

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday 18 April

### FIRST READING – *Genesis 14.18-20*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

King Melchizedek of Salem

was priest of God Most High.

He brought out bread and wine,

and blessed Abram, saying,

'Blessed be Abram, by God Most High,

maker of heaven and earth;

and blessed be God Most High,

who has delivered your enemies into your hand!

And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 116.10-17

### SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 11.23-26*

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

Beloved:

I received from the Lord

what I also handed on to you,

that the Lord Jesus,

on the night when he was betrayed,

took a loaf of bread,

and when he had given thanks,

he broke it and said,

'This is my body, broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way also he took the cup,

after supper, saying,

'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.'

For as often as you eat this bread,

and drink this cup,

you proclaim the Lord's death

until he comes.

This is the word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL – *John 6.24-35*

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

When the crowd saw

that Jesus and his disciples

had gone from the place

where Jesus had given the bread,

they themselves got into the boats

and went to Capernaum

looking for Jesus.

When they found him

on the other side of the lake,

they said to him,

'Rabbi, when did you come here?'

Jesus answered them,

'Very truly, I tell you,

you are looking for me,

not because you saw signs,

but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

Do not work for the food that perishes,

but work for the food that endures

for eternal life,

which the Son of Man will give you -

for it is on him

that God the Father has set his seal.'

Then they said to him,

'What must we do

to perform the works of God?'

Jesus answered them,

'This is the work of God:

that you believe in the one

whom God has sent.'

So they said to him,

'What sign are you going to give us,

so that we may see it, and believe you?

What work are you performing?

Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness;

as it is written,

"He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus said to them,

'Very truly, I tell you,

it was not Moses

who gave you the bread from heaven,

but it is my Father

who gives you the true bread from heaven.

The bread of God

is that which comes down from heaven

and gives life to the world.'

They said to him,

'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them,

'I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me

will never be hungry,

and whoever believes in me

will never be thirsty.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**EASTER DAY**  
**Sunday 21 April**

**FIRST READING – Isaiah 65.17-19**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I will create new heavens,  
and a new earth, says the Lord;  
and the former things  
shall not be remembered;  
nor shall they come to mind.

Be glad,  
and rejoice for ever,  
in what I am creating;  
for I will create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and her people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
and the sound of weeping  
will be heard no more.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Psalm 118.15-25**

**SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 15.20-26**

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

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have died.

Just as death came through a human being,  
so also the resurrection of the dead  
has come through a human being;

for as in Adam, all die,  
even so in Christ, shall all be made alive;  
in order, Christ the first fruits,  
then those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the conclusion,  
when Christ shall hand over the kingdom  
to God the Father,  
after he has overcome every ruler  
and every authority and power,  
for he must reign until he has put  
all his enemies under his feet.  
And the final enemy to be destroyed  
will be death itself.

This is the word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL – John 20.1-18**

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

Early on the first day of the week,  
while it was still dark,  
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb  
and saw that the stone  
had been removed from the tomb.

So she ran,  
and went to Simon Peter,  
and the other disciple (the one whom Jesus loved),  
and said to them,  
'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,  
and we do not know where they have laid him.'

Then Peter, and the other disciple, set out,  
and went towards the tomb.

The two were running together,  
but the other disciple outran Peter,  
and reached the tomb first.

He bent down to look in,  
and saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him,  
and went into the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head,  
not lying with the linen wrappings,  
but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple,  
who had reached the tomb first,  
also went in;  
and he saw, and believed;  
(for until this point,  
they had not understood the scripture,  
that he must rise from the dead).

Then the two disciples returned to their homes;  
but Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.  
As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;  
and she saw two angels in white,  
sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying,  
one at the head, and the other at the feet.

They said to her,  
'Woman, why are you weeping?'

She said to them,  
'They have taken away my Lord,  
and I do not know where they have laid him.'

When she had said this, she turned around,  
and saw Jesus standing there,  
but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her,  
'Woman, why are you weeping?  
Who is it, that you are looking for?'

Supposing him to be the gardener,  
she said to him,  
'Sir, if you have carried him away,  
tell me where you have laid him,  
and I will take him away.'

Jesus said to her,  
'Mary!'  
She turned and said to him in Hebrew,  
'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her,  
'Do not hold on to me,  
because I have not yet ascended to the Father.  
But go to my brothers, and say to them,  
"I am ascending to my Father and your Father,  
to my God and your God."'

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,  
'I have seen the Lord';  
and she told them  
that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## EASTER 2

Sunday 28 April

### FIRST READING – Acts 9.1-5

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Saul, still breathing threats and murder  
against the disciples of the Lord,  
went to the high priest,  
and asked him for letters  
to the synagogues at Damascus,  
so that if he found any who belonged to the Way,  
men or women,  
he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.  
Now as he was going along,  
and approaching Damascus,  
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.  
He fell to the ground  
and heard a voice saying to him,  
'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'  
Saul asked,  
'Who are you, Lord?'  
The reply came,  
'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.'  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 30

### SECOND READING – Revelation 1.9-13,17-19

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, your brother,  
sharing with you, in Jesus,  
the persecution, and the kingdom,  
and the patient endurance,  
was on the island called Patmos,  
because of the word of God,  
and the testimony of Jesus.  
I was in the spirit on the Lord's day,  
and I heard behind me  
a loud voice, like a trumpet, saying:  
'Write in a book what you see,  
and send it to the seven churches,  
to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum,  
to Thyatira, to Sardis,  
to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.'  
I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me,  
and on turning, I saw seven golden lampstands,  
and in the midst of them,  
I saw one like the Son of Man,  
clothed in a long robe,  
and with a golden sash across his chest.  
When I saw him,  
I fell at his feet as though dead.  
But he placed his right hand on me, saying,  
'Do not be afraid;  
I am the first and the last, and the living one.  
I was dead, and see, I am alive for evermore;  
and I have the keys of Death and the underworld.  
Now write what you have seen:  
what is now, and what is still to take place.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – John 20.19-31

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

It was evening on the first day of the week,  
and the doors of the house  
where the disciples had met  
were locked, because they were afraid.  
Jesus came and stood among them, and said,  
'Peace be with you.'  
After he said this,  
he showed them his hands and his side.  
Then the disciples rejoiced  
when they saw the Lord.  
Jesus said to them again,  
'Peace be with you.  
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'  
When he had said this,  
he breathed on them, and said to them,  
'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven,  
but if you retain them, they are retained.'  
Thomas (who was called the Twin),  
one of the twelve,  
was not with them when Jesus came.  
So the other disciples told him,  
'We have seen the Lord.'  
But he said to them,  
'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,  
and put my finger in the mark of the nails,  
and my hand in his side,  
I will not believe.'  
A week later his disciples were again in the house,  
and Thomas was with them.  
Although the doors were shut,  
Jesus came and stood among them, and said,  
'Peace be with you.'  
Then he said to Thomas,  
'Put your finger here and see my hands.  
Reach out your hand and put it in my side.  
Do not doubt but believe.'  
Thomas answered him,  
'My Lord and my God!'  
Jesus said to him,  
'Have you believed because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have come to believe.'  
Now Jesus did many other signs  
in the presence of his disciples,  
which are not written in this book.  
But these are written  
so that you may come to believe  
that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,  
and that through believing  
you may have life in his name.  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**EASTER 3**  
**Sunday 5 May**

**FIRST READING** – *Acts 9.19b-20,23,25-28*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After several days with the disciples in Damascus,  
Saul began to proclaim in the synagogues  
that Jesus is the Son of God.

The leaders of the synagogue plotted to kill Saul,  
but the disciples took him by night,  
and let him down through an opening in the wall,  
lowering him in a basket.

Saul headed for Jerusalem,  
and there he attempted to join the disciples;  
but they were all afraid of him,  
for they did not believe that he was a disciple.

So Barnabas took Saul to the apostles,  
and described for them how, on the road,  
Saul had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him,  
and how, in Damascus,  
he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

So Saul went in and out among them in Jerusalem,  
speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Psalm 86.1-10**

**SECOND READING** – *Revelation 5.11-14*

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, looked, and I heard the voice  
of many angels, surrounding the throne,  
and the living creatures, and the elders.

There were thousands upon thousands,  
millions upon millions, singing with full voice:  
‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain  
to receive power and riches and wisdom and might  
and honour and glory and blessing!’

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth,  
and under the earth, and in the sea, singing,  
‘To the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb,  
be blessing and honour and glory and might  
for ever and ever!’

And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’  
And the elders fell down and worshipped.

This is the word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL** – *John 21.1-19*

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

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples  
by the Sea of Tiberias;  
and he showed himself in this way.

Gathered there together were Simon Peter,  
Thomas called the Twin,  
Nathaniel of Cana in Galilee,  
the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.

Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’

They said to him, ‘We will go with you.’

They went out and got into the boat,  
but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach;  
but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you any fish?’

They answered him, ‘No.’

He said to them, ‘Cast the net

to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’

So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in  
because there were so many fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter,  
‘It is the Lord!’

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord,  
he put on some clothes (for he was naked),  
and jumped into the lake.

But the other disciples came in the boat,  
dragging the net full of fish,  
for they were not far from the land  
(only about a hundred yards off).

When they had gone ashore,  
they saw a charcoal fire there,  
with fish on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them,  
‘Bring some of the fish that you have caught.’

So Simon Peter went aboard  
and hauled the net ashore,  
full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them;  
and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’

Now none of the disciples dared to ask him,  
‘Who are you?’, because they knew it was the Lord.

Jesus came and took the bread, and gave it to them,  
and did the same with the fish.

This was now the third time  
that Jesus appeared to the disciples  
after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast,  
Jesus said to Simon Peter,  
‘Simon son of John,  
do you love me more than these?’

Simon Peter said to Jesus,  
‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’

The a second time, Jesus said to him,  
‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’

Simon Peter said to Jesus,  
‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’

Then Jesus said to him the third time,  
‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’

Peter was distressed that Jesus said to him  
the third time, ‘Do you love me?’, and said to Jesus:  
‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.

