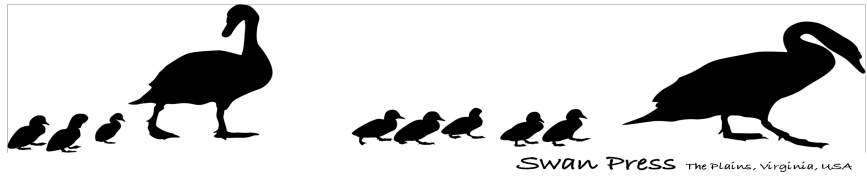


The Liturgical Year Gospels  
Of The  
Holy Orthodox Church



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Preface

*[to be completed later]*

## PASCHA

*The Resurrection of Christ, the Passover (Pascha) of the Lord: Jn 1.1-17*

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was by God, and the Word was God. He was by God in the very beginning. Everything came into being through him, and no existence was created apart from him. In him there was life, and that life was the Light of men. That Light shines in the darkness. But the darkness cannot overpower it. A man whose name was John was sent by God. 7 He came as a witness to bear testimony to the Light, and to help all men to believe through him. He was not the Light. He came only to bear testimony to the Light. The true Light is that which enlightens every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him. Yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own home. Yet his own people did not receive him. But he empowered all those who received him and who believed in his name to become children of God, because they owe their rebirth not to human blood nor to the will of the flesh, but to God. So the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, such as belongs to the only-begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified to him when he cried: "This is the one of whom I said: 'He comes after me, but he is above me, because he existed before me.'" We have all received from his abundance grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses. But grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

*Bright Monday: Jn 1.18-28*

**N**o man has ever seen God. The only begotten Son, who abides in the Father's bosom, revealed him to us. Here is the testimony of John when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and asked him: "Who are you?" He asserted, he did not dissemble, he asserted openly: "I am not the Messiah." For the second time, they asked him: "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?" He answered: "I am not." For the third time, they asked him: "Are you the Prophet?" He answered: "No." For the fourth time they asked him: "Who are you then? Tell us, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say for yourself?" He replied: "I am preaching in the desert: 'Straighten out the road of the Lord,' as the Prophet Isaiah said." Now, those who had been sent were Pharisees. At last, they asked him: "Then why do you baptize, if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" He answered them: "I baptize with water. But in your midst is standing one whom you do not recognize. He comes after me, but he is so superior to me that I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." These events took place in Bethany, beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

*Bright Tuesday, Lk 24.12-35*

**P**eter, however, got up, ran to the tomb, stooped down, saw nothing but the linen bandages, and went away wondering at what had happened. On that very day, two of the Disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about all these events. While they were discussing and debating, Jesus himself approached and walked with them. But their eyes were blinded, and they could not recognize him. He asked them: "What are you talking about? And why do you look so sad?" One of them called Cleopas answered him: "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know what has happened there in these days?" He asked them again: "What was it?" They replied: "It was about Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. Our chief priests and leaders delivered him to be sentenced to death and crucified. "We hoped that he would be the redeemer of Israel. Now this is the third day since these events have occurred. In the meantime, some of our women have startled us. For they went to the tomb early in the morning. They could not find his body. And they came back saying that they had seen a vision of Angels, who declared to them that he is alive. So some of us went to the tomb and found things exactly as the women had stated. But they did not see Jesus." Then he told them: "O foolish and dull-witted men, unable to believe what the Prophets have foretold! You know that Christ had to endure this passion and enter his glory." Then, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted the passages referring to himself throughout the Scriptures. In the meantime, they approached the village to which they were walking. He pretended to be going further. But they pressed him, saying: "Stay with us, for it is late and it is getting dark." He consented to stay with them. When he sat down at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Thereupon their eyes were opened and they recognized him. But he vanished from their sight. Then they said to one another: "This was the reason why our hearts burned within us when he was talking to us on the road and interpreting the Scriptures for us." So they got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven Apostles and their friends gathered together, who told them that the Lord had really risen from the dead and that he had appeared to Simon. Then they related their own experience on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

*Bright Wednesday: Jn 1.35-51*

**O**n the next day, John was standing with two of his Disciples. He looked at Jesus, as he walked about, and said: "Here is the Lamb of God." The two Disciples heard his remark and followed Jesus. He turned around, saw them following, and asked them: "What do you want?" They answered him: "Rabbi, which translated means Master, where are you staying?" He replied: "Come and see." So they went to see where he was staying, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was then about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two Disciples, who had heard John's remark and followed Jesus, was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. The first thing he did was to find his brother Simon and tell him: "We have found the Messiah," which translated means Christ. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said: "You are Simon, the son of John; your name will be Kephias," which translated means Peter. On the following day, Jesus decided to leave for Galilee, where he found Philip, and told him: "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the home town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him: "We have found the man of whom Moses and the Prophets wrote in the Scriptures, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael replied: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip told him: "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, and said of him: "Here is a genuine Israelite, in whom there is no guile." Nathanael asked him: "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him: "Even before Philip called you, I saw you while you were under the fig tree." Nathanael said: "Rabbi you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel." Jesus said to him: "You believe, because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree. You will see greater wonders than that." Then he added: "Well, well, I assure you, from now on, you will see heaven open wide and the Angels of God ascending and descending upon the Messiah."



*Bright Thursday: Jn 3.1-15*

**T**here was a man named Nicodemus, a Pharisee, and a leader of the Jews. This man came to Jesus at night, and said to him: "Master we know that you have been sent by God to teach us. For without divine power you could not perform the miracles you do." Jesus answered him: "Well, well, I tell you, no man can see the Kingdom of God unless he is reborn from above." Nicodemus asked him: "How can a man be reborn when he is old? He cannot enter his mother's womb and be born over again." Jesus replied: "Well, well, I tell you, no man can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is reborn through water and through the Holy Spirit. Whoever is born of the flesh is physical, and whoever is born of the Holy Spirit is spiritual. "Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be reborn. The Holy Spirit blows like the wind wherever it chooses. You hear its sound. But you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with every man who is born of the Holy Spirit." Nicodemus asked him: "How can such a rebirth take place?" Jesus answered him: "You are a teacher of Israel and you should be able to understand it. Well, well, I tell you, I speak of what I know, and I proclaim what I have seen. But you do not accept my testimony. If you do not believe me when I speak to you about earthly trifles, how can you believe me when I speak to you about heavenly doctrines? "The Messiah, who descended from heaven is the only one who ascended into heaven, where he is dwelling. Now, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Messiah be lifted up also. Then whoever believes in him will not perish, but will find everlasting life.

*Bright Friday: Jn 2.12-22*

**A**fter this incident, he went to Capernaum with his Mother, his brethren, and his Disciples. They remained there for a few days. Then, as the Jewish Passover was drawing near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found the merchants selling oxen, sheep, and pigeons, and the money-changers busy with their trade. So he made a whip of cords, and drove them all out of the temple with their sheep and oxen. He scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He said to the pigeon-sellers: "Take these birds away. Do not turn my Father's house into a market." Then his Disciples remembered the Scriptural passage: "I am consumed by zeal for your house, O Lord." Thereupon, the Jews approached him and asked him: "What evidence of authority can you show us for your acts?" Jesus answered them: "Tear down this temple, and in three days I will rebuild it." The Jews replied: "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to rebuild it in three days?" But what he was speaking of was the temple of his body. Therefore, when he had risen from the dead, his Disciples recalled what he had said, and believed the Scriptures and the prophecy Jesus had made.

*The Life-Giving Spring of the Most Holy Theotokos: Lk 10.38-42; 11.27, 28*

**A**s Jesus went along, he entered a village. A woman named Martha received him in her home. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. Martha was over-busy with much serving. So she went to him and said: "My Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me." Jesus answered her: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen that good part which must not be taken away from her." As he made this statement, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said: "Blessed is the mother who bore you and nursed you." But he said: "Blessed are those who hear the Gospel and obey it."

*Bright Saturday: Jn 3.22-33*

**A**fter this incident Jesus, accompanied by his Disciples, went to the land of Judea where he stayed with them and baptized. John also was baptizing in Enon near Salim. There was plenty of water there. So people came to him and were baptized. For John had not yet been imprisoned. Then a dispute arose between some of John's Disciples and a Jew about purification. So they came to John and told him: "Rabbi, the man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan, and to whom you bore testimony, is now baptizing, and everybody is going to him." John answered them: "No one can receive any authority unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses. I have told you that I am not the Messiah, but only his forerunner. Whoever has the bride is the bridegroom. The bridegroom's friend, who stays, by him and listens to him, is filled with joy at the bridegroom's voice. Now this joy of mine is complete. He must go up, and I must go down. "He who comes from above is above all others. He who springs from earth belongs to earth and speaks the language of earth. But he who comes from heaven is above all those springing from earth. He bears testimony to what he has seen and heard. Yet no one accepts his testimony. But whoever accepts his testimony, has declared that the Gospel is true.

*Second Sunday of Pascha*

*Thomas Sunday, Jn 20.19-31*

**I**t was the evening of that first day of the week. The doors where the Disciples were assembled had been locked for fear of the Jews. Suddenly, Jesus came in, stood in their midst, and said to them: "Peace unto you." After these words he showed them his hands and his side. The Disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Then Jesus said to them again: "Peace unto you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you also." Thereupon, he breathed on them, and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whatever sins you forgive they are forgiven. Whatever sins you retain they are retained." Thomas, one of the twelve Apostles, who was called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. Therefore the other Disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he answered them: "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, the Disciples were indoors again. Thomas was with them this time. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came in again, stood in their midst, and said to them: "Peace unto you." Then he said to Thomas: "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Place your hand into my side, and do not doubt, but believe." Thomas answered: "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "You believe now, because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet believe." Many other miracles, performed by Jesus in the presence of his Disciples, are not to be found in this Book. But these few miracles have been recorded, because they will help you to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. This belief will enable you to inherit everlasting life in his name.

*Third Sunday of Pascha*

*Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women and Sunday of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, Mk 15.43-16.8*

**T**hen Joseph of Arimathea, a high-ranking counsellor, who was also waiting for the Kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was astonished that Jesus had died so soon. So he summoned the Centurion and asked him whether he was already dead. When he heard his report, Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen shroud, took him down from the Cross, wrapped him in the shroud, laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joseph, observed the tomb in which he was laid. Right after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought perfumes in order to go and anoint Jesus. They went to the tomb very early in the morning of the first day of the week soon after sunrise. On their way they asked one another: "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they noticed that the huge stone had been already rolled away. So they went into the tomb and saw a young man dressed in white on the right side. They were astonished. But he told them: "Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here. This is the place where they laid him. But go, tell his Disciples and Peter that he is waiting for you in Galilee. There you will see him as he told you." Terrified and bewildered, the women ran out, fled from the tomb, and said nothing to anyone. For they were afraid.

*Fourth Sunday of Pascha*

*Sunday of the Paralytic, Jn 5.1-15*

**A**fter this incident there was a Jewish festival. So Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porches. In these lay a crowd of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the disturbance of the water. For an Angel of the Lord came down from time to time into the Pool and disturbed the water. Thereupon the first man who went down into the pool after the agitation of the water recovered from whatever disease he had been afflicted with. Now there was a man there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there for a long time. So he said to him: "Do you want to become well?" The sick man answered him: "My Lord, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is disturbed For while I am on my way, someone else steps down before me." Jesus said to him: "Rise, take up your bed, and walk" At once, the man was healed. He took up his bed and went away. Now that was the Sabbath day. Therefore the Jews told the man who was cured: "It is the Sabbath day. It is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them: "The man who healed me told me to take up my bed and walk." They asked him: "Who is the man who told you to take up your bed and walk?" But the man who had been cured did not know who it was. For Jesus had slipped away, as there was a crowd in that place. Afterward, Jesus came across him in the temple, and said to him: "Look, now you are well. Do not sin any more. Otherwise, something worse will happen to you." Then the man went off and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

*Fourth Week of Pascha*

*Fifth Sunday of Pascha*

*Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, Jn 4.5-42*

**S**o he came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the tract of land which Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, tired after his journey, sat down at the spring. It was then about noon. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her: "Give me a drink." For his Disciples had gone to the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman asked him: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan, to give you a drink?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her: "If you knew the gift of God and the man who has told you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said: "My Lord, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our Father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself as well as his sons and his cattle?" Jesus answered her: "Anyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give him, will never be thirsty any more. The water I give him will be a fountain of water leaping up to eternal life." The woman said to him: "My Lord, give me that water so that I may never be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw water." Jesus said to her: "Go home, call your husband, and come back here." The woman answered him: "I have no husband." Jesus said to her: "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband.' You have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. You have told me the truth." The woman replied: "My Lord, I see that you are a prophet. Now our ancestors have worshipped on this mountain. But you say that the proper place for worship is Jerusalem." Jesus said to her: "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship something you do not know. We worship what we do know, for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and it has come already, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for these are the worshippers that the Father wants. God is a spirit, and his worshippers must worship him in spirit and truth." The woman replied: "I know that the Messiah, namely Christ, is coming. When he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her: "I who speak to you am the Messiah." Thereupon, his Disciples returned, and were surprised that he was talking to a woman. Yet no one asked: "What is it?" or



"Why are you talking with her?" Then the woman left her water-jar, went off to the city, and said to the people: "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done. He may be the Messiah." So they left the city and went to find him. In the meantime, his Disciples were urging him: "Rabbi, eat something." Jesus answered them: "I have food to eat of which you know nothing." The Disciples said to one another: "Somebody may have brought him food." Jesus replied: "My food is to do the will of the Father who sent me, and to accomplish his work. You say: 'After four months comes the harvest.' But I tell you, lift up your eyes, look, the fields are already white for harvesting. The reaper is receiving his wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life. Then sower and reaper rejoice together. Here the proverb holds true: One sows, and another reaps. I sent you to reap a crop for which you did not labor. Others have labored and you reap the harvest of their labor." Many Samaritans of that town believed in him on account of the woman who testified: "He told me everything I have ever done." So after the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them. He stayed there for two days, and many more believed on account of what he told them. Then they said to the woman: "We no longer believe on account of your report. For we have heard him ourselves, and we know that he is really the Messiah, the Savior of mankind."

