And they began to celebrate.

Now his elder son was in the field;

and when he came and approached the house,
he heard music and dancing.

The elder son called one of the servants,
and asked what was going on.

The servant explained, “Your brother has returned,
and your father has killed the fatted calf,
because he has got him back safe and sound.”

Then the elder son became angry, and refused to go in.

His father came out and began to plead with him.

But he answered his father,

“For all these years

I have been working like a slave for you,

and I have never disobeyed your command;

yet you have never given me even a young goat
that I might celebrate with my friends.

But when this son of yours came back,
who has devoured your property with harlots,
you killed the fatted calf for him!”

Then the father said to him,

“Son, you are always with me,

and all that is mine is yours.

But we had to celebrate and rejoice,

because this brother of yours was dead,
and has come to life;

he was lost, and has been found.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

LENT 5 – Sunday 7 April

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 43.15-21*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord,
your Redeemer,
the Holy One of Israel:
I am the Lord, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.
I made for you a way through the sea,
a path in the mighty waters.
I drew out the Egyptians behind you,
chariot and horse, army and warrior;
but now they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick.

But now I say:

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

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 126

SECOND READING – *Philippians 3.4b-14*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason
to be confident in the flesh,
I have more.
I was circumcised on the eighth day,
an Israelite, of the tribe of Benjamin,
a Hebrew born of Hebrews.
In observation of the law, I was a Pharisee.
In zeal, I was a persecutor of the church.
In righteousness under the law, I was blameless.
Yet whatever gains I had,
these I have come to regard as loss
because of Christ.
Indeed I regard everything as loss
compared to the all-surpassing value
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
For his sake I have suffered the loss
of all former things, and even despise them,
that I may gain Christ, and be found in him,
not having a righteousness of my own,
that comes from the law,
but a righteousness that comes from God
through faith in Christ.

I want to know Christ,
and the power of his resurrection,
and even a share of his sufferings
(by becoming like him in his death)
if somehow I may attain
the resurrection from the dead.
It is not that I have already obtained all this,
or reached this goal -
but I press on to make it my own,
because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

So, beloved, this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind,
and straining forward to what lies ahead,
I press on towards the goal,
for the prize of the heavenly call of God
in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *John 12.1-8*

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

Six days before the Passover,
Jesus came to Bethany,
to the home of Lazarus
(whom he had raised from the dead).

There they gave a dinner for Jesus.

Martha served,
and Lazarus was one of those
at the table with him.

Mary took a pound of costly perfume,
anointing Jesus's feet,
and wiping them with her hair.

The house was filled
with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples
(the one who was about to betray him), said,

'Why was this perfume not sold -
for a year's wages -
and the money given to the poor?'

(He said this not because he cared about the poor,
but because he was a thief.

He kept the common purse,
and would steal what was put into it.)

Jesus said,

'Let her alone.
She has kept this
for the day of my burial.

You always have the poor with you,
but you do not always have me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PALM SUNDAY 14 April

Readings for Year C

The Palm Procession reading is read outside

at the beginning of the Palm Procession.

The Passion reading is usually read by the minister.

PALM PROCESSION – Luke 19.35-40

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

They brought the colt to Jesus,
threw their cloaks on it,
and set Jesus on it.

As Jesus rode along,
people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

As Jesus was approaching the path
down from the Mount of Olives,
the whole multitude of the disciples
began to praise God joyfully
with a loud voice
for all the deeds of power
that they had seen,
saying,

‘Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!’

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus,
‘Teacher, order your disciples to stop.’

Jesus answered, ‘I tell you,
if the people were silent,
the stones would shout out.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

MAIN LITURGY

FIRST READING – Isaiah 50.4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary
with a word.

Morning by morning
the Lord God wakens my ear
that I may listen and learn.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backwards.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard.
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced.

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

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 31.9-16

SECOND READING – Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death -
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him,
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
in heaven
and on earth
and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
This is the word of the Lord.

PASSION – Luke 22.14 - 23.56

will be read by the minister