Very truly, I tell you,  
when you were younger,  
you used to fasten your own belt  
and go wherever you wished.  
But when you grow old,  
you will stretch out your hands,  
and someone else will fasten a belt around you  
and take you where you do not wish to go.’

(Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death  
by which Peter would glorify God.)

Then Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Follow me.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**EASTER 4**  
**Sunday 12 May**

**FIRST READING** – *Acts 11.19-23,25-26*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The disciples who fled  
from the persecution in Jerusalem  
travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch,  
preaching the word initially only in the synagogues.

But amongst them  
were some who came from Cyprus and Cyrene,  
and on arriving in Antioch,  
these disciples spoke to the Greeks also,  
proclaiming the Lord Jesus.

And the hand of the Lord was with them,  
and a great number became believers,  
turning to the Lord.

News of this reached the church in Jerusalem,  
and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

On arriving in Antioch,  
Barnabas saw the grace of God, and rejoiced;  
and he exhorted them all  
to remain faithful to the Lord  
with steadfast devotion.

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus  
to look for Saul;  
and when Barnabas found Saul,  
Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch.

And so it was, that for an entire year,  
Barnabas and Saul  
met with the church in Antioch,  
and taught a great many people.

And it was in Antioch  
that the disciples were first called Christians.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Psalm 23**

**SECOND READING** – *Revelation 7.9-12,14b-17*

A reading from the book of Revelation.

After this I looked,  
and there was a great multitude,  
that no one could count,  
from every nation,  
from all tribes, and peoples, and languages,  
standing before the throne  
and before the Lamb,  
robed in white,  
with palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice, saying  
'Salvation belongs to our God,  
who is seated on the throne,  
and to the Lamb!'

The angels standing around the throne  
fell on their faces before the throne  
and worshipped God, singing,

'Amen! Blessing and glory  
and wisdom and thanksgiving  
and honour and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

One of the elders addressed me, saying,  
'These are the ones  
who have come out of the great ordeal.  
They have washed and purified their robes  
in the blood of the Lamb.

Now they are before the throne of God,  
serving continually within God's temple;  
and the one who is seated on the throne  
will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;  
for the Lamb on the throne will be their shepherd,  
and will guide them  
to the springs of the water of life.

And God will wipe away  
every tear from their eyes.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL** – *John 10.22-30*

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

At that time  
the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem.

It was winter,  
and Jesus was walking in the temple,  
in the portico of Solomon.

The religious leaders gathered around Jesus,  
and said to him,

'How long will you keep us in suspense?  
If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

Jesus answered,

'I have told you,  
and yet you do not believe.

The works that I do in my Father's name  
testify to me;  
but you do not believe,  
because you do not belong to my sheep.

My sheep listen to my voice.

I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life,  
and they will never perish.

No one will snatch them out of my hand.

My all-powerful Father has given them to me.

No one can snatch them  
out of the Father's hand -  
and I and the Father are one.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**EASTER 5**  
**Sunday 19 May**

**FIRST READING – Acts 16.9-15**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

During the night Paul had a vision:

there stood a man of Macedonia,  
pleading with Paul, and saying,  
'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'

When Paul had seen the vision,

we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia,  
being convinced that God had called us  
to proclaim the good news there.

We set sail from Troas,

and took a straight course first to Samothrace,  
the following day to Neapolis,  
and from there to Philippi,  
which is a leading city of Macedonia,  
and a Roman colony.

We remained in Philippi for several days.

On the sabbath day,

we went out of the city  
to a place of prayer, by the river,  
and we sat down  
and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

A woman named Lydia,

a worshipper of God,  
was listening to us.

She was from the city of Thyatira,

a dealer in purple cloth,  
and the Lord opened her heart  
to receive Paul's message.

When Lydia and her household were baptised,

Lydia urged us,  
saying that if we judged her to be faithful to the Lord,  
we should stay at her home;  
and she prevailed upon us.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Psalm 67**

**SECOND READING – Revelation 21.1-7**

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, saw a new heaven, and a new earth;  
for the first heaven and the first earth  
had passed away,  
and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as perfectly  
as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
'See, the home of God is among mortals:  
God will be with them.

They will be God's peoples,  
and God will dwell amongst them.

God will wipe away

every tear from their eyes:  
death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more;  
for these first things  
will have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
'See, I am making all things new.

Write this,

for these words are trustworthy and true.

It is done!

I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty, I will give water, as a gift,  
from the spring of the water of life.

Those who conquer

will inherit these things,  
and I will be their God,  
and they will be my children.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL – John 13.31-35**

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

As soon as Judas had left,

Jesus said to the disciples:

'Now the Son of Man is glorified.

And God is glorified, within the Son.

And with God glorified within the Son,

God will also glorify the Son, within God.

And the time for this glory has come.

My children, I am with you only a little longer.

You will look for me,

and as I said before to others -

that where I am going, you cannot come -

now I say this also to you.

A new commandment I give you:

that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you,

you should also love one another.

By this, everyone will know

that you are my disciples,

if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**EASTER 6**  
**Sunday 20 May**

**FIRST READING – Acts 16.16-34**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer,  
we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination,  
and brought her owners a great deal of money  
by fortune-telling.  
She followed us around, for many days, crying out,  
'These men are servants of God Most High,  
who proclaim a way of salvation' -  
until Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said  
to the spirit, 'I order you, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
to come out of her;' and it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw  
that their hope of making money was gone,  
they seized Paul and Silas, and dragged them  
into the market-place, before the magistrates,  
saying, 'These men are disturbing our city;  
they are Jews, and they are advocating customs  
that are not lawful for us as Romans  
to adopt or observe.'

The crowd joined in, and the magistrates  
had Paul and Silas stripped of their clothing,  
and ordered them to be beaten with rods.

After they had given them a severe flogging,  
they threw them into prison,  
and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.

Following these instructions,  
the jailer put Paul and Silas in the innermost cell,  
and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight,  
Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns,  
and the prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent  
that the foundations of the prison were shaken;  
and all the doors of the prison were opened,  
and everyone's chains were unfastened.

When the jailer woke up,  
and saw the prison doors wide open,  
he drew his sword and was about to kill himself,  
since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.

But Paul shouted in a loud voice,  
'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'

The jailer called for lights, and rushing in,  
he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

Then he brought them outside and said,  
'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

Paul and Silas answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus,  
and you will be saved, you and your household.'

They spoke the word of the Lord to the jailer,  
and to all who were in his house.

At the same hour of the night,  
the jailer took them and washed their wounds;  
and he and his entire family were baptised  
without delay.

The jailer brought Paul and Silas up into the house  
and set food before them;  
and he and his entire household rejoiced  
that he had become a believer in God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Psalm 97**

**SECOND READING – Revelation 21.10,22-27 & 22.1-2**

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In the spirit, the angel carried me away  
to a great high mountain,  
and there showed me the holy city, Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God.  
I saw no temple in the city, for its temple  
is the Lord God the Almighty, and the Lamb.  
And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,  
for the glory of God is its light,  
and its lamp is the Lamb.  
The nations will walk by its light,  
and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.  
Its gates will always be open by day -  
and there will be no night.  
People will bring into it  
the glory and the honour of the nations.  
There will be no abomination or falsehood there,  
for those who enter will be the ones  
whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.  
Then the angel showed me  
the river of the water of life, bright as crystal,  
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb  
through the middle of the street of the city.  
On each side of the river is the tree of life,  
with its twelve kinds of fruit,  
one for each month of the year;  
and the leaves of the tree  
are for the healing of the nations.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL – John 14.23-29**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Those who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them;  
and we will come to them,  
and make our home with them.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

The words that you hear from me are not mine,  
but they are from the Father who sent me.

I have said these things to you  
while I am still with you.

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,  
whom the Father will send in my name,  
will teach you everything,

and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
and do not let them be afraid.

You have heard me say to you,

"I am going away, and I am coming to you."

If you love me, you will rejoice

that I am going to the Father,  
because the Father is greater than me.

And now I have told you this before it occurs,  
so that when it does occur, you may believe.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**EASTER 7**  
**Sunday 2 June**

**FIRST READING** – *Acts 17.22-34*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said,  
'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are  
in every way;  
for as I went through the city,  
and looked carefully at the objects of your worship,  
I found among them an altar  
with the inscription: "To an unknown god."  
That which you worship as unknown,  
I now proclaim to you.  
The God who made the world, and everything in it,  
the Lord of heaven and earth,  
does not live in shrines made by human hands,  
and is not served by human hands  
(as though needing anything),  
but is the one who gives, to all mortals,  
life and breath and all things.  
From one ancestor, God made all nations  
to inhabit the whole earth,  
(determining their times in history  
and the boundaries of their lands),  
that they might search for God  
and even reach out for him and find him -  
though indeed he is not far from each one of us.  
For "In him we live, and move, and have our being",  
as even your own poets have said;  
"for we too are his offspring."  
Since we are God's offspring,  
we should not think that God is like gold,  
or silver, or stone, an image created  
by the art and imagination of mortals.  
While God has overlooked  
the times of human ignorance,  
he now commands all people everywhere  
to repent,  
because he has fixed a day  
on which the world will be judged  
in righteousness  
by a man whom he has appointed,  
and of this, he has given assurance to all,  
by raising him from the dead.'  
When they heard of the resurrection of the dead,  
some scoffed; but others said,  
'We will hear you again about this.'  
And some joined Paul, and became believers,  
including Dionysius the Areopagite,  
and a woman named Damaris,  
and others with them.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Psalm 66.7-18**

**SECOND READING** – *Rev 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21*

A reading from the book of Revelation.  
I, John, heard a voice saying:  
'See, I am coming soon,  
and my reward is with me,  
for each, according to their deeds.'