*Sixth Sunday of Pascha*

*Sunday of the Blind Man, Jn 9.1-38*

**A**s Jesus was passing along, he saw a man blind from his birth. His Disciples asked him: "Master, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus replied: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. But he will provide an opportunity for the manifestation of the miracles of God. I must work in the service of the Father who sent me while it is day. Because the night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After this remark he spat on the ground, made clay with the saliva, anointed the blind man's eyes with it, and said to him: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam," which means Sent. So he went, washed his eyes, and came back with his eyesight restored. The neighbors and those who had seen him blind before began to ask: "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said: "This is the man." Others said: "No, he resembles him." But he himself said: "I am the man." Therefore they asked him: "How is it that your eyes were opened?" He replied: "A man called Jesus made clay, anointed my eyes, and told me to go to the pool of Siloam and wash them. So I went, I washed them, and I recovered my eyesight." They asked him: "Where is he?" He answered: "I do not know." They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It was the Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked the man how he had recovered his eyesight. He answered them: "He put clay on my eyes, then I washed them, and now I can see." Some of the Pharisees remarked: "This man does not come from God, because he does not observe the Sabbath day." But others said: "How can a sinner perform such miracle?" Thus there was a division of opinion among them. Then they asked the blind man again: "What do you think about the man who opened your eyes?" He replied: "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had recovered his eyesight. Therefore they called his parents, and questioned them: "Is this your son who was born blind? How is it that he can see now?" His parents answered them: "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But we do not know how he can see now, and we do not know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age, let him speak for himself." His parents gave this reply because they were afraid of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah. For this reason his parents replied: "He is of age, ask the

man himself." For the second time, they called the man who had been blind, and said to him: "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He replied: "I do not know whether he is a sinner or not. All I know is that I was blind and now I can see." Then they asked him again: "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them: "I have already told you, but you do not listen to me. Why do you want to hear it over again? Do you want to become his disciples?" They reviled him, and said to him: "You are his disciple. We are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses. But we do not know where that man comes from." The man replied: "Well, this is astonishing. You do not know where he comes from. Yet he has opened my eyes. We know that God does not answer the prayers of sinners. He answers only the prayers of devout men who obey his will. Since the world began, it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. Now, if this man did not come from God, he could do nothing." They answered him: "You were born in utter sin, and you presume to give us lessons?" And they cast him out. When Jesus heard that they had cast him out, he went to find him, and asked him: "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered: "My Lord, I believe in him, but where is he?" Jesus replied: "You have seen him already. He is now talking with you." Then he said: "My Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him.

*Thursday - The Ascension of Our Lord, Lk 24.36-53*

**A**s the Disciples were discussing this incident, Jesus stood in their midst and said: "Peace unto you." Frightened and terrified, they thought that they were seeing a ghost. But he said to them: "Why are you upset and perplexed? Look at my hands and my feet, and be assured that it is really I. Feel me and see for yourselves. A ghost has not flesh and bones, as you see I have." After these words he showed them his hands and his feet. Still they could not believe their eyes, as they were wild with joy. Then he asked them: "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish and a honeycomb. He took them and ate them in their presence. Then he told them: "While I was still with you, I especially emphasized that all the prophecies referring to me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." Thereupon he enlightened their minds and made them understand the Scriptures. He added: "It was written in the Scriptures that Christ should suffer, and rise from the dead on the third day, that repentance and remission of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You must bear testimony to all these facts. Remember, I will send you the Comforter whom my Father has promised you. Therefore stay in the city of Jerusalem until you are invested with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, lifted up his hands, and blessed them. While he was still blessing them, he parted from them, and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and remained continually in the temple praising and glorifying God.

*Seventh Sunday of Pascha*

*Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, Jn 17.1-13*

**A**fter these words Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son that your Son may glorify you. For you have given him authority over all mankind, and empowered him to grant everlasting life to those you have entrusted to him. "Everlasting life means to acknowledge you as the only true God, and to acknowledge Jesus Christ as your messenger. I have glorified you on earth. I have accomplished the task you have given me to do. Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory which I had with you before the world was created." "I have manifested your name to the men you gave me from the world. They were yours. You have given them to me. And they obeyed your commandments. Now they know that all my gifts come from you. For I gave them your Gospel. They have received it, because they know that I have come from you, and they believe that you have sent me. "I have a request to make for them. I do not make this request for strangers, but for those you have entrusted to me. For they are yours. Now all that is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine, and I am glorified in them. I will not remain in this world any longer. But they remain in this world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep in your name those you have entrusted to me. Then they will be united also, as we are. "As long as I was with them in this world, I kept and protected in your name those whom you entrusted to me. None of them was lost except the son of perdition, in fulfillment of the Scriptures. But now I am coming to you. Therefore I make these requests, while I am still in this world. So they will have the full measure of my joy in themselves.

*Seventh Week of Pascha*

*Sunday of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Jn 7.37-52; 8.12*

**O**n the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood up and exclaimed: "Whoever is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. As the Scripture says, streams of living water will flow from the heart of the man who believes in me." He made this remark about the Spirit which those who believed in him were to receive. Now the Holy Spirit had not yet come, because Jesus had not yet been glorified. Some of the people who heard these words said: "This is certainly the Prophet." Some said: "This is the Messiah." Others said: "What! Does the Messiah come from Galilee? No. For the Scripture says that he comes from the house of David, and from Bethlehem where David lived." So a dissension arose among the crowd about him. Some of them wanted to arrest him. But no one laid hands on him. Then the officers went back to the high priests and Pharisees, who asked them: "Why did you not bring him?" The officers replied: "No man ever preached like this man." The Pharisees retorted: "Are you also led astray? Has any one of the leaders or of the Pharisees believed in him? But these common people who do not know the Law are cursed." Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night and was one of his followers, asked them: "Does our Law condemn a man without giving him a hearing and finding out what he has done?" They answered him: "Are you also from Galilee? Study the Scriptures and you will find that no prophet has ever arisen from Galilee." Then Jesus preached to the people and said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

*First Sunday after Pentecost*

*Sunday of All Saints, Mt 10.32, 33, 37, 38; 19.27-30*

**T**herefore everyone who acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge him also before my Father in heaven. But everyone who denies me before men, I will deny him also before my Father in heaven. "Everyone who loves father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me. Everyone who loves son or daughter more than me, is not worthy of me. And everyone who does not take his cross and follow me, is not worthy of me. Then Peter asked him: "Listen, we have given up everything and followed you. What reward are we going to get?" Jesus answered him: "Well, I tell you, in the new world, when the Messiah will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will sit on twelve thrones and will judge the twelve tribes of Israel. Then everyone who has given up houses, or land, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold reward and will inherit everlasting life. Then many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

*Second Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 4.18-23*

**A**s Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the Sea. For they were fishermen. He said to them: "Follow me. I will make you fishers of men." Immediately, they dropped their nets and followed him. As he was going further on, he saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were repairing their nets in a boat with their father Zebedee. Jesus called them. They left their boat and their father immediately, and followed him. Then Jesus went all over Galilee. He preached in the synagogues and proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom. He healed every disease and every infirmity of the people.



*Third Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 6.22-33*

**T**he eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your entire body will be full of light. But if your eye is blind, your entire body will be full of darkness. Therefore, if your light is darkness, how deep the darkness will be! "No one can serve two masters. For either he will hate one and love the other, or he will support one and oppose the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon." "Therefore I tell you: Do not worry about what you will eat and what you will drink to sustain your life, nor about what you will wear to protect your body. By worrying you ruin your life which is more important than food, and you ruin your body which is more important than clothing." "Look at the birds of the sky. They do not sow, or reap, or store their food in barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. You are certainly more important than the birds. Moreover, no one of you can add a single cubit to his span of life by worrying about it. "Why do you worry about clothing? See how the lilies of the field are flourishing. They do not toil or spin. Yet I tell you: Even Solomon in all his glory was never dressed like one of them. Now, if God so clothes the wild flowers, which bloom today and are thrown into the furnace tomorrow, then he will much more clothe you, a men of little faith." "Therefore do not worry and do not ask what we shall eat, or what we shall drink, or what we shall wear. For the pagans are looking for all these comforts. Remember, your Father in heaven knows that you need them. But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. For then you will have all these other comforts besides.

*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils, Mt 8.5-13*

**A**s he was entering Capernaum, a Roman centurion came to him, implored him, and said: "My Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at my house in dreadful agony." Jesus answered him: "I will come and heal him." The centurion replied: "My Lord, I am not worthy to receive you under my roof. But simply say a word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am serving in the army and I give orders to the soldiers under my command. I tell this one to go, and he goes. I tell another to come, and he comes. I tell my servant to do something, and he does it." When Jesus heard this remark, he was astonished, and said to his followers: "Well, I tell you, I have never found such great faith even in Israel. And I tell you that many will come from the east and from the west to take their places in the Kingdom of Heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But the sons of the Kingdom will be cast into the outer darkness, where sinners are wailing and gnashing their teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion: "Go, and let your servant be healed as you have believed." Indeed his servant was healed at that very moment.

*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 8.28-9.1*

**W**hen Jesus reached the other shore in the region of the Gergesenes, he was met by two demoniacs, who came out from the tombs. They were so fierce that nobody could pass along that road. Suddenly, they shouted and asked: "What do you want from us, Jesus, Son of God? Did you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" A great herd of swine was grazing at some distance from them. So the demons implored him and said: "If you cast us out, allow us to go into the herd of swine." Jesus answered them: "Go." So they came out of the men and went into the swine. Immediately, the entire herd of swine rushed over the cliff down to the Sea and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, went into the city, and reported the news about the herd and the demoniacs. Thereupon all the inhabitants of the city came out to meet Jesus. When they found him, they asked him to leave their country. So Jesus boarded the ship again, crossed over to the other side, and returned to his own city.

*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 9.1-8*

**S**o Jesus boarded the ship again, crossed over to the other side, and returned to his own city. Thereupon they brought to him a paralytic, stretched out on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic: "Courage, my son. Your sins are forgiven." Thereupon some of the Scribes said to themselves: "This man is blaspheming." Jesus guessed their thoughts and replied: "Why do you ponder such wicked thoughts in your mind? Which is easier? To say: 'Your sins are forgiven.' Or to say: 'Stand up and walk.' Well, I will show you that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins on earth." Then he said to the paralytic: "Stand up, take up your bed, and go home." Immediately, the paralytic stood up and went back to his house. The crowds who saw this miracle were amazed, and glorified God for giving such power to men.

*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 9.27-35*

**A**s Jesus was passing along from the official's house, two blind men followed him and cried aloud: "Have mercy on us, O Son of David!" When he had gone into his house, the blind men came up to him. Thereupon Jesus asked them: "Do you believe that I can heal you?" They answered him: "Yes, my Lord." Then he touched their eyes, and said: "Receive your sight according to your faith." Their eyes were opened immediately. Jesus warned them sternly: "Be sure not to tell anybody." But they went out and spread the news all over that region. Just as they were going out, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. Jesus cast out the demon, and the dumb demoniac spoke for the first time. The crowds were amazed and said: "Such a miracle was never seen before in Israel." But the Pharisees retorted: "He is casting out demons through the prince of demons." Then Jesus went to all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, healing every disease and infirmity of the people.

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 14.14-22*

**W**hen he landed, he saw a large crowd, he pitied them, and healed their sick. In the evening, his Disciples came to him, and said: "This is a desert place, and the time is already late. Dismiss the people, and let them go to the villages, where they can buy food for themselves." Jesus answered them: "They do not need to go away. Give them food yourselves." They replied: "We have here only five loaves and two fishes." He said to them: "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fishes, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke them, and handed them to his Disciples, who distributed them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied. Later on, they gathered the pieces which were left over, and filled twelve baskets with them. Those who ate were about five thousand men besides women and children. Thereupon he compelled his Disciples to board the ship and cross before him to the other side, while he was dismissing the people.

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 14.22-34*

**T**hereupon he compelled his Disciples to board the ship and cross before him to the other side, while he was dismissing the people. After he had sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. He remained there alone in the evening. But the ship was already in the midst of the Sea, tossed by the waves. For the wind was against them. Toward morning, Jesus went out to them, walking on the Sea. When the Disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified, and exclaimed: "It is a ghost!" They screamed for fear. Jesus spoke to them immediately, and said: "Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." Peter told him: "Master, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said: "Come." Peter got out of the ship and walked on the water to go to Jesus. But he was frightened by the violent wind, began to sink, and shouted: "Master, save me!" Jesus stretched out his hand immediately, seized him, and said: "Man of little faith! Why did you waver?" So they boarded the ship. Thereupon the wind ceased. The men in the ship worshipped him, and said: "You are indeed the Son of God." Then they crossed over to the other side, and landed at the region of Gennesaret.

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 17.14-23*

**W**hen they reached the crowds, a man came to Jesus, knelt before him, and said: "My Lord, have mercy on my son, because he is a lunatic, and suffers terribly. Often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. I brought him to your Disciples. But they could not cure him." Then Jesus said: "O faithless and perverse generation! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him here to me." Then Jesus rebuked the demon, and cast him out. The boy was healed at that very moment. Later on, the Disciples came to Jesus in private, and asked him: "How is it that we could not cast the demon out?" Jesus answered them: "Because of your lack of faith. Well, I tell you, if you have as much faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain: 'Move from here to there,' and it will certainly move. With faith nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind of demon can be cast out only by prayer and fasting." While they were staying in Galilee, Jesus told them: "The Messiah will be delivered into the hands of men. They will put him to death. But he will rise again on the third day." The Disciples were deeply grieved by this prediction.



*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 18.23-35*

**T**he Kingdom of Heaven is like a king, who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. "When he had begun the reckoning, one of his servants who owed him ten thousand talents was brought in. As he could not pay, his master gave orders to sell him with his wife, his children, and all his property in payment of the debt. Thereupon the servant knelt before him, implored him, and said: 'Master, give me time, and I will pay you in full.' His master, moved with pity for him, released him and cancelled his debt. "But when that servant went out, he met one of his fellow-servants who owed him one hundred shillings. Thereupon he caught him by the throat, and said to him: 'Pay me your debt.' His fellow-servant knelt before him, implored him, and said: 'Give me time, and I will pay you.' The cruel servant refused. He went instead and threw him into prison until he should repay his debt. "When the other servants saw what had occurred, they were deeply grieved. So they went to their master and reported the entire story to him. "Thereupon his master sent for him, and told him: "You wicked servant! I cancelled your enormous debt when you entreated me. Therefore it was your duty to have mercy on your fellow-servant as I had mercy on you.' "Then his angry master handed him over to the jailers and gave them orders to torture him until he should pay his entire debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive the trespasses of your brother with all your heart."