I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end.  
I am the root and the descendant of David,  
the bright morning star.'  
Blessed are those who wash their robes,  
so that they will have access to the tree of life  
and may enter the city by the gates.  
And now the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come,'  
and let everyone who hears say, 'Come,'  
and let everyone who is thirsty come;  
let anyone who wishes  
take the water of life as a gift.  
'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you  
with this testimony for the churches.'  
The one who testifies to these things says,  
'Surely I am coming soon.'  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!  
And may the grace of the Lord Jesus  
be with all the saints. Amen.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL** – *John 17.20-26*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.  
Jesus said:  
'Holy Father,  
I ask not only on behalf of these,  
but also on behalf of those  
who will believe in me through their word.  
May they all be one.  
As you, Father, are in me,  
and I am in you,  
may they also be in us,  
so that the world may believe  
that you have sent me.  
The glory that you have given me,  
I have given them,  
so that they may be one,  
as we are one,  
(I in them, and you in me);  
that they may become completely one,  
that the world may know  
that you have sent me,  
and have loved them  
even as you have loved me.  
Father, I desire also,  
that those whom you have given me  
may be with me where I am,  
to see the glory which you have given me  
(because you loved me  
before the foundation of the world).  
Righteous Father,  
the world does not know you,  
but I know you;  
and these know that you have sent me.  
I made your name known to them,  
and I will make it known,  
so that the love  
with which you have loved me  
may be in them, and I in them.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PENTECOST**  
**Sunday 9 June**

**FIRST READING** – *Acts 2.1-21*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
When the day of Pentecost came,  
they were all together in one place.  
And suddenly from the sky there came a sound  
like the rush of a violent wind,  
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.  
Flames or tongues of fire appeared among them,  
and rested upon each of them,  
and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit  
and began to speak in other languages,  
as the Spirit enabled them.  
Now there were devout Jews  
from every nation under heaven  
living in Jerusalem,  
and at this sound, the crowd gathered,  
and was bewildered, because each one heard  
their own language being spoken.  
Amazed and astonished, they asked,  
'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?  
How is it that we hear, each of us  
in our own native language?  
Parthians, Medes, Elamites,  
Mesopotamians, Judeans, Cappadocians,  
Pontians, Asians, Phrygians, Pamphylians,  
Egyptians, and Cyrenean north Africans,  
visitors from Rome (both Jews and proselytes),  
and residents of Crete and Arabia -  
in our own languages we hear them speaking  
about God's deeds of power.'  
All were amazed and perplexed,  
saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'  
But others sneered and said,  
'They are filled with new wine.'  
But Peter, standing with the eleven,  
raised his voice and addressed them, saying:  
'Men of Judea, and all who are dwelling in Jerusalem,  
let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.  
These are not drunk, as you suppose,  
for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.  
No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:  
"In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.  
Even upon my servants, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.  
And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming  
of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
shall be saved.'"  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Psalm 104.1-2, 29-36**

**SECOND READING** – *Romans 8.14-17*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.  
All who are led by the Spirit of God  
are children of God.  
You did not receive a spirit of slavery,  
to fall back into fear,  
but a spirit of adoption,  
that we might pray 'Abba, Father' -  
God's Spirit and our spirit  
bearing witness together  
that we are children of God.  
And as children, we are also heirs -  
heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ -  
both suffering with him,  
and being glorified with him.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL** – *John 14.8-17*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.  
Philip said to Jesus,  
'Lord, show us the Father.'  
Jesus said,  
'Philip, have I been with you all this time,  
and still you do not know me?  
Whoever has seen me  
has seen the Father,  
for I am in the Father,  
and the Father is in me.  
The words that I say  
are not my own,  
but are the work of the Father  
who dwells in me.  
And you see other works of the Father in me,  
so that you may believe  
that I am in the Father  
and the Father is in me.  
Truly, I tell you,  
whoever believes in me  
will also do the works that I do -  
and indeed greater works than these  
because I am going to the Father.  
I will do whatever you ask in my name,  
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.  
If you love me, keep my commandments,  
and I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate,  
to be with you for ever.  
The world cannot receive this Spirit of truth,  
whom it neither knows nor sees,  
but you do know the Spirit of truth,  
who dwells with you and in you.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## TRINITY SUNDAY

Sunday 16 June

### FIRST READING – *Proverbs 8.1-3, 22-31*

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Wisdom calls,

and Understanding raises her voice.

On the heights, overlooking the road,

and at the crossroads,

she takes her stand.

By the gates,

at the entrance to the city,

she cries out.

'As the first of the Lord's works,

I was created.

Before the beginning of the earth,

I was established.

When there were no depths,

I was brought forth.

When there were no springs

abounding with water,

before the mountains had been shaped,

before the hills,

I was brought forth -

when the Lord had not yet made the earth,

or the fields,

or the dust of the earth.

When the Lord established the heavens,

I was there.

When the Lord drew a circle on the face of the deep,

made firm the skies above,

established the fountains of the deep,

and assigned to the sea its limit

(so that the waters

might not transgress his command),

when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

I was the skilled apprentice at his side.

I was daily the Lord's delight,

rejoicing in his presence,

in the inhabited earth,

and in the whole human race.'

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 8

### SECOND READING – *Romans 5.1-5*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Since we are justified by faith,

we have peace with God

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

through whom also

we have obtained access to this grace

in which we stand;

and we boast in our hope

of sharing the glory of God.

We boast even in our sufferings,

knowing that suffering produces endurance,

and endurance produces character,

and character produces hope;

and hope does not disappoint us,

because God's love

has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit

that has been given to us.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *John 16.12-15*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I still have many things to say to you.

You cannot bear them now,

but the Spirit of truth will come to you,

and guide you into all truth,

declaring to you

the things that are to come,

and glorifying me,

by taking what is mine

and declaring it to you.

All that the Father has is also mine;

and the Spirit of truth

will take what is mine

and declare it to you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 23 JUNE

### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 65.2-5, 8b-9*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says:

I held out my hands, all day long, to a rebellious people,  
who walk in wicked ways,  
following their own devices;  
who provoke me to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks;  
who sit inside tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat swine's flesh,  
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;  
who claim to be so holy  
that they send others away.  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all day long.  
And now, says the Lord,  
for my servants' sake,  
I will not destroy them all.  
I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
and from Judah, inheritors of Zion;  
my chosen shall inherit the land,  
and my servants shall settle there.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 22.18-27

### SECOND READING – *Galatians 3.23-29*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Before faith came,  
we were imprisoned, under the law,  
until the time when faith would be revealed.  
The law was our guardian  
until the time when Christ would come,  
and we would be reconciled to God by faith.  
Now that faith has come,  
we are no longer subject to a guardian,  
for in Christ Jesus, we are all children of God,  
through faith.  
All you who are baptised into Christ  
have clothed yourselves with Christ.  
There is no longer Jew or Greek,  
there is no longer slave or free,  
there is no longer 'male and female',  
for all are one in Christ Jesus;  
and if you belong to Christ,  
then you are Abraham's offspring -  
heirs, according to the promise.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 8.1-3,26-39*

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

Jesus went on through cities and villages,  
proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.  
The twelve were with him,  
as well as some women  
who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities:

Mary, called Magdalene

(from whom seven demons had gone out)  
and Joanna (the wife of Herod's steward Chuza),  
and Susanna, and many others,  
who provided for them out of their resources.

Jesus and the disciples travelled by boat  
to the country of the Gerasenes,  
which is opposite Galilee.

As Jesus stepped out on land,  
a man of the city, who had demons, met him.  
For a long time the man had worn no clothes,  
and he did not live in a house but in the tombs.  
When the man saw Jesus, he fell down before Jesus,  
and shouted at the top of his voice,  
'What have you to do with me,  
Jesus, Son of the Most High God?  
I beg you, do not torment me,'  
(for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit  
to come out of the man;  
many times it had seized him,  
and he was kept under guard,  
and bound with chains and shackles,  
but he would break the bonds  
and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)  
Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?'  
The man said, 'Legion';  
for many demons had entered him;  
and they begged Jesus not to order them  
to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside

a large herd of swine was feeding;  
and the demons begged Jesus  
to let them enter these;  
so he gave them permission.  
Then the demons came out of the man,  
and entered the swine,  
and the herd rushed down the steep bank  
into the lake, and was drowned.  
When the swineherds saw what had happened,  
they ran off, and told it in the city, and in the country.  
Then people came out to see what had happened,  
and when they came to Jesus,  
they found the man  
from whom the demons had gone  
sitting at the feet of Jesus,  
clothed, and in his right mind -  
and they were afraid.

Those who had seen it told them  
how the one who had been possessed by demons  
had been healed.

Then all the people of the surrounding country  
asked Jesus to leave them;  
for they were seized with great fear.

So Jesus got into the boat, and returned.

The man from whom the demons had gone  
begged that he might be with him;

but Jesus sent him away, saying,

'Return to your home,  
and declare how much God has done for you.'

So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city  
how much Jesus had done for him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST**

### **Sunday 30 June**

Arkolme Patronal Festival of Saint John the Baptist is celebrated with a United Benefice Service on the last Sunday in June  
*Readings for Year C*

#### **FIRST READING – Isaiah 40.1-8**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness,  
prepare the way of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill  
shall be made low.

The uneven ground  
shall become level,

and the rough places  
shall become a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord  
shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I say, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,  
their constancy  
is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers,  
and the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it -  
and the people are grass.

The grass withers,  
and the flower fades;  
but the word of our God  
will stand for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### **SECOND READING – Galatians 5.1, 13-25**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Take care, therefore, brothers and sisters,  
that you do not become enslaved once again.

Do not use your freedom  
as an opportunity for self-indulgence,  
but through love, become servants to one another.

For the whole law is summed up  
in a single commandment,  
'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

If, however, you bite and devour one another,  
take care that you are not consumed by one another!

Live by the Spirit, I say,

and do not gratify the desires of the flesh -  
for what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit,  
and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh,  
for these are opposed to each other,  
as if to prevent you from doing what you want -  
but if you are led by the Spirit,  
you are not subject to the law.

Now the works of the flesh are obvious:  
fornication, impurity, licentiousness,  
idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife,  
jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions,  
factions, envy, drunkenness and the like.

I warn you again: those who do such things  
are not inheriting the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit  
is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, generosity,  
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

There is no law against such things.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus  
have crucified the flesh  
with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit,  
let us also be guided by the Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### **GOSPEL – Luke 1.57-66, 80**

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

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth,  
and she bore a son.

Her neighbours and relatives heard  
that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her,  
and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day, at the temple,  
they were going to name him Zechariah,  
after his father,

but his mother said,  
'No; he is to be called John.'

They said to her,  
'None of your relatives has this name.'

Then they began motioning  
to the boy's father, Zechariah,  
to find out what name  
Zechariah wanted to give to the boy.

Zechariah asked for a writing-tablet, and wrote,  
'The boy's name is John' -  
and all of them were amazed.

Immediately Zechariah's mouth was opened,  
and his tongue freed,  
and he began to speak, praising God.

All their neighbours were overcome with awe,  
and all these things were talked about  
throughout the entire hill country of Judea.

All who heard these things pondered them and said,  
'What then will this child become?' -  
for indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit,  
and he was in the wilderness  
until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 7 JULY

Readings for Year C

### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 66.10-14a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Rejoice with Jerusalem,  
and be glad for her,  
all you who love her!  
Rejoice with Jerusalem,  
all you who have mourned over her,  
for you will know her prosperity and her comfort,  
like a child at its mother's breast.  
For thus says the Lord:  
I will extend peace to Jerusalem like a river,  
and the wealth of the nations  
like an overflowing stream.  
You shall be carried on her arm, and at her breast,  
and held in her lap.  
As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you.  
You shall be comforted in Jerusalem.  
You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice.  
You shall flourish like the grass.  
and it shall be known  
that the hand of the Lord  
is with the servants of the Lord.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 66.1-8

### SECOND READING – *Colossians 1.1-4,9-14*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

From Paul,  
an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
and Timothy our brother;  
to the holy and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ  
in Colossae:  
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father.  
In our prayers for you,  
we always thank God,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus,  
and the love that you have for all the saints.  
And we pray for you,  
asking that you may be filled  
with spiritual wisdom and understanding,  
and with the knowledge of God's will,  
so that you may lead lives  
worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him,  
as you bear fruit in every good work,  
and as you grow in the knowledge of God.  
May you be made strong  
with all the strength  
that comes from his glorious power.  
And may you be prepared  
to endure everything with patience,  
always giving thanks joyfully to the Father,  
who has enabled you to share  
in the inheritance of the saints in light.

He has rescued us from the power of darkness  
and transferred us into the kingdom  
of his beloved Son,  
in whom we have redemption,  
the forgiveness of sins.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 10.1-11, 17-20, 23-24*

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

The Lord appointed another seventy,  
and sent them on ahead of him, in pairs,  
to every town and place  
where he himself intended to go,  
saying to them:  
'The harvest is plentiful,  
but the workers are few;  
so ask the Lord of the harvest  
to send out workers into the harvest.  
As you go, remember  
that you will be like lambs amongst wolves.  
Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals;  
and greet no one on the road.  
Whatever house you enter,  
first say, "Peace to this house!"  
If anyone is there who shares in peace,  
your peace will rest upon them -  
and if not, it will return to you.  
Remain in the same house,  
eating and drinking whatever they provide,  
for the labourer deserves to be paid.  
Do not move about from house to house.  
Whenever you enter a town  
and its people welcome you,  
eat what is set before you.  
Cure the sick who are there, and say to them,  
"The kingdom of God has come near to you."  
But whenever you enter a town  
and they do not welcome you,  
go out into its streets and say,  
"Even the dust of your town,  
that clings to our feet,  
we wipe off in protest against you.  
Yet know this:  
the kingdom of God has come near."  
The seventy returned with joy, saying,  
'Lord, in your name  
even demons submit to us!'  
Jesus said to them,  
'I watched Satan fall  
like a flash of lightning from the sky,  
for I have given you authority  
over all the power of the enemy,  
and nothing can hurt you.  
And the greater joy is this:  
that your names are written in heaven.  
Blessed are the eyes that see what you have seen!  
For prophets and kings  
longed to see what you see,  
and to hear what you hear.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 14 JULY

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – *Deuteronomy 30.9-14*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Obey the Lord your God,  
by observing his commandments and decrees  
that are written in this book of the law,  
and return to the Lord your God  
with all your heart, and with all your soul.  
Then the Lord your God  
will make you abundantly prosperous  
in all your undertakings:  
in the fruit of your body,  
in the fruit of your livestock,  
and in the fruit of your soil.  
For the Lord will again take delight  
in prospering you,  
just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors.  
Surely, this commandment  
that I am commanding you today  
is not too hard for you,  
nor is it too far away.  
It is not in heaven, that you should say,  
'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us,  
so that we may hear it and observe it?'  
Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say,  
'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us,  
and get it for us  
so that we may hear it and observe it?'  
No, the word is very near to you;  
it is on your lips, and in your heart.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 25.1-10

### SECOND READING – *Colossians 1.15-20*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image  
of the invisible God;  
the firstborn,  
from before all creation.  
In him, all things  
in heaven and on earth  
were created,  
both visible and invisible  
(thrones, dominions, rulers and powers).  
All things have been created through him,  
and for him.  
He existed before all things,  
and in him,  
all things hold together.  
He is also the head  
of the body which is the church.  
He is the beginning,  
the firstborn from the dead.  
He has first place in everything,  
for in him,  
all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

and through him

God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace  
through the blood of the cross.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 10.25-37*

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

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

'Teacher,' he said,  
'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'  
Jesus said to him,  
'What is written in the law?  
What do you read there?'  
The lawyer answered,  
'You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, and with all your soul,  
and with all your strength, and with all your mind;  
and your neighbour as yourself.'  
Jesus said to him,  
'You have given the right answer;  
do this, and you will live.'  
But wanting to justify himself,  
he asked Jesus,  
'And who is my neighbour?'  
Jesus replied,  
'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho,  
and fell into the hands of robbers,  
who stripped him, beat him, and went away,  
leaving him half dead.  
Now by chance  
a priest was going down that road;  
and when he saw the wounded man,  
he passed by on the other side.  
In the same way,  
when a Levite came to the place,  
seeing the wounded man,  
he also passed by on the other side.  
But a Samaritan, while travelling,  
came near the wounded man;  
and when he saw him,  
he was moved with pity.  
The Samaritan went to him,  
and poured oil and wine on his wounds,  
and bandaged them.  
Then he put the wounded man on his own animal,  
brought him to an inn, and took care of him.  
The next day he took out two coins,  
gave them to the innkeeper, and said,  
"Take care of him; and when I come back,  
I will repay you whatever more you spend."  
Which of these three, do you think,  
was a neighbour to the man  
who fell into the hands of the robbers?'  
The lawyer said, 'The one who showed him mercy.'  
Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**SUNDAY 21 JULY**  
*Readings for Year C*

**FIRST READING** – *Genesis 18.1-10a*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord appeared to Abraham  
by the oaks of Mamre,  
as Abraham sat at the entrance of his tent  
in the heat of the day.  
Abraham looked up  
and saw three men standing near him.  
He ran to meet them,  
and bowed down to the ground, saying,  
'My Lord, if I have found favour in your sight,  
do not pass by your servant.  
Let a little water be brought  
to wash your feet,  
and rest yourselves under the tree.  
Let me bring a little bread,  
that you may refresh yourselves,  
and after that you may pass on -  
since you have come to your servant.'  
They answered,  
'Do as you have said.'  
And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, saying,  
'Make ready three measures of choice flour;  
knead it quickly, and make cakes.'  
Abraham ran to the herd,  
and took a calf, tender and good,  
and gave it to the servant,  
who hastened to prepare it.  
Then Abraham took curds and milk,  
and the calf that he had prepared,  
and set it before the three men;  
and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.  
They said to Abraham,  
'Where is your wife Sarah?'  
And Abraham said,  
'There, in the tent.'  
Then one of them said,  
'I will surely return to you in due season,  
and your wife Sarah shall have a son.'  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Psalm 15**

**SECOND READING** – *Colossians 2.12-14, 3.1-2*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

When we were buried with Christ in baptism,  
we were also raised with him,  
through faith in the power of God  
who raised Christ from the dead.  
We had been dead in our trespasses,  
and in the corruption of our flesh,  
but God raised us to life, together with Christ,  
when he forgave us all our trespasses,  
erasing the record that stood against us  
(with its legal demands),  
setting it aside,  
nailing it to the cross.  
Now that you have been raised with Christ,  
set your minds  
not on the things of earth,  
but on things that are above,  
where Christ is,  
seated at the right hand of God.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL** – *Luke 10.38-42*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.  
Jesus and his disciples  
entered a certain village,  
where a woman named Martha  
welcomed him into her home.  
Martha had a sister named Mary,  
who sat at the Lord's feet,  
and listened to what he was saying.  
But Martha was distracted by her many tasks;  
so she came to Jesus and said,  
'Lord, do you not care  
that my sister has left me  
to do all the work by myself?  
Tell her then to help me.'  
But the Lord answered her,  
'Martha, Martha,  
you are worried and distracted by many things.  
There is need of only one thing.  
Mary has chosen the better part,  
which will not be taken away from her.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 28 JULY

Readings for Year C

### FIRST READING – *Genesis 18.20-21,23-32*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abraham,

‘How great is the outcry  
against Sodom and Gomorrah,  
and how very grave their sin!  
I must go down and see  
whether they have indeed done  
according to the outcry that has come to me.’

Then Abraham came near and said,

‘Will you sweep away the righteous  
with the wicked?  
Suppose there are fifty righteous in the city.  
Will you then sweep away the place,  
and not forgive it, for the fifty righteous who are in it?  
Far be it from you to do such a thing,  
to slay the righteous with the wicked!  
Surely the Judge of all the earth  
will do what is just?’

And the Lord said,

‘If I find fifty righteous in the city,  
I will forgive the whole place for their sake.’