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Oct 11-17), Mt 19.16-26*

**T**hen a young man came to Jesus, knelt before him, and asked him: "Good Master, what good work must I do to inherit everlasting life?" Jesus answered him: "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God. But if you want to inherit everlasting life, obey the commandments." The young man asked him again: "Which ones?" Jesus answered him: "Do not kill, Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother. And love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him: "I have obeyed all these commandments since my childhood. What else must I do?" Jesus answered him: "If you want to become perfect, sell your property, give the money to the poor, and you will possess a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me." But when the young man heard this advice, he went away broken-hearted. For he was very wealthy. Thereupon Jesus said to his Disciples: "Well, I tell you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven." When the Disciples heard this statement, they were utterly amazed and asked him: "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them, and answered: "This achievement is impossible for man, but everything is possible for God."

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 21.33-42*

**L**isten to another parable: A landowner planted a vineyard, set a fence around it, dug a wine-press in it, and built a watch tower. Then he leased it to tenants, and went abroad. "When the time for the vintage approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to receive his share of the fruit. But the tenants seized his servants, beat the first one, killed the second one, and stoned the third one. Again, the landowner sent other servants, more than the first ones. But the tenants treated them likewise. "Finally, the landowner sent his own son to them, because he thought that they would respect him. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another: 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they seized him, drove him out of the vineyard, and killed him. "Now, when the owner of the vineyard returns, what is he going to do to those tenants?" They answered him: "He will put those miserable men to a miserable death, and he will lease his vineyard to other tenants who will pay him his share of the vintage when the season comes." Then he added: "You have read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.' It was the Lord's work and seems marvelous in our eyes.

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 22.1-4*

**A**gain Jesus preached in parables, and said: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king, who gave a wedding banquet for his son. So he sent his servants to summon those whom he had invited to the banquet. But they refused to come. "Again he sent other servants, and said to them: Tell those whom I have invited: 'Listen! I have prepared my banquet. My bullocks and my fat calves are slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding festival.'

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 22.35-46*

**T**hen one of them, a lawyer, tested him with this question: "Master, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus answered him: "You must love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your whole soul, and your whole mind.' This is the first and the greatest commandment. The second one is similar to the first one: 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets are summarized in these two commandments." While the Pharisees were assembled there, Jesus asked them: "Tell me, what do you think about the descent of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They answered him: "David's." He said to them: "Yes. But David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, calls him 'Master' in this Scriptural passage: 'The Lord said to my Master: Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.' Now, if David calls him 'Master,' he cannot be his son." No one could give him an answer. So from that day no one ventured to ask him any more questions.

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 25.14-30*

**T**he Kingdom of Heaven is like a man going abroad who called his servants, and entrusted his property to them. He gave five talents to the first one, two talents to the second, and one talent to the third, to each one according to his ability. Then he went away. "The first one who had received five talents went into business immediately with the money, and made a profit of five talents more. Likewise, the second one who had received two talents made a profit of two talents more. But the third one, who had received one talent, went away, dug a hole in the ground, and buried his master's money. "After a long time, the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The first one who had received five talents came and brought him five talents more, and said: 'Master, you gave me five talents. Look, I have made a profit of five talents more.' His master said to him: 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been trustworthy in charge of a small sum. I will put you in charge of a large sum. Come, share the festival of your master.' "The second one who had received two talents came next and said: 'Master, you gave me two talents. Look, I have made a profit of two talents more.' His master said to him: 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been trustworthy in charge of a small sum. I will put you in charge of a large sum. Come, share the festival of your master.' "Then the third one who had received one talent came, and said: 'Master, I knew you were a greedy man. You reap where you have not sowed, and gather where you have not winnowed. So, as I was afraid, I went and buried your talent in the ground. Look, here is your money.' "His master answered him: 'Wicked and idle servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank. Because when I came back, I would have received my money with interest.'" "Therefore take that talent away from him, and give it to the man who has the ten talents. For everyone who has much will be given more, and will be plentifully supplied. But everyone who has little will be deprived even of the little he has. Now cast this unworthy servant into the outer darkness where sinners are wailing and gnashing their teeth."

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 15.21-28*

**T**hen Jesus went away from there and retired to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Thereupon a Cananean woman of that district came out, and screamed: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David: My daughter is possessed by a dreadful demon." He did not answer a word. But the Disciples implored him, and said: "Help her and send her away, for she keeps on screaming after us." He answered them: "I am sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." In the meantime, the woman approached, knelt before him, and said: "My Lord, help me." He replied: "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She retorted: "Yes, my Lord. For even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table." Thereupon Jesus said: "Woman, your faith is great. Let your daughter be healed, as you have wished." Indeed her daughter was healed at that very moment.

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 15.21-28*

**T**hen Jesus went away from there and retired to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Thereupon a Cananean woman of that district came out, and screamed: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David: My daughter is possessed by a dreadful demon." He did not answer a word. But the Disciples implored him, and said: "Help her and send her away, for she keeps on screaming after us." He answered them: "I am sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." In the meantime, the woman approached, knelt before him, and said: "My Lord, help me." He replied: "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She retorted: "Yes, my Lord. For even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table." Thereupon Jesus said: "Woman, your faith is great. Let your daughter be healed, as you have wished." Indeed her daughter was healed at that very moment.



*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 6.31-36*

**D**o to other men what you want them to do to you. If you love only those who love you, there is no reward for you. Why, even sinners love those who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you, there is no reward for you. Why, even sinners do as much. If you lend only to those from whom you expect repayment, there is no reward for you. Why, even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much in return. "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them, without expecting anything in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will become sons of the Most High. For he is kind even to the ungrateful and the wicked. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

*NATIVITY*

(Note: The Advent Cycle occurs from the twentieth Sunday after Pentecost to the twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost. Consult your local calendars for the exact date.)

*Sunday of the Holy Ancestors of Christ, Lk 14.16-24*

**A**gain, Jesus said to his host: "A man gave a great banquet, to which he invited many guests. When the banquet hour came, he sent around his servant to tell the guests: 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "All of them, with one accord, began to excuse themselves. The first one said to him: 'I have bought a piece of land. So I must go and look at it. Please excuse me.' Another said: 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them. Please excuse me.' Another said: 'I have married. So I am unable to come. Please excuse me.' The servant came back and reported these excuses to his master. "Then the master of the house was angry and said to his servant: 'Go out quickly to the streets and squares of the city and bring in the poor, the cripples, the lame, and the blind.' The servant came back and reported: 'Master, I have done what you ordered, but there is still room.' The master answered him: 'Go out to the roads and the hedges, and compel everybody to come in until my house is full. For I tell you that none of the first invited guests will taste of my banquet."

*Saturday Before the Nativity, Lk 13.18-29*

**T**hen Jesus said: "What is the Kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became such a large tree that the birds of the sky built their nests in its branches." Again he said: "To what can I compare the Kingdom of God? It is like yeast which a woman took and covered up in three measures of flour until it was all leavened." So he went through cities and villages teaching on his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him: "Will only a few be saved?" He answered: "Try to enter by the narrow gate. I tell you, many will try, but will not be able to enter. "When the master of the house has gone in and shut the door, you will knock at the door, saying: 'Lord, open to us.' But he will answer you: 'I do not know where you come from.' "Then you will begin to say: 'We ate and drank in your presence. You preached in our streets.' But he will answer you: 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity!' There you will wail and gnash your teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the Prophets in the Kingdom of God, while you are cast out. Then many will come from east and west, from north to south, and they will sit at the table in the Kingdom of God. Then some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last."

*Sunday Before Nativity, Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Mt 1.1-25*

**T**his is the genealogical table of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac; Isaac begot Jacob; Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Phares and Zara by Tamar; Phares begot Esrom; Esrom begot Aram. Aram begot Aminadab; Aminadab begot Naasson ; Naasson begot Salmon. Salmon begot Booz by Rachab; Booz begot Obed by Ruth; Obed begot Jesse. Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by the widow of Uriah. Solomon begot Roboam; Roboam begot Abijah; Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Josaphat; Josaphat begot Joram; Joram begot Oziah. Oziah begot Joatham; Joatham begot Achaz; Achaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh; Manasseh begot Amon; Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jechoniah and his brothers during the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile Jechoniah begot Salathiel; Salathiel begot Zorobabel. Zorobabel begot Abiud; Abiud begot Eliakim; Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Sadok; Sadok begot Achim; Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar; Eleazar begot Matthan; Matthan begot Jacob. Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. So altogether there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David; and fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian exile; and fourteen generations from the Babylonian exile to Christ. The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this manner: Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph. But before they were married, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was a kindly man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to break off the engagement privately. While he was considering this solution, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said to him: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For she has conceived her child from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son whom you will call Jesus. For he will save the people from their sins." Thus the prediction of the Lord through the Prophet was fulfilled: "Listen, a virgin will conceive and bear a Son, and his name will be called Emmanuel!" which means, God with us. When Joseph awoke from his sleep, he did as the Angel of the Lord had ordered him. He took his wife to his home. But he did not live with her until she had borne her Son whom he named Jesus.

*Eve of the Nativity of Christ (24 December)*

*Royal Hours:*

*First Hour, Mt 1.18-25*

**T**he birth of Jesus Christ took place in this manner: Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph. But before they were married, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was a kindly man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to break off the engagement privately. While he was considering this solution, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said to him: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For she has conceived her child from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son whom you will call Jesus. For he will save the people from their sins." Thus the prediction of the Lord through the Prophet was fulfilled: "Listen, a virgin will conceive and bear a Son, and his name will be called Emmanuel!" which means, God with us. When Joseph awoke from his sleep, he did as the Angel of the Lord had ordered him. He took his wife to his home. But he did not live with her until she had borne her Son whom he named Jesus.

*Third Hour, Lk 2.1-20*

**I**n those days, a decree was issued by the Emperor Augustus that a census of the whole empire should be taken. It was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So everyone went to register in his own city. Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the city of David called Bethlehem in Judea, because he belonged to the house and lineage of David. There he registered with Mary who was betrothed to him and was pregnant. While they were there, the time for her delivery arrived. So she gave birth to her first-born Son, wrapped him up in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger. For there was no room for them at the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the open fields and keeping watch over their flocks by night. Suddenly, an Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The shepherds were terribly frightened. But the Angel said to them: "Do not be afraid. For I bring you good tidings of great joy for all the people: Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, has been born in the city of David. This is the sign by which you will know him: You will find a baby, wrapped up in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Suddenly, a multitude of the heavenly

host appeared with the Angel praising God, and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will among men." When the Angel had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which has occurred, and which the Lord has announced to us." So they hurried there, and found Mary and Joseph with the Baby lying in the manger. The shepherds saw him, and reported the message of the Angel concerning this Child. They were all amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these predictions and pondered over them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been announced to them.

*Sixth Hour*      *Mt 2.1-12*

**J**esus was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of Herod the king. Thereupon, Wise Men from the East arrived in Jerusalem. They kept asking: "Where is the newly born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him." Herod the king was troubled when he heard this report, and all Jerusalem with him. So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where Christ was to be born. They answered him: "In Bethlehem of Judea. For this is what the Prophet has written about this matter: 'You, O Bethlehem, you are certainly one of the principal cities of Judea. For from you will arise a leader who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Thereupon Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem and told them: "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word. For I want to go and worship him also." They obeyed the king and proceeded on their journey. Thereupon the star, which they had seen in the East, led them on until they reached the place where the child lay and stopped over it. When they saw the star, the Wise Men rejoiced exceedingly. They went into the house and saw the Child with Mary his Mother. Thereupon they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. So they went back to their own country by another way.

**W**hen the Wise Men had departed, suddenly an Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said to him: "Arise, take the Child and his Mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is going to look for the Child and put him to death." So Joseph arose, took the Child and his Mother and left for Egypt. He remained there until the death of Herod. Thus the prediction of the Lord through the Prophet was fulfilled: "I have called my Son out of Egypt." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the Wise Men, he was furious. So he sent his henchmen and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that neighborhood, who were two years old or less from the time he had found out from the Wise Men. Thus the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled: "An outburst of weeping and lamentation was heard in Ramah. It was Rachel weeping for her children. She refused to be comforted. For they were all gone." When Herod was dead, an Angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. He told him: "Arise, take the Child and his Mother, and return to the land of Israel. For Herod who wanted to kill the Child is dead." So Joseph arose, took the Child and his Mother, and went back to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king, he was afraid to go there. So, as he was advised in a dream, he took refuge in the region of Galilee. Finally, he went and settled in a city called Nazareth. Thus the prediction of the Prophets was fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene."

*Liturgy, Lk 2.1-20*

**I**n those days, a decree was issued by the Emperor Augustus that a census of the whole empire should be taken. It was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So everyone went to register in his own city. Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the city of David called Bethlehem in Judea, because he belonged to the house and lineage of David. There he registered with Mary who was betrothed to him and was pregnant. While they were there, the time for her delivery arrived. So she gave birth to her first-born Son, wrapped him up in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger. For there was no room for them at the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the open fields and keeping watch over their flocks by night. Suddenly, an Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The shepherds were terribly frightened. But the Angel said



to them: "Do not be afraid. For I bring you good tidings of great joy for all the people: Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, has been born in the city of David. This is the sign by which you will know him: You will find a baby, wrapped up in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Suddenly, a multitude of the heavenly host appeared with the Angel praising God, and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will among men." When the Angel had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which has occurred, and which the Lord has announced to us." So they hurried there, and found Mary and Joseph with the Baby lying in the manger. The shepherds saw him, and reported the message of the Angel concerning this Child. They were all amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these predictions and pondered over them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been announced to them.

*The Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (25 December), Mt 2.1-12*

**J**esus was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of Herod the king. Thereupon, Wise Men from the East arrived in Jerusalem. They kept asking: "Where is the newly born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him." Herod the king was troubled when he heard this report, and all Jerusalem with him. So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where Christ was to be born. They answered him: "In Bethlehem of Judea. For this is what the Prophet has written about this matter: 'You, O Bethlehem, you are certainly one of the principal cities of Judea. For from you will arise a leader who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Thereupon Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem and told them: "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word. For I want to go and worship him also." They obeyed the king and proceeded on their journey. Thereupon the star, which they had seen in the East, led them on until they reached the place where the child lay and stopped over it. When they saw the star, the Wise Men rejoiced exceedingly. They went into the house and saw the Child with Mary his Mother. Thereupon they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. So they went back to their own country by another way.

*Saturday after Nativity, Mt 12.15-21*

**B**ut Jesus knew of this conspiracy and left the place immediately. Large crowds followed him. He cured all their sick. But he ordered them not to mention him. Thus the prophecy was fulfilled: "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved who is well-pleasing to my soul. I will endow him with my Spirit, and he will proclaim righteousness to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle, nor shout, and no one will hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed, nor quench a smoldering wick until he brings righteousness to victory. The Gentiles will hope in his name."

*Sunday after Nativity, Mt 2.13-23*

**W**hen the Wise Men had departed, suddenly an Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said to him: "Arise, take the Child and his Mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is going to look for the Child and put him to death." So Joseph arose, took the Child and his Mother and left for Egypt. He remained there until the death of Herod. Thus the prediction of the Lord through the Prophet was fulfilled: "I have called my Son out of Egypt." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the Wise Men, he was furious. So he sent his henchmen and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that neighborhood, who were two years old or less from the time he had found out from the Wise Men. Thus the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled: "An outburst of weeping and lamentation was heard in Ramah. It was Rachel weeping for her children. She refused to be comforted. For they were all gone." When Herod was dead, an Angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. He told him: "Arise, take the Child and his Mother, and return to the land of Israel. For Herod who wanted to kill the Child is dead." So Joseph arose, took the Child and his Mother, and went back to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king, he was afraid to go there. So, as he was advised in a dream, he took refuge in the region of Galilee. Finally, he went and settled in a city called Nazareth. Thus the prediction of the Prophets was fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene."

## THEOPHANY

*Saturday before Theophany, Mt 3.1-11*

**I**n those days, John the Baptist appeared in the desert. He preached: "Repent. For the Kingdom of Heaven is drawing near." He was the man of whom Isaiah the Prophet spoke, saying: "Listen, a Prophet is preaching in the desert. Prepare the way of the Lord. Straighten out his paths." John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. The inhabitants of Jerusalem, of Judea, and of all the region round about Jordan went out to him. They confessed their sins and were baptized by him in the river Jordan. Many Pharisees and Sadducees also came to him for baptism. When he saw them, he said: "You, brood of vipers! The Lord himself warned you to escape his coming retribution. Therefore perform deeds consistent with your professed repentance. Do not suppose that you can get away by claiming Abraham as your forefather. For I tell you, God is able to raise up descendants for Abraham out of these stones. "Remember, the ax is laid at the root of the trees. Every tree which does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you for repentance with water. But the Messiah who comes after me is so much mightier than I that I am not worthy to carry his shoes. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

*Sunday before Theophany, Mk 1.1-8*

**T**his is the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as it has been predicted by the Prophets: "Listen, I send my messenger before you. He will announce your coming. A Prophet is preaching in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord. Straighten out his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert and preached a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. The inhabitants of all the land of Judea and of the city of Jerusalem went out to him, confessed their sins, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan. John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, and said: "After me comes a mightier man than I whose sandalstrap I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water. But he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*Eve of the Theophany (5 January)*

*Royal Hours:*

*First Hour, Mt 3.1-11*

**I**n those days, John the Baptist appeared in the desert. He preached: "Repent. For the Kingdom of Heaven is drawing near." He was the man of whom Isaiah the Prophet spoke, saying: "Listen, a Prophet is preaching in the desert. Prepare the way of the Lord. Straighten out his paths." John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. The inhabitants of Jerusalem, of Judea, and of all the region round about Jordan went out to him. They confessed their sins and were baptized by him in the river Jordan. Many Pharisees and Sadducees also came to him for baptism. When he saw them, he said: "You, brood of vipers! The Lord himself warned you to escape his coming retribution. Therefore perform deeds consistent with your professed repentance. Do not suppose that you can get away by claiming Abraham as your forefather. For I tell you, God is able to raise up descendants for Abraham out of these stones. "Remember, the ax is laid at the root of the trees. Every tree which does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you for repentance with water. But the Messiah who comes after me is so much mightier than I that I am not worthy to carry his shoes. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

*Third Hour, Mk 1.1-8*

**T**his is the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as it has been predicted by the Prophets: "Listen, I send my messenger before you. He will announce your coming. A Prophet is preaching in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord. Straighten out his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert and preached a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. The inhabitants of all the land of Judea and of the city of Jerusalem went out to him, confessed their sins, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan. John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, and said: "After me comes a mightier man than I whose sandalstrap I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water. But he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*Sixth Hour, Mk 1.9-15*

**I**n those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As he came out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens rent asunder and the Holy Spirit like a dove descending upon him. Then a voice came out of the heavens, and said: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Thereupon the Holy Spirit led him out in the desert. He remained in the desert for forty days during which he was tempted by Satan. He lived with the wild animals. But the angels ministered unto him. After John had been imprisoned, Jesus returned to Galilee and began to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. He proclaimed: The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is drawing near. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

*Ninth Hour, Mt 3.13-17*

**A**t that time Jesus came from Galilee to the river Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to dissuade him, saying: "I need to be baptized by you. You do not need to come to me." Jesus answered: "Go ahead now. For we must fulfill every requirement." Then John consented. So Jesus was baptized. When he came out of the water, heaven was opened immediately, and he saw the Holy Spirit of God who came down in the form of a dove and rested upon him. Thereupon a voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

*Liturgy, Lk 3.1-18*

**I**t was in the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius. At that time Pontius Pilate was procurator of Judea. Herod was tetrarch of Galilee. His brother Philip was tetrarch of the districts of Iturea and Trachonitis. Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. Then John, the son of Zechariah, received a message from God in the desert. He went all over the Jordan valley, and preached a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, as the book of sermons of the prophet Isaiah says: "Listen, a Prophet is preaching in the desert. Prepare the way of the Lord. Straighten out his paths. Every valley will be filled. Every mountain and hill will be leveled. The crooked places will be straightened out. The rough roads will be smoothed. And all flesh will see the salvation of God." He said to the people who went out to be baptized by him: "You brood of vipers! God himself has warned you to flee from



the retribution to come. Therefore show your repentance by your deeds. Do not say to yourselves: 'We have Abraham as our father!' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham out of these stones. Now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. So every tree which does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." The people asked him: "What shall we do then?" He answered them: "Whoever has two coats must give to him who has none. And whoever has food must do likewise." The publicans also came to be baptized, and asked him: "Master, what shall we do?" He answered them: "Do not exact more than what is prescribed to you." The soldiers also asked him: "And we, what shall we do?" He answered them: "Extort nothing from anybody by violence or by false accusation. Be content with your wages." The people were in expectation, and all of them were wondering in their minds whether he was the Messiah or not. John declared to all: "I baptize you with water, but a mightier man than I is coming, whose sandal-straps I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He has his winnowing fork in his hand. He will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into his granary. And he will burn the chaff with unquenchable fire." So with many other exhortations he preached the glad tidings to the people.

*Blessing of Water, Mk 1.9-11*

**I**n those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As he came out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens rent asunder and the Holy Spirit like a dove descending upon him. Then a voice came out of the heavens, and said: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

*The Holy Theophany of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (6 January), Mt 3.13-17*

**A**t that time Jesus came from Galilee to the river Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to dissuade him, saying: "I need to be baptized by you. You do not need to come to me." Jesus answered: "Go ahead now. For we must fulfill every requirement." Then John consented. So Jesus was baptized. When he came out of the water, heaven was opened immediately, and he saw the Holy Spirit of God who came down in the form of a dove and rested upon him. Thereupon a voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

*Saturday After the Theophany, Mt 4.1-11*

**A**t that time, Jesus was conducted by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights. So he felt hungry afterwards. Thereupon the tempter approached and said to him: "If you are the Son of God, order these stones to become loaves of bread." Jesus answered: "It is written in the Scriptures: 'Man must not live on bread alone, but also on all the commandments which proceed from the mouth of God.'" Again the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple. Then he said to him: "If you are the Son of God, cast yourself down. For it is written in the Scriptures: 'God will order his angels to lift you up with their hands. So you will not dash your feet on any stone.'" Jesus answered him: "Yes, but it is also written in the Scriptures 'You must not challenge the Lord your God.'" Again the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the earth and their glories. Then he said to him: "I will give you all these kingdoms, if you fall down and worship me." Jesus answered him: "Go away from me, Satan. For it is written in the Scriptures: 'You must adore and worship only the Lord your God.'" Then the devil left him alone. Thereupon angels came and ministered to him.

*Sunday After the Theophany, Mt 4.12-17*

**W**hen Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he returned to Galilee. Later on, he left Nazareth and settled down in Capernaum on the sea-shore in the region of Zabulon and Nephthalim. Thus the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled: "Land of Zabulon and land of Nephthalim on the sea-shore beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who dwelt in darkness saw a great light. Indeed, light has dawned for those who lived in that region under the shadow of death." From that time Jesus began to preach and to proclaim: "Repent. For the Kingdom of Heaven is drawing near."

*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 7.11-16*

**T**he day after, Jesus, accompanied by many of his Disciples and a large crowd, went to a city called Nain. Just as he was approaching the gate of the city, a dead man was carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow. A large crowd of the townspeople accompanied her. When the Lord saw her, he pitied her, and said to her: "Do not weep." Then he went up and touched the bier. The bearers stopped. He said: "Young man, I tell you, rise up." The dead man sat up and began to speak. Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all overcome with awe, and they glorified God, saying: "A great Prophet has appeared among us. God has visited his people."

*Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 8.5-15*

**A**sower went out to sow his seed. As he was sowing, some seed fell along the path. It was trampled upon and devoured by the wild birds. Some fell upon the rock. But when it sprang up, it was withered, because it had no moisture. Some fell among the thorns. But the thorns grew up with it and choked it. Some fell on good soil, grew up, and yielded a hundredfold." At the end of the parable, he exclaimed: "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear." His Disciples asked him what this parable meant. He answered them: "It is granted to you to know the secrets of the Kingdom of God plainly. But all others must receive them in the form of parables. Thus they will look, but will not see. They will listen but will not understand. Now this is the meaning of the parable. "The seed is the Gospel. The ones along the path are those who hear it. But the devil comes and takes away the Gospel from their hearts. So they do not believe and are not saved. "The ones on the rock are those who hear the Gospel and receive it with joy. But they are too shallow to plant it deep in their hearts. So they believe for a little while. But in the time of temptation they fall away. "The ones among the thorns are those who hear the Gospel and pass on. For they are stifled by worries, wealth, and pleasures of life. So they produce nothing. "The ones on good soil are those who hear the Gospel with a noble and generous heart. They hold it fast, and yield fruit with perseverance."

*Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 16.19-31*

**T**here was a rich man dressed in purple and fine linen, who lived every day in luxury and splendor. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus covered with sores. He was longing to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. "In Hades, where he was tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried aloud and said: 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. For I am consumed in this flame.' "Abraham answered: 'My son, remember that you enjoyed your blessings in your lifetime, while Lazarus endured all his misfortunes. Now he is comforted here, and you are suffering there. Moreover, there is a vast abyss between you and us. So none can cross over from our side to yours, nor from your side to ours.' "The rich man said: 'Then I beg you, father Abraham, send him to my father's house, where I have five brothers. Let him warn them and prevent them from coming to this place of torture.' Abraham answered him: 'They have Moses and the Prophets. Let them listen to them.' "He said: 'No, father Abraham, if a messenger goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' Abraham replied: 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

*Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 8.26-39*

**L**ater on, they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes. As Jesus went ashore, he met a man from that city who had been possessed by demons for a long time. He did not wear any clothing and did not live in a house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he shrieked, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice: "What do you want from me, Jesus, Son of the Most High? I beg you, do not torture me." Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to go out of the man. For he had been possessed by the demon for a long time. He was confined and bound with chains and shackles. But he managed to break the fetters, and was driven by the demon into the desert. Jesus asked him: "What is your name?" He answered: "Legion." For many demons had gone into him. They begged him not to order them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was grazing on the mountainside. The demons implored him to allow them to go into them. He gave them leave. So they came out of the man and went into the swine. Then the herd rushed headlong down the cliff into the lake, and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had occurred, they ran away and reported the news in the city and in the country. The inhabitants went out to see what had taken place. They came to Jesus and found the demoniac sitting at his feet clothed and in his right mind. They were amazed. The eye-witnesses related to them how the demoniac had been cured. Then all the people of the Gadarene neighborhood asked him to go away from them. For they were terrified. So Jesus boarded the ship and returned home. The demoniac begged to go with him. But Jesus dismissed him, saying: "Go back to your home, and relate how God has healed you." So he went away and proclaimed all over the city what Jesus had done for him.



*Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 8.41-56*

**T**hereupon a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue, came to Jesus, fell down at his feet, and begged him to come to his house. He had an only daughter, about twelve years old. And she was dying. As Jesus was going along, the people pressed around him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years. She had spent all her money on doctors. But she could obtain no cure from anyone. So she came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment. Her hemorrhage stopped immediately. Then Jesus asked: "Who touched me?" As all denied it, Peter said: "Master, the people around are pressing you, and you ask who touched you?" But Jesus replied: "Someone touched me. For I know that healing power went out from me." The woman saw that she had not escaped his notice. So she came forward trembling, and fell down before him. She declared in the presence of all the people for what reason she had touched him and how she had been cured immediately. Jesus said to her: "Courage, my daughter. Your faith has healed you. Go in peace." While he was still speaking, a messenger came from the house of the leader of the synagogue and said to him: "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Master any more." Jesus heard it and said to him: "Do not be afraid. Only have faith, and she will be healed." When he reached the house, he allowed no one to enter with him except Peter, John, James, and the father and mother of the child. They were all weeping and lamenting her. But he said to them: "Do not weep. She is not dead. She is asleep. They laughed at him. For they knew that she was dead. Jesus put them all out. Then he grasped her hand and called aloud: "My child, arise." Her spirit returned, and she rose up immediately. Then Jesus asked them to give her something to eat. Her parents were amazed. But he ordered them to tell no one what had occurred.