Abraham answered,

‘Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord,  
I who am but dust and ashes.  
Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking?  
Will you destroy the whole city for the lack of five?’

And the Lord said,

‘I will not destroy the city  
if I find forty-five righteous there.’

Again Abraham again spoke to the Lord,

for forty, and thirty, and twenty, concluding:  
‘Oh do not let the Lord be angry  
if I speak just once more.  
Suppose ten righteous are found there.’

The Lord answered,

‘For the sake of ten righteous  
I will not destroy the city.’

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 138

### SECOND READING – *Colossians 3.12-17*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved,

clothe yourselves with compassion,  
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another,

and if anyone has a complaint against another,  
forgive each other.

Just as the Lord has forgiven you,

so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love,

which binds everything together  
in perfect harmony.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

for to this you were called  
in the one body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Teach and encourage one another in all wisdom;  
and with gratitude in your hearts

sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed,

do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 11.1-13*

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

Jesus was praying in a certain place,

and after he had finished,  
one of his disciples said to him,  
‘Lord, teach us to pray,  
as John taught his disciples.’

Jesus said to them,

‘When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day

our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we ourselves forgive

everyone who trespasses against us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.’

And Jesus said to them,

‘Suppose one of you has a friend,

and you go to him at midnight,

and you say to him,

“Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;

for a friend of mine has arrived,

and I have nothing to set before him.”

And he answers from within,

“Do not bother me;

the door has already been locked,

and we are all in bed;

I cannot get up and give you anything.”

I tell you,

even though he will not get up and give you anything

because he is your friend,

eventually, because of your persistence,

he will get up and give you whatever you need.

So I say to you: ask, and it will be given to you;

search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you.

For everyone who asks receives,

and everyone who searches finds,

and for everyone who knocks,

the door will be opened.

Is there anyone amongst you who,

if your child asks for a fish,

will give a snake instead?

Or if the child asks for an egg,

will give a scorpion?

If you then, who are evil,

know how to give good gifts to your children,

how much more will the heavenly Father

give the Holy Spirit

to those who ask him!’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 4 AUGUST

Readings for Year C

### FIRST READING – Ecclesiastes 1.12-14; 2.18-23

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

I, the Teacher,  
when king over Israel in Jerusalem,  
applied my mind  
to seek,  
and to search out by wisdom,  
all that is done under heaven.  
It is an unhappy business  
that God has given  
to human beings  
to be busy with.  
I saw all the deeds  
that are done under the sun;  
and see: all is vanity  
and a chasing after wind.  
I hated all my toil  
in which I had toiled under the sun,  
seeing that I must leave it  
to those who come after me -  
and who knows  
whether they will be wise or foolish?  
Yet they will be master  
of all for which I toiled  
and used my wisdom  
under the sun;  
this also is vanity.  
So I turned,  
and gave up my heart to despair  
concerning all the toil  
of my labours under the sun,  
because one who has toiled  
with wisdom and knowledge and skill  
must leave it all to be enjoyed by another  
who did not toil for it;  
this also is vanity, and a great evil.  
What do mortals get  
from all the toil and strain  
with which they toil under the sun?  
For all their days are full of pain,  
and their work is a vexation;  
even at night their minds do not rest;  
this also is vanity.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 49.1-12

### SECOND READING – Hebrews 10.32-36

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

You will remember  
that in those early days,  
when you first received the light of Christ,  
you endured great suffering.  
You were exposed to insult and persecution,  
and you stood side by side  
with those who were suffering the same.  
You had compassion on those who were in prison,  
and you cheerfully accepted  
the loss of your possessions,  
knowing that you have a greater possession  
that does not pass away.  
Hold on to this faith,  
for it brings a great reward.  
Persevere in doing the will of God,  
and you will receive  
what God has promised.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – Luke 12.13-21

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.  
Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,  
'Teacher, tell my brother  
to divide the family inheritance with me.'  
But Jesus said to him,  
'Friend, who set me  
to be a judge or arbitrator over you?'  
And he said to the crowd,  
'Take care!  
Be on your guard against all kinds of greed;  
for life does not consist  
in the abundance of possessions.'  
And he told them a parable:  
'The land of a rich man  
produced abundantly.  
And he thought to himself,  
"What should I do,  
for I have no place to store my crops?"  
Then he said,  
"I will do this:  
I will pull down my barns  
and build larger ones,  
and there I will store  
all my grain and my goods.  
And I will say to my soul,  
'Soul, you have ample goods  
laid up for many years;  
relax, eat, drink, and be merry.'"  
But God said to the rich man,  
"You fool!  
This very night  
your life is being demanded of you.  
And the things you have acquired -  
whose will they be?"  
So it is with those  
who store up treasures for themselves  
but are not rich towards God.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 11 AUGUST

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – *Genesis 12.1-7*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram,

‘Go from your country,

your people, and your father’s house,

to the land that I will show you.

I will make of you a great nation,

and I will bless you,

and I will make your name great,

so that you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,

and censure those who dishonour you.

All the peoples of the earth

will be blessed through you.’

So Abram went,

as the Lord had told him;

and Lot went with him.

Abram was seventy-five years old

when he departed from Haran.

He took his wife Sarai,

and his nephew Lot (the son of his brother),

and all the possessions that they had gathered,

and all the people he had taken into his household;

and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

When they had come to the land of Canaan,

Abram passed through the land of the Canaanites

to the oak of Moreh, at Shechem.

There the Lord appeared to Abram, and said,

‘To your offspring I will give this land.’

So Abram built there an altar to the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 33.12-22

### SECOND READING – *Hebrews 11.1, 8-10*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

the conviction of things not seen.

By faith, Abraham obeyed

when he was called to set out

for a place

that he was to receive

as an inheritance;

and he set out,

not knowing where he was going.

By faith, he stayed

in the land he had been promised,

as if in a foreign land,

living in tents,

as did Isaac and Jacob,

who were heirs with him

of the same promise.

For he looked forward

to the city that has foundations,

whose architect and builder is God.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 12.22-36*

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

Jesus said to his disciples,

‘Do not worry about your life, what you will eat,

or about your body, what you will wear.

For life is more than food,

and the body more than clothing.

Consider the ravens:

they neither sow nor reap -

they have neither storehouse nor barn -

and yet God feeds them.

How much more valuable are you than the birds!

And can any of you, by worrying,

add a single hour to your span of life?

Consider the lilies, how they grow:

they neither toil nor spin;

yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory

was clothed like one of these.

If God so clothes the grass of the field -

which is alive today and burned up tomorrow -

how much more will God clothe you,

O you of little faith!

Do not be anxious

for what you are to eat

and what you are to drink.

Your Father knows that you need these things.

Instead, strive for God’s kingdom,

and these other things

will be provided for you as well.

Do not be afraid,

for it is your Father’s good pleasure

to give you the kingdom.

Sell your possessions, and give to those in need.

Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out -

a treasure in heaven that will never fail,

where no thief comes near,

and no moth destroys;

for where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.

Be dressed for action,

and have your lamps lit,

like those who are waiting

for their master to return

from the wedding banquet,

so that they may open the door for him

as soon as he comes and knocks.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 18 AUGUST

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 23.23-29*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Am I only a God nearby,  
and not also a God far away?  
Who can hide in secret places  
so that I cannot see them?  
Do I not fill both heaven and earth?  
I have heard the prophets  
who speak lies and delusions in my name.  
They make my people forget my name  
by the vanities they tell one another -  
just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal.  
Let the prophet who has delusions  
tell the delusions -  
but let the prophet who has my word  
speak my word faithfully.  
They differ  
like the straw from the grain -  
and my word is like fire,  
and like a hammer  
that breaks a rock in pieces.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 82

### SECOND READING – *Hebrews 12.1-2*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since we are surrounded  
by so great a cloud of witnesses,  
let us lay aside every weight,  
and the sin that clings so closely,  
and let us run with perseverance  
the race that is set before us,  
looking to Jesus,  
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the sake of the joy that was set before him  
endured the cross,  
disregarding its shame,  
and has taken his seat  
at the right hand of the throne of God.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 12.49-56*

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I came to bring fire to the earth,  
and how I wish it were already kindled.  
I have a baptism to undergo,  
and I long for it to be accomplished.  
Did I come to bring only peace to the earth?  
No, I tell you - also division!  
Even households will be divided,  
three against two and two against three;  
father against son,  
mother against daughter,  
mother-in-law against daughter-in-law.  
When you see a cloud rising in the west,  
you say straight away,  
"It is going to rain" (and it happens).  
And when you see the south wind blowing, you say,  
"There will be scorching heat" (and it happens).  
You know how to interpret  
the appearance of earth and sky,  
and yet do you not know  
how to interpret the present time!  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 25 AUGUST

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 58.9-10, 13-14*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

If you remove the yoke from amongst you,  
and the pointing of the finger,  
and the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry,  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness,  
and your gloom be like the noonday,  
and when you cry for help,  
the Lord will answer.

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath -  
from pursuing your own interests  
on God's holy day,

if you call the sabbath 'a delight',  
and honour it,

not going your own ways,  
or serving your own interests,  
or pursuing your own affairs,

then you shall take delight in the Lord,  
and ride upon the heights of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 103

### SECOND READING – *Hebrews 12.14, 22-24*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Pursue peace with everyone,  
and holiness,  
without which none can see the Lord.

For you have come to Mount Zion,  
the city of the living God,  
the heavenly Jerusalem,  
where angels, beyond number, gather to rejoice,

and to the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,  
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect;  
and to God, the judge of all,  
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,  
and to the sprinkled blood

that speaks a better word  
than the blood of Abel.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 13.10-17*

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

Jesus was teaching  
in one of the synagogues  
on the sabbath,

where there was a woman with a spirit  
that had crippled her for eighteen years.

She was bent over,  
and was quite unable to stand up straight.

When Jesus saw her,  
he called her over and said,  
'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.'

When he laid his hands on her,  
immediately she stood up straight  
and began praising God.

But the leader of the synagogue was indignant  
because Jesus had cured on the sabbath.