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 10.25-37*

Once a lawyer rose up to test Jesus and asked him: "Master, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?" Jesus answered him: "What is written in the Scriptures? What do you read in them?" The lawyer replied: "You must love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole strength, and your whole mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Jesus said to him: "You have answered rightly. Do that, and you will inherit everlasting life." But the lawyer, wishing to justify himself, asked him: "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered him: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among bandits. They stripped him, beat him, and went off, leaving him half dead. "By chance a priest was going down that road. He saw him, but passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite came to that place and saw him, but passed by on the other side also. "At last, a Samaritan who was traveling that way, came upon him, saw him, and took pity on him. He went up to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds, and bound them up. Then he put him on his mule, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. "On the following day, he took out a couple of shillings, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him: 'Take care of him, and whatever you spend besides, I will refund you on the way back.' "Now which one of these three proved himself a neighbor to the man who fell among the bandits?" The lawyer answered: "The man who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him: "Go and do likewise."

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 12.16-21*

**T**hen he narrated a parable to them and said: "There was a rich man whose estate yielded plentiful crops. So he asked himself: 'What am I going to do? For I have no place to store my crops in.' Then he answered himself: 'This is what I will do. I will pull down my storehouses and build larger ones. There I will store up my crops and my goods. Then I will say to my soul: Now, my soul, you have plenty of wealth laid up for many years. Relax, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.' "But God said to him: 'You fool! This very night you must render up your soul. Then who will get what you stored up?' This will be the end of the man who lays up treasures for himself, but not with God."

*Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 13.10-17*

**O**ne day, Jesus was preaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day. A woman was there who for eighteen years had been obsessed by a spirit of infirmity. She was bent down and could not straighten herself up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her: "Woman, you are released from your infirmity." Thereupon he laid his hands upon her. She was made straight immediately, and she glorified God. But the leader of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath day, and said to the people: "There are six days on which it is right to work. Come on them and be healed, but not on the Sabbath day." The Lord answered him: "You hypocrites! Everyone of you unties his ox or his donkey from the stall on the Sabbath day and leads him away to water him. Now here is this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years. Was it wrong that she was released from this bond on the Sabbath day?" All his opponents were put to shame by his remarks, while all the people rejoiced over the glorious miracles which he performed.

*Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 18.35-43*

**A**s Jesus was approaching Jericho, he met a blind man who was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what it meant. They told him: "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he cried aloud: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who were in front reproved him and told him to be quiet. But he cried out all the more: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stopped and ordered him to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him: "What do you want me to do for you?" He answered: "Master, let me receive my sight." Jesus said to him: "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you." He regained his sight immediately, and followed him glorifying God. All the people who saw this miracle gave praise to God.

*Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 17.12-19*

**A**s he was entering a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance, and cried aloud: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them, he said: "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Thereupon, as they went, they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he noticed that he was healed, turned back, glorifying God aloud, fell on his face at the feet of Jesus, and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus asked: "Well, all ten were healed. But where are the other nine? How is it that no one has come back to glorify God except this stranger?" Then he said to him: "Stand up, and go your way. Your faith has healed you."

*Thirtieth Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 18.18-27*

**O**ne day, a certain official came to Jesus in order to test him and asked him: "Good Master, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?" Jesus said to him: "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" He answered: "I have observed all these commandments since my youth." When Jesus heard his reply, he said to him: "You still lack one thing. Sell all your possessions, distribute the proceeds to the poor, and you will possess a treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me." When he heard this advice he became sorrowful, for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said: "How hard it is for those who possess wealth to enter the Kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." Those who heard this statement asked him: "Then who can be saved?" He answered: "What is impossible for men is possible for God."

*Thirty-First Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 18.35-43*

**A**s Jesus was approaching Jericho, he met a blind man who was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what it meant. They told him: "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he cried aloud: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who were in front reproved him and told him to be quiet. But he cried out all the more: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stopped and ordered him to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him: "What do you want me to do for you?" He answered: "Master, let me receive my sight." Jesus said to him: "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you." He regained his sight immediately, and followed him glorifying God. All the people who saw this miracle gave praise to God.



*Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, Lk 19.1-10*

**L**ater on, Jesus entered and was passing through Jericho. Now there was a rich man called Zacchaeus, chief of the Publicans, who wanted to see who Jesus was. But he could not because of the crowd. For he was small of stature. So he went ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him as he was passing that way. When Jesus reached that place, he looked up, saw him, and said to him: "Zacchaeus, come down quickly. For I must lodge at your house today." He came down quickly and received him joyfully. When his opponents noticed it, they all grumbled, saying: "He has gone to be the guest of a sinful man." But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord: "Listen, Master, I will give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay him four times as much." Jesus said to him: "Today salvation has come to this house, for he also is a son of Abraham. For the Messiah has come to seek and save those who are lost."

(Note: Zacchaeus Sunday is the Sunday before the Triodion.)

*TRIODION AND GREAT LENT*

*TRIODION*

*Tenth Sunday Before Easter, Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, Lk 18.10-14*

**T**wo men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

*Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Lk 15.11-32*

**T**hen Jesus said: "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father: 'Father, give me my share of the property.' So he divided his property between them. "A few days later, the younger son gathered all his possessions and went away to a distant country where he squandered his fortune in riotous living. After he had spent everything, a famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went to work as the hired servant of a citizen of that country who sent him to his fields to tend swine. He was ready to fill himself with the husks the swine were eating, but nobody would give him anything. "Then he came to himself and said: 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough to eat while I am starving here! I will get up, go to my father, and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Receive me as one of your hired servants.' "So he arose and went to his father. While he was yet a long way off, his father saw him, and had compassion on him. He ran up, fell on his neck, and kissed him. The son said: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants: 'Bring quickly the best garment and put it on him. Give him a ring for his hand, and sandals for his feet. Get the fatted calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead, and he is now alive. He was lost, and he is now found.' So they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field. As he returned and drew near the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked him what it all meant. He answered: 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' The older son was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and urged him to join them. "But he answered his father: 'I have served you for so many years, and have never disobeyed a command of yours. Yet you have never given me a kid so that I might entertain my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your fortune with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' "But the father answered: 'My son, you have been always with me, and all I have is yours. Yet we had to celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead, and he is alive. He was lost, and he is found.'

*Commemoration of the Departed, Jn 5.24-30*

**W**ell, well, I tell you that whoever listens to my Gospel and believes in the Father who sent me, inherits everlasting life. He does not come to judgment. For he has already passed from death to life. "Well, well, I tell you that the hour is coming, and it has come already, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it will rise from the dead. "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. Moreover, he gave him authority to execute judgment, for he is the Messiah. "Do not wonder at this. For the hour is coming when all those who are in the tombs will hear his voice. Then they will all rise, those who have done good to a resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to a resurrection of judgment. I can do nothing of myself. As I hear I judge, and my judgment is just. Because I do not seek my own will, but the will of the Father who sent me."

*Meat Fare Sunday, Mt 25.31-46*

**W**hen the Messiah comes in his glory with his holy angels, he will sit on his glorious throne. He will gather all the nations before him. He will separate them one from another as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right hand: 'Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was naked, and you clothed me. I was in prison, and you came to see me.' "The righteous will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you drink? When did we see you a stranger, and welcomed you, or naked, and clothed you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visited you?' "The King will answer them: 'Well, I tell you, insofar as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to me.' "Then the King will say to those on his left hand: 'Go away from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for Satan and his devils! For I was hungry, but you gave me no food. I was thirsty, but you gave me no drink. I was a stranger, but you did not welcome me. I was naked, but you did not clothe me. I was sick and in prison, but you did not visit me.' "They will also ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison and did not minister to you?' "He will answer them: 'Well, I tell you, insofar as you did not do it to one of the least of these my brethren you did not do it to me.' Then the wicked will go into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into everlasting life."

*Saturday, Mt 6.1-13*

**B**eware of giving alms before men in order to be seen by them. Otherwise, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you. For the hypocrites do it in the synagogues and in the streets to make people praise them. Well, I tell you, they have already received their reward. "On the contrary, when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Let your alms be in secret. Then your Father who sees you in secret will reward you openly." "When you pray, do not act like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the streets, to let people see them. Well, I tell you, they have already received their reward. "On the contrary, when you pray, go into your private chamber, shut the door, and pray to your Father in secret. Then your Father who sees you in secret will reward you openly. "When you pray, do not use vain repetitions, as the pagans do. For they think that they will be heard, if they talk a great deal. Do not be like them. For your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "Therefore pray in this manner: 'Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.'

*Commemoration of All the Holy and Godbearing Fathers Who Shone Forth in the Ascetic Life, Mt 11.27-30*

**E**verything has been entrusted to me by my Father. For no one knows the Son except the Father. And no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him." "Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. I will give you rest. Take up my yoke and learn from me. I am gentle and humble in heart. I will give peace to your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

*Seventh Sunday Before Easter, Forgiveness Sunday, Mt 6.14-21*

**F**or if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you also. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, your Father will not forgive your trespasses either." "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. For they distort their faces, to advertise their fasting to the people. Well, I tell you, they have already received their reward. "On the contrary, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face. Do not let anyone see that you are fasting, except your Father in heaven. Then your Father who sees you in secret will reward you openly." "Do not pile up your treasure on earth, where moth and rust can ruin them and where thieves can break in and steal them. But pile up your treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust can ruin them and where thieves cannot break in and steal them. For your heart will be wherever you store up your treasures.



*GREAT LENT*

*First Week of Great Lent*

*First Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy, Jn 1.43-51*

**B**ut why is this favor granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child leaped with joy within me. Blessed is the woman who has believed that what the Lord has promised her will be fulfilled." Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. He has exalted his humble handmaid. For henceforth all generations will glorify me. The Almighty Lord, whose name is holy, has done miracles for me. He has shown his mercy to his pious worshipers from generation to generation. He has done mighty deeds with his arm. He has routed the haughty and the conceited.

*Second Week of Great Lent*

*Second Sunday of Great Lent, Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas, Mk 2.1-12*

A few days later, Jesus returned to Capernaum. Immediately, the rumor spread that he was in somebody's house. Thereupon so many people were gathered together that there was no longer room for them even about the door. He preached the Gospel to them. A paralytic carried by four men was brought to him. As they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, made an opening, and lowered the bed on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic: "My son, your sins are forgiven." But some of the Scribes who were sitting there pondered in their minds: "This man is blaspheming. Only God can forgive sins." Jesus guessed their thoughts immediately, and said to them: "Why do you ponder such wicked thoughts in your minds? Which is easier? To say to the paralytic: 'Your sins are forgiven!' Or to say to him: 'Stand up, take up your bed, and walk!' Well, I will show you that the Son of man has authority to forgive sins on earth." Thereupon he said to the paralytic: "I tell you, stand up, take up your bed, and go home!" The paralytic stood up at once, took up his bed, and went out in the presence of all the people. They were all amazed, and glorified God, saying: "We have never seen such a miracle before."

*Third Sunday of Great Lent, Adoration of the Holy Cross, Mk 8.34-9.1*

**T**hen Jesus called the people along with his Disciples, and said to them: "Whoever wants to come after me let him deny himself, let him take up his cross, and let him follow me. "For everyone who wants to save his life will lose it. And everyone who loses his life for me and for my Gospel will save it. "It does not profit a man at all, if he gains the entire world, but loses his own life. There is no ransom a man can give to recover the life he has lost. Moreover, If anyone is ashamed of me and of my Gospel in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Messiah will also be ashamed of him, when he comes with his holy angels in the glory of his Father." Then Jesus added: "Well, I tell you, some of you who standing here will certainly live to see the Kingdom of God when it comes with all its majesty."

*Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, Commemoration of Saint John of the Ladder, Mk 9.17-31*

**S**omeone from the crowd answered him: "Master, I have brought to you my son, who is possessed by a dumb spirit. Whenever he seizes him, the boy is convulsed. Then he foams, he gnashes his teeth, and he faints. I asked your Disciples to expel the demon, but they could not do it." Jesus replied: "O faithless generation! How long am I going to stay with you? How long am I going to put up with you? Bring him to me." They brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw Jesus, he convulsed the boy who fell on the ground and rolled about foaming. Jesus asked his father: "How long has he had this disease?" His father answered: "Since childhood. Many times he has thrown him into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have mercy on us and help us." Jesus said to him: "If you believe, everything is possible to the believer." The boy's father cried aloud and said with tears: "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!" When Jesus noticed that the people came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying: "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you to come out of him and never enter him again." The spirit shrieked, convulsed the boy violently, and went out of him. The boy became like a corpse. Many thought that he was dead. But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him. Then the boy stood up. When Jesus had gone home, his Disciples asked him privately: "Why could we not expel him?" He answered: "This kind can be expelled only by prayer and fasting." Then they went away from there and travelled through Galilee. But he did not want anyone to know it. For he predicted his Passion to his Disciples, and said: "The Messiah will be betrayed into the hands of men who will kill him. But he will rise again on the third day."

*Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, Commemoration of Saint Mary of Egypt, Mk 10.32-45*

**S**o they went on their way up to Jerusalem. He walked ahead of them, while his Disciples followed him in amazement and dismay. Then Jesus took his twelve Disciples aside, and predicted to them what would befall him: "Now we are going up to Jerusalem. There the Messiah will be betrayed into the hands of the chief priests and the scribes. They will sentence him to death. They will hand him over to the Gentiles. They will deride him. They will flog him. And they will kill him. But he will rise again on the third day." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him, and said: "Master, we want you to do for us whatever we ask." Jesus asked them: "What do you want me to do for you?" They replied: "Grant us that we may sit one at your right and one at your left in the days of your glory." Jesus said to them: "You do not know what you ask. Can you drink the cup that I drink and be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" They answered him: "We can." Jesus said to them. "Indeed you will drink the cup that I drink, and you will be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. But I cannot grant you the privilege of sitting at my right and at my left. For these places belong to those for whom they have been foreordained." When the other ten Disciples heard this request, they began to be very indignant at James and John. Thereupon Jesus called them and said to them: "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles enslave them, and their great men oppress them. But it must not be so with you. On the contrary, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant. And whoever wants to be your leader must be the slave of all. For the Messiah has not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for the people."

*Saturday of Saint Lazarus the Righteous, Jn 11.1-45*

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was by God, and the Word was God. He was by God in the very beginning. Everything came into being through him, and no existence was created apart from him. In him there was life, and that life was the Light of men. That Light shines in the darkness. But the darkness cannot overpower it. A man whose name was John was sent by God. He came as a witness to bear testimony to the Light, and to help all men to believe through him. He was not the Light. He came only to bear testimony to the Light. The true Light is that which enlightens every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him. Yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own home. Yet his own people did not receive him. But he empowered all those who received him and who believed in his name to become children of God, because they owe their rebirth not to human blood nor to the will of the flesh, but to God. So the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, such as belongs to the only-begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified to him when he cried: "This is the one of whom I said: 'He comes after me, but he is above me, because he existed before me.'" We have all received from his abundance grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses. But grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No man has ever seen God. The only begotten Son, who abides in the Father's bosom, revealed him to us. Here is the testimony of John when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and asked him: "Who are you?" He asserted, he did not dissemble, he asserted openly: "I am not the Messiah." For the second time, they asked him: "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?" He answered: "I am not." For the third time, they asked him: "Are you the Prophet?" He answered: "No." For the fourth time they asked him: "Who are you then? Tell us, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say for yourself?" He replied: "I am preaching in the desert: 'Straighten out the road of the Lord,' as the Prophet Isaiah said." Now, those who had been sent were Pharisees. At last, they asked him: "Then why do you baptize, if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" He answered them: "I baptize with water. But in your midst is standing one whom you do not recognize. He comes after me, but he is so superior to me that I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." These events took place in Bethany, beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. On the following day, John saw Jesus coming to him, and said: "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of mankind. This is the one

of whom I said: 'After me comes a man who is above me, because he existed before me.' I did not know him myself. But I came to baptize with water for this purpose, that he might be manifested to Israel." So John testified saying: "I saw the Holy Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and remain over him. I did not know him myself. But God who sent me to baptize with water, said to me: 'The man on whom you see the Holy Spirit descend and remain, is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen him and I am testifying that he is the Son of God." On the next day, John was standing with two of his Disciples. He looked at Jesus, as he walked about, and said: "Here is the Lamb of God." The two Disciples heard his remark and followed Jesus. 38 He turned around, saw them following, and asked them: "What do you want?" They answered him: "Rabbi, which translated means Master, where are you staying?" He replied: "Come and see." So they went to see where he was staying, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was then about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two Disciples, who had heard John's remark and followed Jesus, was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. The first thing he did was to find his brother Simon and tell him: "We have found the Messiah," which translated means Christ. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said: "You are Simon, the son of John; your name will be Kephas," which translated means Peter. On the following day, Jesus decided to leave for Galilee, where he found Philip, and told him: "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the home town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him: "We have found the man of whom Moses and the Prophets wrote in the Scriptures, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

*The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday, Jn 12.1-18*

**S**ix days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead, was living. They gave him a dinner there. Martha was waiting on them, while Lazarus sat at the table with him. Then Mary took a pound of costly perfume of pure nard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, one of his Disciples who was going to betray him, said: "This perfume could have been sold for ten pounds and distributed to the poor." He made this remark, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief and he kept the purse with the money as the treasurer. Jesus answered: "Let her alone! She has kept it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me." When the great crowd of Jews learned that he was there, they came to see not only Jesus, but also Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. So the high priests plotted to murder Lazarus also, because on account of him many of the Jews were seceding and believing in Jesus. On the following day, a great crowd who had come to the festival, heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees, went out to meet him, and shouted: "Hosanna, blessed is the King of Israel who comes in the name of the Lord!" Jesus had found a young donkey and was seated upon it, as it is written in the Scriptures: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion! Look, your king is coming seated on a donkey's colt." The Disciples did not understand these events at first. But when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that they occurred as they had been prophesied in the Scriptures. Moreover, the crowd which had been with him, when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, testified as eye-witnesses. For this reason the crowd went out to meet him, because they heard that he had performed this miracle.



## HOLY WEEK

### *Holy Monday, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, Mt 24.3-35*

**L**ater on, while he was resting on the Mount of Olives, the Disciples asked him privately: "Tell us when this disaster will happen, and what will be the sign of your manifestation at the end of the world." Jesus answered them: "Look out. Let no one mislead you about my coming. Because many impostors will come in my name, saying: 'I am the Messiah!' And they will mislead many people. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. But do not be alarmed by them. True, all these disasters must happen. But that will not be the end of the world." "Yes, nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various countries. But that will be only the beginning of the ordeal. "Then they will hand you over to torture and they will put you to death. You will be hated by the Gentiles on account of my name. Many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. Many false prophets will appear, and many will be misled by them. Wickedness will increase and the charity of most men will grow cold. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved." "Now this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached first all over the world as a testimony to all the Gentiles. Then the end will come. Then you will see the abominable sacrilege standing in the holy temple. Daniel the Prophet has predicted calamity. Every reader will understand what I mean. "Then all those who live in Judea must flee to the mountains. The man who happens to be on the housetop must not go down to take anything out of his house. The man who happens to be in the field must not go back to take his coat. "Woe to the pregnant and nursing women in those days! Pray that you may not have to flee in the winter or on the Sabbath day. For in those days there will be greater affliction than there has ever been from the beginning of the world until now, or ever will be again. Now if those days had not been cut short, no human being would escape. But those days will be cut short for the sake of the elect." "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false messiahs and prophets will appear, and they will perform great miracles and wonders to lead astray, if they can, even the elect. "Now look out! I have foretold you everything. Therefore if they say to you, 'There he is in the desert!' do not go out. If they say, 'Here he is in the private chamber!' do not believe it." "For as the lightning starts in the east and flashes to the west, so the coming of the Son of God will

be. It will be preceded by disasters, because wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will flock together. "Immediately after the affliction of those days, the sun will be darkened. The moon will not give any light. The stars will fall from heaven. The powers of heaven will be shaken. Then the sign of the Messiah will appear in the sky. All the nations of the earth will stand in awe, as they will see the Messiah coming from the clouds of heaven with great power and glory. Then he will send out his angels with a loud sounding trumpet to gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." "Now listen to the parable of the fig tree: As soon as its branches grow soft and put forth leaves, you know that the summer is coming. So also, when you see all these events, you must know that he is at your very door. "Well, I tell you, the men of this generation will live to see all these occurrences. Heaven and earth will pass away. But my words will not pass away."

*Holy Tuesday, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, Mt 24.36-26.2*

**F**or false messiahs and prophets will appear, and they will perform great miracles and wonders to lead astray, if they can, even the elect. "Now look out! I have foretold you everything. Therefore if they say to you, 'There he is in the desert!' do not go out. If they say, 'Here he is in the private chamber!' do not believe it." "For as the lightning starts in the east and flashes to the west, so the coming of the Son of God will be. It will be preceded by disasters, because wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will flock together. "Immediately after the affliction of those days, the sun will be darkened. The moon will not give any light. The stars will fall from heaven. The powers of heaven will be shaken. Then the sign of the Messiah will appear in the sky. All the nations of the earth will stand in awe, as they will see the Messiah coming from the clouds of heaven with great power and glory. Then he will send out his angels with a loud sounding trumpet to gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." "Now listen to the parable of the fig tree: As soon as its branches grow soft and put forth leaves, you know that the summer is coming. So also, when you see all these events, you must know that he is at your very door. "Well, I tell you, the men of this generation will live to see all these occurrences. Heaven and earth will pass away. But my words will not pass away." "Now about that day and that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven. Only my Father knows. For as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Messiah. In those days before the Flood, the people were eating drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage until the very day that Noah went into the Ark. They knew nothing about the Flood until it came and swept them all away. So it will be at the coming of the Messiah also. "Then of two men in the field one will be taken, and the other left. Of two women at the hand-mill one will be taken, and the other left. Therefore watch. For you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. "But you may be sure what the householder would have done, if he had known at what time of the night the thief was coming. Of course, he would have watched and would not have allowed the thief to break into his house. Therefore you must be ready also. For the Messiah is coming at an hour you do not expect." "Here is an opportunity for the faithful and thoughtful servant. His master has placed him over the members of his household to give them their food at the proper time. Well, that servant will be happy when his master on his arrival finds him fulfilling his duty. Well I tell you, that his master will put him in charge of all his property." "But if

he is a bad servant, he will say to himself that his master is going to stay away a long time. He will begin to beat his fellow servants. He will eat and drink with drunkards. Of course, his master will come on a day when the servant does not expect him and at an hour he does not know at all. Then his master will punish him severely, and will put him with the unbelievers in a place where sinners are wailing and gnashing their teeth." "The Kingdom of Heaven is like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. The foolish ones brought their lamps, but took no oil with them. But the wise ones took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight a cry was heard: 'Wake up! The bridegroom is coming! Come out to meet him!' Thereupon all the virgins awoke, and trimmed their lamps. Then the foolish ones told the wise ones: 'Give us some of your oil.' For our lamps are going out.' "But the wise ones answered: 'We are afraid that we have not enough oil for us and for you. You better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were gone to buy it, the bridegroom arrived. The wise ones who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. Thereupon the door was closed. "Later on, the foolish ones came, and said: 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us.' But he answered: 'Well, I tell you, I do not know you.' Therefore watch. For you do not know the day and the hour at which the Messiah is coming." "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man going abroad who called his servants, and entrusted his property to them. He gave five talents to the first one, two talents to the second, and one talent to the third, to each one according to his ability. Then he went away."The first one who had received five talents went into business immediately with the money, and made a profit of five talents more. Likewise, the second one who had received two talents made a profit of two talents more. But the third one, who had received one talent, went away, dug a hole in the ground, and buried his master's money. "After a long time, the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The first one who had received five talents came and brought him five talents more, and said: 'Master, you gave me five talents. Look, I have made a profit of five talents more.' His master said to him: 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been trustworthy in charge of a small sum. I will put you in charge of a large sum. Come, share the festival of your master.' "The second one who had received two talents came next and said: 'Master, you gave me two talents. Look, I have made a profit of two talents more.' His master said to him: 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been trustworthy in charge of a small

sum. I will put you in charge of a large sum. Come, share the festival of your master.' "Then the third one who had received one talent came, and said: 'Master, I knew you were a greedy man. You reap where you have not sowed, and gather where you have not winnowed. So, as I was afraid, I went and buried your talent in the ground. Look, here is your money.' "His master answered him: 'Wicked and idle servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank. Because when I came back, I would have received my money with interest.' "Therefore take that talent away from him, and give it to the man who has the ten talents. For everyone who has much will be given more, and will be plentifully supplied. But everyone who has little will be deprived even of the little he has. Now cast this unworthy servant into the outer darkness where sinners are wailing and gnashing their teeth.'" "When the Messiah comes in his glory with his holy angels, he will sit on his glorious throne. He will gather all the nations before him. He will separate them one from another as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right hand: 'Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was naked, and you clothed me. I was in prison, and you came to see me.' "The righteous will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you drink? When did we see you a stranger, and welcomed you, or naked, and clothed you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visited you?' "The King will answer them: 'Well, I tell you, insofar as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to me.' "Then the King will say to those on his left hand: 'Go away from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for Satan and his devils! For I was hungry, but you gave me no food. I was thirsty, but you gave me no drink. I was a stranger, but you did not welcome me. I was naked, but you did not clothe me. I was sick and in prison, but you did not visit me.' "They will also ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison and did not minister to you?' "He will answer them: 'Well, I tell you, insofar as you did not do it to one of the least of these my brethren you did not do it to me.' Then the wicked will go into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into everlasting life." When Jesus had finished all these sermons, he said to his Disciples: "You know that after two days the Passover is coming. Then the Messiah will be betrayed and crucified."

*Holy Wednesday, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, Mt 26.6-16*

**N**ow, when Jesus was at Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of a very expensive perfume, and poured it on his head, as he sat at the table. When the Disciples saw it, they were indignant and said: "Why this waste? For we might have sold this perfume for a high price and given the proceeds to the poor." Jesus heard that remark and said: "Why do you bother the woman? She has rendered me a noble service. You always have the poor with you. But you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she prepared me for my funeral. Well, I tell you, wherever this Gospel is preached, all over the world, her act also will be mentioned in her commemoration." Then one of the twelve Disciples, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests, and asked them: "What will you give me if I hand him over to you?" They promised him thirty silver pieces. From that moment he watched for an opportunity to betray him.

*Holy Thursday, Liturgy of Saint Basil, Mt 26.1-20;*

**W**hen Jesus had finished all these sermons, he said to his Disciples: "You know that after two days the Passover is coming. Then the Messiah will be betrayed and crucified." Then the chief priests, the Scribes, and the elders of the people gathered in the house of the high priest called Caiaphas, and plotted to arrest Jesus by cunning and put him to death. But they agreed that they should not do it during the festival, in order to avoid an uproar among the people. Now, when Jesus was at Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of a very expensive perfume, and poured it on his head, as he sat at the table. When the Disciples saw it, they were indignant and said: "Why this waste? For we might have sold this perfume for a high price and given the proceeds to the poor." Jesus heard that remark and said: "Why do you bother the woman? She has rendered me a noble service. You always have the poor with you. But you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she prepared me for my funeral. Well, I tell you, wherever this Gospel is preached, all over the world, her act also will be mentioned in her commemoration." Then one of the twelve Disciples, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests, and asked them: "What will you give me if I hand him over to you?" They promised him thirty silver pieces. From that moment he watched for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of the Unleavened Bread, the Disciples came to Jesus and asked him: "Where do you want us to make the preparations for your Passover Supper?" He answered: "Go into the city to a certain man, and tell him: The Master says: 'My time is drawing near. I am going to celebrate the Passover at your house with my Disciples.'" His Disciples did as Jesus had ordered them, and prepared the Passover Supper. In the evening he sat down at the table with the twelve Apostles.

*Jn 13.3-17;*

**J**esus knew that the Father had given all authority into his hands. For he had come from God and was going back to God. So he rose from the table, took off his coat, and girded himself with a towel. He poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of his Disciples. Then he wiped them off with the towel with which he was girded. When he came to Simon Peter, he said to Jesus: "My Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered him: "You cannot understand now what I am doing. But you will understand it later on."