The leader of the synagogue  
kept saying to the crowd,

'There are six days  
on which work ought to be done.

Come on those days and be cured,  
and not on the sabbath day.'

But the Lord answered him and said,  
'You hypocrites!

Does not each of you, on the sabbath,  
untie his ox or his donkey from the manger,  
and lead it away to give it water?

And ought not this woman,  
a daughter of Abraham,  
whom Satan bound for eighteen long years,  
be set free from this bondage  
on the sabbath day?'

When he said this,  
all his opponents were put to shame;  
and the entire crowd was rejoicing  
at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING - Deuteronomy 16.9-12

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

From the time the sickle is first put  
to the standing grain,  
you shall count seven weeks.  
Then you shall keep the Festival of Weeks  
to the Lord your God,  
contributing a freewill-offering  
in proportion to the blessing that you have received  
from the Lord your God.

Then celebrate before the Lord your God:  
you, and your sons and your daughters,  
and your male and female servants,  
and the Levites resident in your towns,  
and the foreigners,  
and the orphans,  
and the widows,  
who are amongst you.

Celebrate at the place  
that the Lord your God will choose  
as a dwelling for his name.

Remember that you were a slave in Egypt,  
and diligently observe these statutes.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 119.33-40

### SECOND READING – Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect to show hospitality  
to strangers,  
for by doing that  
some have entertained angels  
without knowing it.

Remember those who are in prison,  
as though you were in prison with them;  
those who are being tortured,  
as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Let marriage be honoured by all,  
and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Keep your lives free from the love of money,  
and be content with what you have;

for God has said,  
'I will never leave you nor forsake you',  
so we can say with confidence,  
'The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.  
What can anyone do to me?'

Remember your leaders,  
those who spoke the word of God to you.  
Consider the outcome of their way of life,  
and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same  
yesterday, and today, and for ever.  
Through him, then,  
let us continually offer  
a sacrifice of praise to God,  
that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.  
Do not neglect to do good,  
and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices  
are pleasing to God.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – Luke 14.1, 7-14

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

One sabbath day,  
Jesus was dining, as a guest,  
in the house of a leader of the Pharisees.  
When Jesus noticed  
how the guests chose the places of honour,  
he told them a parable.  
'When you are invited by someone  
to a wedding banquet,  
do not sit down at the place of honour,  
in case someone more distinguished than you  
has been invited by your host;  
and the host who invited both of you  
may come and say to you,  
"Give this person your place,"  
and then in disgrace  
you would have to move  
to the lowest place.  
But when you are invited,  
go and sit down at the lowest place,  
so that when your host comes,  
he may say to you,  
"Friend, move up higher";  
then you will be honoured  
in the presence of all  
who sit at the table with you.  
For all who exalt themselves  
will be humbled,  
and those who humble themselves  
will be exalted.'

To the one who had invited him, Jesus said:  
'When you give a lunch or a dinner,  
do not invite your friends, or your brothers,  
or your relatives, or rich neighbours,  
in case they may invite you in return,  
and you would be repaid.  
But when you give a banquet,  
invite the poor, the crippled,  
the lame, and the blind;  
and you will be blessed,  
because they cannot repay you,  
for you will be repaid  
at the resurrection of the righteous.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – *Deuteronomy 30.15-20*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

See, I have set before you today  
life and prosperity,  
death and adversity.  
If you obey the commandments  
of the Lord your God  
that I am commanding you today,  
by loving the Lord your God,  
walking in his ways,  
and observing  
his commandments, decrees, and ordinances,  
then you shall live and become numerous,  
and the Lord your God will bless you  
in the land that you are entering to possess.  
But if your heart turns away  
and you do not hear,  
and you are led astray  
to bow down to other gods, and serve them,  
I declare to you today  
that you shall perish;  
you shall not live long in the land  
that you are crossing the Jordan  
to enter and possess.  
I call heaven and earth to witness against you today  
that I have set before you  
life and death,  
blessings and curses.  
Choose life  
so that you and your descendants may live,  
loving the Lord your God,  
obeying him, and holding fast to him;  
for that means life to you, and length of days,  
so that you may live in the land  
that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors,  
to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 1

### SECOND READING – *Philemon 10,12-17*

A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.

I am appealing to you for Onesimus,  
who has become like a son to me  
during my imprisonment.  
I am sending him,  
that is, my own heart,  
back to you.  
I wanted to keep him with me,  
so that he might be of service to me  
during my imprisonment for the gospel;  
but I preferred to do nothing without your consent,  
in order that your good deed might be voluntary,  
and not something forced.

Perhaps this is the reason  
he was separated from you for a while,  
so that you might have him back for ever,  
no longer as a servant,  
but as a beloved brother -  
especially to me,  
but how much more to you,  
both in the flesh and in the Lord.  
So if you consider me your partner,  
welcome him as you would welcome me.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 14.25-33*

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

Large crowds were travelling with Jesus.  
He turned to them and said,  
'Whoever comes to me,  
to be my disciple,  
must be ready to forsake  
father and mother,  
wife and children,  
brothers and sisters;  
yes, and even life itself.  
Whoever wishes to be my disciple  
must be ready to carry their cross  
and follow me.  
You know that if you intend to build a tower,  
you will first sit down  
and estimate the cost,  
to see whether you have enough to complete it.  
Otherwise,  
when you have laid a foundation,  
and you are then unable to finish,  
all who see it will mock,  
saying, "They began to build,  
and they were not able to finish."  
And you know that a king,  
going out to wage a war,  
will first sit down and consider  
whether he is able, with ten thousand,  
to oppose the one  
who comes against him with twenty thousand.  
If he cannot,  
then while the other is still far away,  
he will send a delegation  
asking for the terms for peace.  
So consider, therefore:  
you cannot be my disciple  
unless you are ready to renounce  
all that you possess.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – *Exodus 32.7-8,10-11,13-14*

A reading from the book of Exodus.

At the top of Mount Sinai,  
the Lord said to Moses,  
'Go down at once,  
for your people -  
the people you led out of the land of Egypt -  
have corrupted themselves.  
They have been quick to turn aside  
from the way that I commanded them.  
They have cast for themselves  
an image of a calf,  
and have worshipped it,  
and sacrificed to it,  
even declaring that this is the god  
who brought them out of the land of Egypt.  
Now let me alone,  
so that my wrath may burn hot against them  
and I may consume them;  
and of you alone I will make a great nation.'  
But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said,  
'O Lord,  
why does your wrath burn hot  
against your people,  
whom you brought out of the land of Egypt  
with great power and with a mighty hand?  
Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants,  
how you swore to them by your own self,  
saying to them,  
"I will multiply your descendants  
like the stars of heaven,  
and all this land that I have promised  
I will give to your descendants,  
and they shall inherit it for ever."  
And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster  
that he planned to bring on his people.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 51.1-10

### SECOND READING – *1 Timothy 1.12-17*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord,  
who has appointed me to his service,  
has judged me faithful,  
and has given me the strength to endure,  
even though I was formerly  
a persecutor, blasphemer, and aggressor.  
But I received mercy  
because I had acted  
in ignorance and unbelief,  
and the grace of our Lord  
overflowed for me,  
with the faith and the love  
that are in Christ Jesus.

The saying is sure,  
and worthy of acceptance by all:  
that Christ Jesus came into the world  
to save sinners.  
I was surely the worst of them all,  
and for that very reason,  
I received mercy,  
so that in me (the worst of sinners),  
Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience,  
making me an example  
to those who would come to believe in him  
and so receive eternal life.  
To the King of the ages,  
immortal, invisible,  
the only God,  
be honour and glory for ever.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 15.1-10*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.  
Tax-collectors and sinners  
were amongst those  
who gathered around Jesus  
to listen to him,  
and the Pharisees and the scribes  
were grumbling and saying,  
'This fellow welcomes sinners  
and eats with them.'  
So Jesus told them this parable:  
'Which one of you,  
having a hundred sheep,  
and losing one of them,  
does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness  
and go after the one that is lost  
until you find it?  
When you have found it,  
you lay it on your shoulders and rejoice,  
and when you come home,  
you call together your friends and neighbours,  
saying "Rejoice with me,  
for I have found my sheep that was lost."  
In the same way, I tell you,  
there will be more joy in heaven  
over one sinner who repents  
than over ninety-nine righteous persons  
who need no repentance.  
Or what woman, having ten silver coins,  
if she loses one of them,  
does not light a lamp,  
sweep the house,  
and search carefully  
until she finds it?  
When she has found it,  
she calls together her friends and neighbours,  
saying, "Rejoice with me,  
for I have found the silver coin that I had lost."  
In the same way, I tell you,  
there is joy in the presence of the angels of God  
over one sinner who repents.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – *Amos 8.4-7*

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Hear this,

you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin  
the poor of the land!

You long for the new moon festival to be over  
so that you may return to selling grain.

You long for the sabbath to be over,  
so that we may return to selling wheat.

You make dishonest measures,  
balances, and weights.

You buy the poor for silver,  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and you sell the sweepings of the wheat.

The Lord has sworn,

by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget your deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 113

### SECOND READING – *1 Timothy 2.1-8*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

I urge that supplications,

prayers, intercessions,  
and thanksgivings  
be made for everyone:

including for kings

and all who are in authority,

so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life  
in all godliness and dignity.

This is right, and is acceptable

in the sight of God our Saviour,

who longs for everyone to be saved

and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

There is one God,

and one mediator

between God and humankind -

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself as a ransom for all.

For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle,

a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

And I long that in every place,

everyone can pray,

lifting up holy hands,

without argument or dissent.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 16.1-13*

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

Jesus told this parable to the disciples.

'There was a rich man,

who had a manager,

and charges were brought to him

that the manager

was squandering his property.

So the rich man summoned the manager,  
and said to him,

"What is this that I hear about you?

Give me an account of your management,  
because you cannot be my manager any longer."

Then the manager said to himself,

"What will I do,

now that my master

is taking the position away from me?