Peter retorted: "I will never let you wash my feet." Jesus said to him: "You will have no part with me unless I wash you." Then Simon Peter yielded: "My Lord, wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." Jesus said to him: "Whoever has bathed, needs only to wash his feet. Then indeed he is entirely clean. Now you are already clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was going to betray him. That was why he said: "You are not all of you clean." When Jesus had washed the feet of his Disciples, he put on his coat, resumed his place, and said to them: "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me your Lord and Master. You are right, for so I am. Now if I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also must wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example in order that you may do as I have done to you. "Well, well, I tell you, no servant is superior to his master, and no apostle is greater than he who sends him. Now that you have this knowledge, you will be blessed if you act upon it.

*Mt 26.21-39;*

**A**s they were eating, he said: "Well, I tell you, one of you will betray me." They were very sorrowful, and began to ask him one after another: "Is it I, Master?" Jesus answered them: "The man who has eaten from the same dish with me will betray me. The Messiah will go away, as it has been prophesied about him in the Scriptures. But woe to the man who will betray him! It would have been better for that man if he had never been born." Then Judas who betrayed him asked him: "Is it I Master?" Jesus answered: "Yes, you said it yourself." During the Supper Jesus took the bread, offered thanks, broke it, gave it to his Disciples and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body." Then he took the cup, offered thanks, gave it to them, and said: "Drink of it, all of you. This is my Blood of the New Testament which is poured out for many, for the remission of sins. I tell you, I will never drink this fruit of the vine again until that day when I will drink the new wine with you in the Kingdom of my Father." Thereupon they sang a hymn, and went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them: "You will all desert me tonight. For it is written in the Scriptures: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after my resurrection I will go before you and meet you in Galilee." Peter declared to him: "I will never desert you, even if all the others do." Jesus said to him: "Well, I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter replied: "I will not deny you, even if I have to die with you." All the Disciples made similar



statements. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to them: "Sit down here while I go and pray over there." Thereupon he took Peter and the sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be distressed and dismayed. He told them: "My soul is very sorrowful, even unto death. Stay here, and watch with me."

*Lk 22.43-45;*

**A**n Angel appeared from heaven and strengthened him. Jesus fell into an agony, and prayed more earnestly. His sweat looked like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. When he rose up from prayer, he went back to his Disciples and found them asleep from exhaustion. He said to them: "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not fall into temptation."

*Mt 26.40-27.2*

**W**hen he went back to his Disciples, he found them asleep, and said to Peter: "So you were not able to watch with me for a single hour! Watch and pray. Then you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, he went away for the second time, and prayed: "My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from me unless I drink it, thy will be done." When he came back, he found them asleep again. For they could not keep their eyes open. So he left them again, went away, prayed for the third time, and repeated the same petitions. When he came back to his Disciples for the last time, he said to them: "Are you still asleep and resting? Listen, the hour is drawing near. The Messiah will be delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go away from here. But look! My betrayer has arrived." While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve Disciples, came suddenly. He was accompanied by a large detachment of guards armed with swords and clubs who had been sent by the chief priests and the elders of the people. The traitor had given them a signal, saying: "The man is the one I will kiss. Arrest him." So he came up to Jesus and said: "Hail, Master!" Thereupon he kissed him affectionately. Jesus said to him: "My friend, what did you come here for?" In the meantime, the guards came forward, laid hands on Jesus, and arrested him. Thereupon one of the Disciples of Jesus reached out his hand, drew his sword, struck the attendant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him: "Put your sword back into its place. For all those who draw the sword will perish by the sword. You know that I can appeal to my Father and immediately have

more than twelve legions of angels to defend me. But these events must take place. Thus the prophecies of the Scriptures will be fulfilled." Then Jesus said to the crowd: "You have come out to arrest me with swords and clubs, as if I were a bandit. Day after day I preached to you in the temple, and you did not arrest me. But all these events have taken place in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Scriptures." Thereupon all the Disciples abandoned him and ran away. In the meantime, the guards who had arrested Jesus led him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the Scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter followed them at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, went inside, and sat with the servants to see the end. Now the chief priests and the members of the council were trying to get false testimony against Jesus, and put him to death. 60 But they found none, although many false witnesses had volunteered. Finally two false witnesses came forward and testified: "This man said: 'I can tear down the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" The high priest then stood up and asked him: "What is your answer to the accusations these men bring against you?" But Jesus remained silent. Thereupon the high priest told him: "In the name of the living God, tell us whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus answered him: "Yes. You said it yourself. Moreover, I tell you, before long you will see the Messiah seated at the right hand of Almighty God and coming down from the clouds of heaven." The high priest tore his garments, and said: "He has blasphemed. We have no further need of witnesses. You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They all answered: "He is guilty of a capital crime." Then they spat on his face and buffeted him. Some of them slapped him, and asked him: "Prophecy to us, O Messiah! Who struck you?" Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A maid came to him, and said: "You were with Jesus of Galilee also." But he denied it before them all and said: "I do not know what you mean." When he went out to the vestibule, another maid saw him, and said to the bystanders: "This man also was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again with an oath: "I do not know that man at all." A little while afterward, the bystanders came to Peter, and said: "You are certainly one of them also. For your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear: "I do not know that man at all." At that moment the cock crowed. Thereupon Peter remembered what Jesus had foretold him: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Then he went out, and wept bitterly. In the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people consulted together against Jesus, in order to put him to death. 2 So they bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the procurator.

*Holy Friday (Thursday Evening), The Twelve Passion Gospels*

1.) *Jn 13.31-18.1*

**W**hen Judas was gone, Jesus said: "Now is the Messiah glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and he will glorify him at once. "My children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, but as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you: 'You cannot come where I am going.' "I give you a new commandment: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must love one another also. Remember that all men will know that you are my Disciples by your love for one another." Simon Peter asked him: "My Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him: "You cannot follow me now where I am going. But you will follow me afterwards." Peter asked him again. "Why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus replied: "You will lay down your life for me? Well, well, I tell you, before the cock crows you will deny me three times." "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God and believe in me. In my Father's house there are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. For I am going to prepare a place for you. After preparing a place for you, I will come again take you with me. Then you will be where I am. Of course, you know where I am going, and you know the way." Thomas said to him: "My Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus answered him: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know the Father also. From now on you know him, and you have seen him." Philip said to him: "My Lord, show us the Father. That is all we want." Jesus answered him: "I have been so long with you, Philip. Yet you do not know me. Whoever has seen me, has seen my Father. So how can you tell me to show you my Father? You know that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. I am not speaking to you of myself. The Father who dwells in me speaks my words and performs my miracles. Therefore believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or else believe me on account of the miracles themselves. "Well, well, I tell you, whoever believes in me will perform the miracles I do, and even greater miracles. For I am going to my Father, and I will grant whatever you ask in my name. Then the Father will be glorified in the Son. Yes, I will grant whatever request you make in my name. "If you love me, keep my commandments. Then I will ask the Father to give you another Comforter, who will remain with you forever. He is the Spirit of Truth,

whom other men cannot receive, because they do not see him and do not know him. But you know him because he dwells in you and lives within you. "I will not leave you unprotected. I am coming back to you. In a little while the world will not see me any more. But you will still see me, because I live on, and you will live on also. In that day you will know, that I am in the Father, that you are in me, and that I am in you. Whoever loves me must observe the commandments he has received from me. Whoever loves me will be loved by the Father. I will love him also and I will manifest myself in him." Judas (not the Iscariot) said to him: "My Lord how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to other men?" Jesus answered him: "Whoever loves me, will obey my commandments. My Father will love him. We will come to him and abide with him. Whoever does not love me does not obey my commandments. Now, the commandments which you hear are not mine, but the Father's who sent me. "I am giving you these instructions while I am still with you. But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of everything that I have told you." "I leave peace with you. I give you my peace. I do not give you the peace of the unbelievers. Let not your heart be troubled or dismayed. "You have heard me tell you that I am going away and coming back to you. If you loved me, you would have been glad that I am going to my Father, because my Father is greater than I. "I have told you of this mission before it takes place. So when it takes place, you will believe in me. I will not talk much longer with you, because the tyrant of this world is coming. He has no power over me. But I do as the Father has commanded me. Thus the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let us go away from here." "I am the true vine, and my Father is the cultivator. He removes every branch which does not bear fruit in me. He prunes every branch which bears fruit to make it bear more. You are pruned already through the Gospel I have preached to you. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. But apart from me you can produce nothing. "Whoever does not abide in me is cast off like the branch and withers up. Then they gather them, throw them on the fire, and burn them up. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you please, and you will have it. "My Father will be glorified when you bear plenty of fruit and show yourselves to be Disciples of mine. 9 I have loved you as my Father has loved me. Abide in my love. If you obey my commandments, you will abide in my love, as I have obeyed the

commandments of my Father and abide in his love. Now that I have given you all these instructions, you will have the joy that I have had, and your joy will be complete. "This is my commandment: Love one another. The greatest love a man can show is to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer. For the servant does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends. For I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. "You did not choose me. But I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit which will endure. Then every request you make of my Father in my name will be granted to you. This is my commandment: Love one another. "If the unbelievers hate you, remember that they hated me first. If you belonged to them, then they would love their own men. But because you do not belong to them, and because I chose you from them, therefore they hate you. "Remember what I said to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my commandments, they will obey yours also. Consequently, they will treat you thus for my name's sake, because they do not know the Father who sent me. "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin. But now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me, hates my Father also. If I had not performed among them miracles which no one else did, they would not have been guilty of sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. "Thus the passage of their Scripture has been fulfilled: 'They hated me without cause.' But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will testify about me. You must testify about me also, because you have been with me from the beginning." "I am giving you all these details to keep you from faltering. They will expel you from their synagogues. Moreover, the hour is coming when anyone who murders you will think he is rendering a service to God. They will act in that fashion, because they do not know the Father nor me. "I have told you about all these persecutions, so that when the hour comes you will remember that I told you of them. I did not tell you of them from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going back to the Father who has sent me. Yet no one of you asks me where I am going, because your heart is full of sorrow at what I have told you. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is better for you that I should go away. For if I do not go, the Comforter will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. "Now when he comes, he will challenge the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment. About sin, because they do not believe in me. About righteousness, because I am going to my

Father, and you will see me no longer. About judgment, because the tyrant of this world is being judged. I have still many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. "When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you to all the truth. For he will not speak for himself. He will tell you what he has been instructed. He will announce to you the coming events. He will glorify me. For he will take what is mine and declare it to you. Everything the Father has, is mine. Therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. "In a little while you will see me no longer. But in a little while you will see me again, because I am going back to my Father." Some of his Disciples asked one another: "What does he mean when he tells us that in a little while we will see him no longer, but in a little while we will see him again, and that he is going back to the Father?" So they kept asking: "What does he mean, when he says in a little while? We do not understand what he is talking about." Jesus knew that they wanted to question him and told them: "Are you asking one another what I mean when I say that in a little while you will see me no longer, but in a little while you will see me again? Well, well, I tell you that you will weep and lament while the unbelievers will rejoice. You will grieve. But your sorrow will be turned into joy. "A woman in childbirth is suffering, because her hour has come. But when she has borne her child, she forgets her pain in her joy that a human being has been brought into the world. So you also are sorrowful for the present. But I will see you again, your heart will rejoice, and no one can take that joy from you. "In that day you will not need to ask anything of me. Well, well, I tell you, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will grant it to you. Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive. Thus your joy will be complete. "I have told you this story figuratively. But the hour is coming, when I will not do so any longer. Then I will speak to you about the Father plainly. In that day you will ask the Father in my name, and I will not need to intercede with the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and you have believed that I have come from God. I have come from the Father and I have entered the world. Now I am leaving the world, and I am going back to my Father." Then his Disciples said: "Why, now you are speaking plainly and not figuratively at all. Now we are sure that you know everything, and we do not need to ask you about it. For this reason, we believe that you have come from God." Jesus answered them: "Do you believe it now? Well, the hour is coming, and it has already come, when you will all be scattered to your homes, and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I am giving you all these assurances, so that you may have peace in

me. You will have tribulation in the world. But take courage, I have conquered the world." After these words Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son that your Son may glorify you. For you have given him authority over all mankind, and empowered him to grant everlasting life to those you have entrusted to him. "Everlasting life means to acknowledge you as the only true God, and to acknowledge Jesus Christ as your messenger. I have glorified you on earth. I have accomplished the task you have given me to do. Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory which I had with you before the world was created. "I have manifested your name to the men you gave me from the world. They were yours. You have given them to me. And they obeyed your commandments. Now they know that all my gifts come from you. For I gave them your Gospel. They have received it, because they know that I have come from you, and they believe that you have sent me. "I have a request to make for them. I do not make this request for strangers, but for those you have entrusted to me. For they are yours. Now all that is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine, and I am glorified in them. I will not remain in this world any longer. But they remain in this world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep in your name those you have entrusted to me. Then they will be united also, as we are. "As long as I was with them in this world, I kept and protected in your name those whom you entrusted to me. None of them was lost except the son of perdition, in fulfillment of the Scriptures. But now I am coming to you. Therefore I make these requests, while I am still in this world. So they will have the full measure of my joy in themselves. "I have given them your Gospel. The unbelievers have hated them, because they do not belong to them, even as I do not. I do not ask you to take them away from the world, but to keep them from evil. They do not belong to the world of unbelievers, even as I do not belong to them. Sanctify them in your truth. Your Gospel is the truth. As you have set me to mankind, so I send them to mankind also. For their sake, I dedicate myself. So they also will be dedicated by truth. "I do not make this request for them only, but also for those who will believe in me through their message. Let them all be united with us, Father, as you are united with me, and I with you. Then all men will believe that you have sent me. "I have given them the glory which you have granted to me. So they will be perfectly united as we are, I with them, and you with me. Then all men will know that you have sent me and that you have loved them as you have loved me. "Father, I wish that all those whom you have entrusted to me may be also with me where I am. Then they will see the glory which you have granted to me. For you have loved me

before the foundation of the world. "Righteous Father, men have not known you. But I have known you, and these men have known that you have sent me. For I have revealed and I will reveal your name to them. So the love with which you have loved me will be in them, and I in them." After this sermon Jesus went with his Disciples across the Ravine of the Cedars, where there was a garden which he and his Disciples entered.