I am not strong enough to dig,

and I am ashamed to beg.

I need to decide what to do,

so that when I am dismissed as manager,

people will welcome me

into their households."

So, summoning his master's debtors one by one,

he asked the first,

"How much do you owe my master?"

He answered,

"One hundred jugs of olive oil."

So the manager said to him,

"Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty."

Then he asked another,

"And how much do you owe?"

He replied,

"One hundred containers of wheat."

He said to him,

"Take your bill, and make it eighty."

And his master commended the dishonest manager  
because he had acted shrewdly.

The children of this age

are more shrewd

in dealing with their own generation

than are the children of light!

So I tell you,

use worldly wealth

to make friends for yourselves,

so that when it is all gone,

they may welcome you

into their enduring homes.

Whoever is faithful with little

will be faithful also with much,

whilst whoever is dishonest with little

will be dishonest also with much.

If you have not been faithful

with worldly wealth,

who will entrust you with true riches?

And if you have not been faithful

with what belongs to another,

who will give you anything as your own?

No one can serve two masters;

for a servant will either hate the one

and love the other,

or be devoted to the one

and despise the other.

You cannot serve

both God and wealth.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## MICHAELMAS

### Sunday 29 September

Whittington Patronal Festival  
of Saint Michael the Archangel  
is celebrated with a United Benefice Service  
on the last Sunday in September  
*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.

#### SECOND READING – 1 Timothy 6.6-12a, 17-19

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

There is great gain in godliness  
combined with contentment.

We brought nothing into the world,  
and we can take nothing out of it,  
so if we have food and clothing,  
let us be content with these.

Those who want to be rich  
fall into temptation, and are trapped  
by many senseless and harmful desires  
that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

For the love of wealth  
is the root of all manner of evil,  
and in their eagerness to be rich  
some have wandered away from the faith  
and pierced themselves with many pains.

You, seeking to be godly, should flee from all this,  
to pursue righteousness, godliness,  
faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

Work to be strong in the faith,  
taking hold of the eternal life  
to which you were called.

As for those who, in the present age, are rich,  
command them not to be haughty,  
or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches,  
but rather to set their hopes on God

who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.  
They are to do good, to be rich in good works,  
and to be generous, and ready to share,  
thereby storing up for themselves  
the treasure of a good foundation for the future,  
so that they may take hold  
of the life that really is life.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL – Luke 24.1-9

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn,  
the women who had accompanied Jesus  
came to the tomb,  
taking the spices that they had prepared.

They found the stone  
rolled away from the tomb,  
but when they went in,  
they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this,  
suddenly two men in dazzling clothes  
stood beside them.

The women were terrified  
and bowed their faces to the ground,  
but the men said to them,

'Why do you look for the living amongst the dead?  
He is not here, but has risen.

Remember how he told you,  
while he was still in Galilee,  
that the Son of Man  
must be handed over to sinners,  
and be crucified,  
and on the third day, rise again.'

Then they remembered Jesus' words,  
and returning from the tomb,  
they told all this to the eleven  
and to all the others.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 6 October

Readings for Year C

### FIRST READING – Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

The Israelites said to them,

‘If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’

Then the Lord said to Moses,

‘I am going to rain down bread from heaven for you, and each day, the people shall go out and gather it.’

And Moses said to Aaron,

‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the Lord, for the Lord has heard your complaining.”’

And as Aaron spoke

to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said,

‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites;

say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.”’

In the evening, quails came up, and covered the camp;

and in the morning, there was a layer of dew around the camp.

When the layer of dew lifted,

there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

When the Israelites saw it,

they said to one another, ‘What is it?’

For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them,

‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.’

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 78.23-29

### SECOND READING – Philippians 4.4-9

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.

Finally, beloved,

whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing the things

that you have learned and received

and heard from me,

and seen in me,

and the God of peace will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – John 6.27-35

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

Jesus said,

‘Do not work for the food that perishes, but work for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you - for it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’

Then they said to him,

‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’

Jesus answered them,

‘This is the work of God: that you believe in the one whom God has sent.’

So they said to him,

‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written,

“He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”’

Then Jesus said to them,

‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God

is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’

They said to him,

‘Sir, give us this bread always.’

Jesus said to them,

‘I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – 2 Kings 5.1-3, 5b, 9-15b

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman was the commander  
of the army of Aram,  
great, and highly respected,  
because by him  
the Lord had given victory to Aram.  
And yet this mighty warrior  
suffered from leprosy.  
Now the Arameans,  
on one of their raids,  
had taken a young girl captive  
from the land of Israel,  
and she was now a servant to Naaman's wife.  
She said to her mistress,  
'If only my master could visit the prophet  
who is in Samaria!  
He would cure him of his leprosy.'  
So with the consent of the king,  
Naaman travelled to Israel,  
taking with him ten talents of silver,  
six thousand shekels of gold,  
and ten sets of garments;  
and with his horses and chariots,  
he halted at the entrance of Elisha's house.  
And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying,  
'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times,  
and your flesh shall be restored  
and you shall be clean.'  
But Naaman became angry, and went away, saying,  
'I thought that for me he would surely come out,  
and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God,  
and would wave his hand over the spot,  
and cure the leprosy!  
Are not our own rivers  
better than all the waters of Israel?  
Could I not wash in them, and be clean?'  
And he turned and went away in a rage.  
But his servants approached and said to him,  
'Sir, if the prophet had commanded you  
to do something difficult,  
would you not have done it?  
How much more,  
when all that he said to you was  
"Wash, and be clean"?'  
So Naaman went down  
and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan,  
according to the instruction of Elisha the man of God;  
and Naaman's flesh was restored  
like the flesh of a child,  
and he was clean.  
Then Naaman returned to Elisha the man of God,  
Naaman and all his company.  
Naaman came and stood before Elisha, and said,  
'Now I know that there is no God in all the earth  
except in Israel.'  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Psalm 111**

### SECOND READING – 2 Timothy 3.11b-17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

What persecutions I have endured!  
Yet the Lord has rescued me from all of them.  
All who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus  
will be persecuted.  
Wicked people, and impostors,  
will go from bad to worse,  
deceiving others,  
and being deceived.  
But as for you,  
continue in what you have learned,  
and firmly believed,  
trusting those who taught you,  
and trusting in the sacred writings  
that you have known from childhood  
that are able to instruct you for salvation  
through faith in Christ Jesus.  
All scripture is inspired by God  
and is useful for teaching,  
for reproof, for correction,  
and for training in righteousness,  
so that everyone who belongs to God  
may be fully equipped for every good work.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – Luke 17.11-19

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.  
On the way to Jerusalem,  
Jesus was going through the region  
between Samaria and Galilee.  
As he entered a village,  
ten lepers approached him.  
Keeping their distance,  
they called out, saying,  
'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'  
When he saw them,  
he said to them,  
'Go and show yourselves to the priests.'  
And as they went,  
they were made clean.  
Then one of them,  
when he saw that he was healed,  
turned back,  
praising God with a loud voice.  
He fell at Jesus' feet,  
and thanked him.  
And he was a Samaritan.  
Jesus asked,  
'Were not ten made clean?  
Where are the other nine?  
Has none returned  
to give glory to God  
except this foreigner?'  
And he said to the Samaritan,  
'Get up, and go on your way;  
your faith has made you well.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – *Genesis 32.22-30*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

By night, Jacob got up,  
and took his two wives,  
his two maids,  
and his eleven children,  
to cross the ford of the Jabbok.  
He took them to the stream,  
and sent them across,  
and likewise everything that he had.  
Jacob was left alone;  
and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

When he saw  
that he did not prevail against Jacob,  
he struck Jacob on the hip,  
and Jacob's hip was put out of joint;  
and he said,  
'Let me go, for the day is breaking.'

But Jacob said,  
'I will not let you go,  
unless you bless me.'

So he said to Jacob,  
'What is your name?'

And he said,  
'Jacob.'

Then he said,  
'You shall no longer be called Jacob,  
but Israel,  
for you have striven with God,  
and with mortals,  
and have prevailed.'

Then Jacob asked him,  
'Please tell me your name.'

But he said,  
'Why is it that you ask my name?'  
And there he blessed Jacob.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying,  
'I have seen God face to face,  
and yet my life is preserved.'

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 121

### SECOND READING – *2 Timothy 4.2-5*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Proclaim the message.

Be persistent,  
whether the time is favourable or not.  
Convince, rebuke,  
teach, and encourage,  
with the utmost patience,  
for the time is coming  
when people will no longer listen  
to sound doctrine,  
but having itching ears,  
they will accumulate for themselves  
teachers to suit their own desires,  
and will turn away from listening to the truth,  
and wander away to myths.  
As for you,  
be sober-minded in all situations,  
and show endurance through all hardships.  
Proclaim the good news,  
and fulfil your ministry.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 18.1-8a*

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

Jesus told his disciples a parable  
about their need to pray always  
and not to lose heart.

Jesus said,  
'In a certain city, there was a judge,  
who neither feared God  
nor respected people.  
In that city there was a widow,  
who kept coming to him, and saying,  
"Grant me justice against my opponent."

For a while he refused;  
but later he said to himself,  
"I have no fear of God  
and no respect for anyone;  
but because this widow keeps bothering me,  
I will grant her justice,  
so that she may not wear me out  
with her constant demands."

And the Lord said,  
'Listen to what the unjust judge says.

And will not God grant justice  
to his chosen ones  
who cry to him  
day and night?

Will he delay long in helping them?  
I tell you,

God will quickly grant them justice.  
And yet when the Son of Man comes,  
will he find such faith on earth?'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER

*Readings for Year C*

### FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 14.7-8a, 21b-22a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

O Lord,  
our wickedness  
testifies against us,  
and our trespasses are many,  
for we have rebelled against you.

Even so,  
help us, O Lord,  
for the sake of your name,  
O hope of Israel,  
our saviour in time of trouble.  
Do not dishonour your glorious throne.  
Remember the covenant you made.

We set our hope on you,  
O Lord our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 84.1-7

### SECOND READING – *2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17-18*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

For my part,  
I am already being poured out like an offering,  
and the time of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.

What lies ahead  
is to receive the crown  
of 'having been made right with God',  
which the Lord,  
the righteous judge,  
will present to me on that day -

and not only to me,  
but to all who have longed  
for the Lord's appearing.

The Lord has stood by me,  
and has given me strength,  
so that through me,  
the message might be fully proclaimed  
to the Gentiles.

The Lord has saved me from the lion's mouth,  
and will rescue me from every evil attack,  
saving me for his heavenly kingdom.

To him be the glory for ever and ever!

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 18.9-14*

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

Jesus told this parable  
to some who were self-righteous,  
and who regarded others with contempt:  
'Two men went up to the temple to pray,  
one a Pharisee,  
and the other a tax-collector.

The Pharisee,  
standing by himself, said:  
"God, I thank you  
that I am not like other people:  
thieves, rogues, adulterers;  
or even like this tax-collector.  
I fast twice a week;  
I give a tenth of all my income."

But the tax-collector,  
standing far off,  
would not even look up to heaven,  
but was beating his breast, and saying,  
"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

I tell you,  
this man returned to his home  
made right with God,  
rather than the other;  
for all who exalt themselves  
will be humbled,  
and all who humble themselves  
will be exalted.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

#### 4 BEFORE ADVENT – ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday 3 November

Readings for Year C

##### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 25.6-9*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Here on this holy mountain,  
the Lord of Hosts  
will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food and fine wine,  
and will destroy the shroud  
that is cast over the peoples,  
the shadow that hangs over the nations.  
The Lord God  
will swallow up death for ever,  
and wipe all tears away.  
The disgrace of his people  
he will take away from all the earth;  
the Lord has spoken.  
They will say on that day,  
'This is our God.  
We have waited for him,  
that he might save us.  
This is the Lord  
for whom we have waited.  
Let us be glad  
and rejoice in his salvation.'  
This is the word of the Lord.

##### Psalm 24

##### SECOND READING – *2 Thessalonians 1.1-4, 11-12*

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

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
to the church of the Thessalonians,  
in God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you, and peace,  
from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
We always give thanks to God for you,  
brothers and sisters,  
as is right,  
because your faith is growing abundantly,  
and the love of every one of you  
for one another  
is increasing.  
For the same reason,  
amongst all the churches of God,  
we boast of your steadfastness and your faith,  
during all your persecutions,  
and the hardships that you are enduring.  
We also pray for you,  
asking that our God will make you worthy of his call,  
and will fulfil, by his power,  
your every desire to do good,  
and your every work of faith,  
so that the name of our Lord Jesus  
may be glorified in you,  
and so that you may be glorified in him,  
according to the grace of our God  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
This is the word of the Lord.

##### GOSPEL – *Luke 19.1-10*

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

Jesus entered Jericho  
and was passing through it.  
A man was there named Zacchaeus;  
he was a chief tax-collector, and was rich.  
He was trying to see who Jesus was,  
but on account of the crowd,  
he could not see,  
because he was short in stature.  
So he ran ahead,  
and climbed a sycamore tree  
to see Jesus,  
because he was going to pass that way.  
When Jesus came to the place,  
he looked up and said to him,  
'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down;  
for I must stay at your house today.'  
So he hurried down  
and was happy to welcome Jesus.  
All who saw it began to grumble and said,  
'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.'  
Zacchaeus stood before the Lord, and said,  
'See, half of my possessions, Lord,  
I will give to the poor;  
and if I have defrauded anyone of anything,  
I will pay back four times as much.'  
Jesus said,  
'Today, salvation has come to this house,  
because this man too  
is a son of Abraham,  
and the Son of Man came  
to seek out and to save the lost.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### 3 BEFORE ADVENT

**Sunday 10 November**

*Readings for Year C*

#### **FIRST READING** – *Job 19.23-26*

A reading from the book of Job.

O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

Or with a chisel, and molten lead,  
engraved in stone for ever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and that at the last,

he will stand upon the earth;  
and after my skin has been destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I shall see God.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### **Psalm 17**

#### **SECOND READING** – *2 Thessalonians 2.16 - 3.5*

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

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself,  
and God our Father,

who loved us, and through grace  
gave us eternal comfort and good hope,

comfort your hearts

and strengthen you

in every good word and good work.

My brothers and sisters,

pray for us also,

that the word of the Lord

may spread rapidly

and be glorified everywhere,

just as it is amongst you,

and that we may be protected

from wicked and evil people,

for not all have faith.

But the Lord is faithful,

and will strengthen you,

and guard you from the evil one.

And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you,

that you are living (and will go on living)

according to all that we taught you.

May the Lord direct your hearts

to the love of God

and to the steadfastness of Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### **GOSPEL** – *Luke 19.41-48*

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

As Jesus approached Jerusalem,

and saw the city,

he wept over it, saying,

'If you, O Jerusalem,

had only recognised

at this time

the things that make for peace!

But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Indeed, the days will come upon you,

when your enemies

will set up ramparts

and surround you,

and hem you in on every side.

They will crush you to the ground,

you and your children within you,

and they will not leave within you

one stone upon another;

because you did not recognise

the time of your visitation from God.'

Then he entered the temple

and began to drive out

those who were trading there;

and he said,

'It is written,

"My house shall be a house of prayer";

but you have made it a den of robbers.'

Every day he was teaching in the temple.

The chief priests, the scribes,

and the leaders of the people

kept looking for a way to kill him;

but they did not find anything they could do,

for all the people were eager

to hear his every word.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## 2 BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 17 November

Readings for Year C

### FIRST READING – *Malachi 4.1-2a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

See, the day is coming,

burning like an oven,

when all the arrogant and all evildoers  
will be stubble.

The day that comes shall burn them up,

says the Lord of hosts,

so that it will leave them

neither root nor branch.

But for you who revere my name,

the sun of righteousness shall rise,

with healing in its wings.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 98

### SECOND READING – *2 Thessalonians 3.6-13*

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

Now we command you, beloved,

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

to keep away from believers

who are living in idleness,

and not according to the tradition

that they received from us.

For you yourselves know

how you ought to imitate us:

we were not idle

when we were with you,

and we did not eat anyone's bread

without paying for it;

but with toil and labour

we worked night and day,

so that we might not be a burden

to any of you.

This was not because

we do not have that right,

but in order to give you an example to imitate.

For even when we were with you,

we gave you this command:

those who are unwilling to work

should not eat.

For we hear that some of you

are living in idleness,

mere busybodies,

not doing any work.

Now such persons we command and exhort

in the Lord Jesus Christ

to do their work quietly,

and to earn their own living.

Brothers and sisters,

do not be weary

in doing what is right.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 21.5-19*

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

Some were speaking about the temple,  
how it was adorned with beautiful stones,  
and gifts dedicated to God.

Jesus said,

'As for these things that you see,

the days will come

when not one stone

will be left upon another;

all will be thrown down.'

They asked him,

'Teacher, when will this be,

and what will be the sign

that these things

are about to take place?'

And Jesus said,

'Beware that you are not led astray;

for many will come in my name, and say,

"I am he!" and, "The time is near!"

Do not go after them.

When you hear of wars and rebellions,

do not be afraid,

for these things must take place first,

but they do not mean that the end is near.

Nation will rise against nation,

and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be great earthquakes,

and in various places famines and plagues;

and there will be terrors

and signs in the sky.

Even before all this occurs,

they will arrest you and persecute you;

they will hand you over

to synagogues and prisons,

and you will be brought before kings and governors

because of my name.

This will give you an opportunity to testify.

So make up your minds

not to prepare your defence in advance;

for I will give you words and a wisdom

that none of your opponents

will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be betrayed

even by parents and brothers,

by relatives and friends;

and they will put some of you to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name.

But not a hair of your head will perish.

By your endurance, you will gain your life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## CHRIST THE KING

Last Sunday before Advent

Sunday 24 November

Readings for Year C

### FIRST READING – 2 Samuel 5.1-3

A reading from the Second book of Samuel.

All the tribes of Israel

came to David at Hebron, and said,

'Look, we are your own flesh and blood.

Even while Saul has been king over us,

you have been the one

who has led us out

and brought us in,

for the Lord spoke to you, saying:

"It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel,  
and you who shall be ruler over Israel."

So all the elders of Israel

came to the king at Hebron;

and King David made a covenant with them,

at Hebron, before the Lord,

and they anointed David king over Israel.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 46

### SECOND READING – Colossians 1.13-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

God has rescued us from the power of darkness

and has transferred us into the kingdom

of his beloved Son,

in whom we have redemption,

the forgiveness of sins.

Christ is the image of the invisible God;

the firstborn, from before all creation.

In him, all things,

in heaven and on earth,

were created,

both visible and invisible

(thrones, dominions, rulers and powers).

All things have been created through him,

and for him.

He existed before all things,

and in him,

all things hold together.

He is also the head

of the body which is the church.

He is the beginning,

the firstborn from the dead.

He has first place in everything,

for in him,

all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

and through him

God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself,

whether on earth or in heaven,

by making peace

through the blood of the cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – Luke 23.33-43

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull,

they crucified Jesus there,

with the criminals,

one on his right, and one on his left.

Then Jesus said,

'Father, forgive them;

for they do not know what they are doing.'

And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

And the people stood by, watching;

but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

'He saved others;

let him save himself

if he is the Messiah of God,

God's chosen one!'

The soldiers also mocked him,

coming up and offering him sour wine,

and saying,

'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!'

There was also an inscription over him,

'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals crucified with him

kept deriding him and saying,

'Are you not the Messiah?

Save yourself and us!'

But the other rebuked him, saying,

'Do you not fear God,

since you are under

the same sentence of condemnation?

And we indeed have been condemned justly,

for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds,

but this man has done nothing wrong.'

Then he said,

'Jesus, remember me

when you come into your kingdom.'

Jesus replied,

'Truly I tell you,

today you will be with me in Paradise.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.