## 2.) *Jn 18.1-28*

**A**fter this sermon Jesus went with his Disciples across the Ravine of the Cedars, where there was a garden which he and his Disciples entered. Judas who betrayed him knew the place also. For Jesus often met his Disciples there. So Judas, leading a detachment of guards from the chief priests and Pharisees, went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus, as he knew everything that was going to happen to him, came forward and asked them: "Whom are you looking for?" They answered him: "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them: "I am the man." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When he said to them: "I am the man," they drew back and fell to the ground. He asked them again: "Whom are you looking for?" They answered him: "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them: "I told you that I am the man. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was in fulfillment of what he had said: "I have not lost one of those whom you have given me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword with him, drew it and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter: "Put your sword back into its sheath. For I have to drink the cup which the Father has ordered me." Then the detachment of guards, their captain, and the servants of the Jews arrested Jesus, bound him, and took him first to Annas. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Simon Peter and another Disciple followed Jesus. This other Disciple was an acquaintance of the high priest, and entered the courtyard of the high priest along with Jesus. But Peter stood outside at the door. So this other Disciple, who was an acquaintance of the high priest, went out, spoke to the maid at the door, and brought Peter in. The maid at the door asked Peter: "Are you also one of this man's Disciples?" He answered: "I am not." As it was cold, the servants and attendants had made a charcoal fire, and stood around it warming themselves. Peter also stood with them and warmed himself. The high



priest questioned Jesus about his Disciples and his sermons. Jesus answered him: "I have preached openly to the people. I have always preached in the synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews meet together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me preach. They know what I preached." Thereupon, one of the attendants who stood near struck him and said: "Is that the way you answer the high priest?" Jesus replied: "If I have spoken wrongly, prove it. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. In the meantime, Peter was standing and warming himself. Some bystanders asked him: "Are you also one of his Disciples?" He denied it and said: "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said: "I saw you in the garden with him." Peter again denied it. At that moment the cock crowed. Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium in order to avoid defilement and to eat the Passover Supper.

### 3.) Mt 26.57-75

**I**n the evening a rich man from Arimathea called Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus, came forward boldly. He went to Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus. Pilate granted his request. Joseph took down the body from the Cross, wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and buried it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. Thereupon he rolled a great stone over the door of the tomb, and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. On the next day, after the Day of Preparation, the priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate, and said to him: "Sir! We remember that when this imposter was still alive, he declared: 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore give orders to have the tomb closely guarded until the third day. Otherwise, his Disciples may come, steal him away, and then tell the people: 'He has risen from the dead.' Then this last fraud will be worse than the first one." Pilate answered them: "You have a guard of soldiers. Go and make the tomb as safe as you can."

### 4.) Jn 18.28-19.16

**T**hen they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium in order to avoid defilement and to eat the Passover Supper. So Pilate went out and asked

them: "What accusation do you make against this man?" They answered him: "If he were not an evildoer, we would not have turned him over to you." Pilate said to them: "Take him yourselves and try him according to your Law." The Jews said to him: "We have no authority to put anyone to death." This was in fulfillment of what Jesus said when he declared how he was to die. Pilate went back into the praetorium, called Jesus, and asked him: "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered: "Do you ask this question of yourself, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate said: "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and your chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered: "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my soldiers would have fought to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this world." Pilate asked him: "Then you are a King?" Jesus answered him: "Yes, as you say yourself, I am a King. I was born and I have come to the world to give testimony for the truth. Whoever believes in the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him: "What is truth?" With these words Pilate went out, and said to the Jews: "I do not find him guilty at all. But it is your custom to have me release one man for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted back: "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate gave orders to have Jesus flogged. Afterwards, the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, placed it on his head, put on him a purple robe, and saluted him: "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they slapped him. Pilate went out again and said to them: "Look! I bring him out to you to show you that I do not find him guilty at all." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them: "Look! Here is the man." When the chief priests and their attendants saw him, they shouted: "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate answered: "Take him and crucify him yourselves. For I do not find him guilty." The Jews retorted: "We have a Law, and according to our Law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was more frightened than before. So he went back into the praetorium, and asked Jesus: "Where do you come from?" But Jesus made no answer. Then Pilate said to him: "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to crucify you and authority to release you?" Jesus answered him: "The authority you have over me has not been given you from above. Therefore the man who delivered me to you is guilty of a greater sin." From that moment Pilate tried to release him. But the Jews shouted: "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever calls himself a king is Caesar's rival." Thereupon, Pilate brought Jesus out and sat

down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. Then he said to the Jews: "Look! Here is your King!" But they shouted: "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate asked them: "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered: "We have no king but Caesar!" Then Pilate handed him over to the soldiers to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led him away.

5.) *Mt 27.3-32*

**W**hen Judas saw that Jesus was sentenced to death, he repented, and brought back the thirty silver pieces to the chief priests and the elders, saying: "I have sinned by betraying an innocent man." They answered: "That does not concern us. That is your affair." Thereupon Judas flung down the silver pieces, left the temple, went away, and hanged himself. The chief priests took the silver pieces and said: "It is not lawful to put this money into the treasury, because it is blood money." So after a consultation, they bought with it the Potter's Field as a cemetery for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Thus the prophecy of Jeremiah was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver pieces, the reward for the man on whom a price was set by the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the Potter's Field, as the Lord had ordered them." Then Jesus stood before the procurator. He asked him: "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him: "Yes. You said it yourself." But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he made no answer. Pilate asked him again: "Have you heard how many accusations they made against you?" But he gave no answer even to a single accusation. The procurator was greatly surprised. Now during the festival the procurator was accustomed to release for the people any prisoner they chose. At this time, there was a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. So when the people were assembled for this purpose, Pilate asked them: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he knew that they had delivered him out of envy. Moreover, while he was sitting on the tribunal, his wife sent him the following message: "Do not harm that righteous man. For I have suffered much in a dream today on his account." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. The procurator asked them again: "Which one of the two do you want me to release for you?" They all answered:

"Barabbas!" Pilate asked them again: "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" They all answered: "Let him be crucified." The procurator asked them again: "What crime has he committed?" But they shouted all the louder: "Let him be crucified!" Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing. For the uproar only became worse. So he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said: "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man. The responsibility is all yours." All the people answered: "Let his blood be on us and on our children." So Pilate released Barabbas for them. On the other hand, he gave orders to have Jesus flogged and crucified. Then the soldiers took Jesus into the praetorium and gathered the entire detachment before him. They stripped him, and put a scarlet robe on him. They plaited a crown of thorns, placed it on his head, put a reed in his right hand, knelt before him, and derided him, saying: "Hail, King of the Jews!" Moreover, they spat on him, took the reed, and struck him on his head. After deriding him, they took off his scarlet robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. As they went out of the city, they came upon a Cyrenian called Simon. They compelled him to carry his Cross.

6.) *Mk 15.16-32*

**T**hereupon the soldiers led Jesus away into the court, that is the Praetorium, and gathered the whole detachment. Then they put a purple robe on him, plaited a crown of thorns, placed it on his head, and began to salute him: "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they struck his head with a reed, spat on him, and knelt down in homage to him. After they had mocked him, they took off his purple robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him. On the way they compelled a passer-by, Simon the Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. So they brought him to the place called Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull. They offered him wine mingled with myrrh, but he refused to take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them to see what each one should take. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription of the accusation against him was written over his head: "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Thus the passage of the Scriptures was fulfilled: "He was reckoned with the transgressors." Those who passed by jeered at him, shaking their heads and saying: "You who can tear down the temple and rebuild it in three days,

save yourself and come down from the cross." Likewise, the chief priests and the scribes also mocked him among themselves and said: "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. Let Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now. When we see it, we will believe in him." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

7.) Mt 27.33-54

**W**hen they arrived at a place called Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull, they offered him wine mixed with gall. But when he tasted it, he refused to drink it. Then the soldiers crucified him and divided his garment among them by casting lots. Thus the prophecy was fulfilled: "They divided my garments and cast lots for my vesture." Then they sat down and kept guard over him. The accusation against him was placed over his head on an inscription, which read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. The passers-by jeered at him, shook their heads, and said: "You can tear down the temple and rebuild it in three days. If so, save yourself now. If you are the Son of God, come down from the Cross. Then we will believe in you." Likewise, the chief priests, the scribes, the elders, and Pharisees derided him also, and said: "You saved others. But you cannot save yourself. If you are the King of Israel, come down from the Cross. Then we will believe in you. You trusted in God. Let God save you now, if he loves you. For you said: 'I am the Son of God.'" Even the bandits who were crucified with him reviled him in similar terms. Now from the sixth hour darkness overspread all the country until the ninth hour. At about the ninth hour, Jesus cried aloud: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" That is to say: "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard him said: "Listen! He is calling Elijah!" One of them ran at once, took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said: "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried aloud again, and expired. Thereupon the curtain of the temple was rent in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. The rocks were split. The tombs were opened. Many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep arose, came out of the tombs after his resurrection went into the Holy City, and appeared to many. When the Centurion and the soldiers who kept guard over him saw the earthquake and the other omens, they were filled with awe, and said: "Indeed he was the Son of God!"

8.) *Lk 23.32-49*

**T**wo criminals also were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When the soldiers arrived at a place which is called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." The soldiers cast lots to divide his garments. The people stood by watching. The leaders jeered at him and said: "He saved others. Let him save himself, if he is the Messiah, the elect of God." The soldiers also mocked him, came up to him, offered him vinegar, and said: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." There was also an inscription placed over him in Greek, Roman, and Hebrew characters: "This is the King of the Jews." One of the crucified criminals abused him, and said: "If you are the Messiah, save yourself and us." But the other reproved him and said: "Have you no fear of God? You are undergoing the same penalty as he. We suffer justly indeed, for we are receiving the due reward of our misdeeds. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus: "Remember me, O Lord, when you come into your Kingdom." Jesus answered him: "Well, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." It was now about the sixth hour. Darkness overspread the whole country until the ninth hour. The sun was darkened, and the curtain of the temple was rent in two. Then Jesus cried aloud: "Father, I commit my spirit into your hands." With these words he expired. When the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God and said: "Indeed this was a righteous man." All the crowd of those who had gathered to witness this spectacle, when they saw these events, returned home striking their breasts. All his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these occurrences.

9.) *Jn 19.25-37*

**B**y the Cross of Jesus were standing his Mother, his Mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his Mother and the Disciple whom he loved standing by, he said to his Mother: "Here is your son." Then he said to his Disciple: "Here is your Mother." From that hour the Disciple took her into his own home. Thereupon Jesus, knowing that everything was now accomplished, in fulfillment of the Scriptures, said: "I am thirsty." A bowl full of vinegar was standing there. The bystanders filled a sponge with vinegar, placed it on a hyssop-stalk, and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said: "It is finished." Then he bowed his head

and expired. As it was the day of the Preparation for the Passover, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the Cross on the Sabbath day. For it was a great festival. Therefore they requested Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies removed. So the soldiers went and broke the legs of the first man and the other who had been crucified with him. When they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water flowed out. The man who saw it testifies to it. His testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth to enable you also to believe. For these events occurred in fulfillment of the Scriptures: "Not one of his bones will be broken." Again another Scriptural passage tells us: "They will see who is the man they have pierced."

10.) *Mk 15.43-47*

**T**hen Joseph of Arimathea, a high-ranking counsellor, who was also waiting for the Kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was astonished that Jesus had died so soon. So he summoned the Centurion and asked him whether he was already dead. When he heard his report, Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen shroud, took him down from the Cross, wrapped him in the shroud, laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joseph, observed the tomb in which he was laid.

11.) *Jn 19.38-42*

**T**hen Joseph of Arimathea came. He was a secret disciple of Jesus because of his fear of the Jews. So he requested Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus down. Nicodemus, who had at first met Jesus by night, came also bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it up in linen cloths with the perfumes according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where Jesus was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So, as that tomb was close at hand, they buried Jesus there because of the Jewish day of Preparation.

12.) Mt 27.62-66

**O**n the next day, after the Day of Preparation, the priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate, and said to him: "Sir! We remember that when this imposter was still alive, he declared: 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore give orders to have the tomb closely guarded until the third day. Otherwise, his Disciples may come, steal him away, and then tell the people: 'He has risen from the dead.' Then this last fraud will be worse than the first one." Pilate answered them: "You have a guard of soldiers. Go and make the tomb as safe as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and by setting a guard.



HOLY FRIDAY:

*The Royal Hours*

*First Hour, Mt 27.1-56*

In the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people consulted together against Jesus, in order to put him to death. So they bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the procurator. When Judas saw that Jesus was sentenced to death, he repented, and brought back the thirty silver pieces to the chief priests and the elders, saying: "I have sinned by betraying an innocent man." They answered: "That does not concern us. That is your affair." Thereupon Judas flung down the silver pieces, left the temple, went away, and hanged himself. The chief priests took the silver pieces and said: "It is not lawful to put this money into the treasury, because it is blood money." So after a consultation, they bought with it the Potter's Field as a cemetery for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Thus the prophecy of Jeremiah was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver pieces, the reward for the man on whom a price was set by the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the Potter's Field, as the Lord had ordered them." Then Jesus stood before the procurator. He asked him: "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him: "Yes. You said it yourself." But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he made no answer. Pilate asked him again: "Have you heard how many accusations they made against you?" But he gave no answer even to a single accusation. The procurator was greatly surprised. Now during the festival the procurator was accustomed to release for the people any prisoner they chose. At this time, there was a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. So when the people were assembled for this purpose, Pilate asked them: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he knew that they had delivered him out of envy. Moreover, while he was sitting on the tribunal, his wife sent him the following message: "Do not harm that righteous man. For I have suffered much in a dream today on his account." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. The procurator asked them again: "Which one of the two do you want me to release for you?" They all answered: "Barabbas!" Pilate asked them again: "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" They all answered: "Let him be crucified." The procurator asked them again: "What crime has he committed?" But they

shouted all the louder: "Let him be crucified!" Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing. For the uproar only became worse. So he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said: "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man. The responsibility is all yours." All the people answered: "Let his blood be on us and on our children." So Pilate released Barabbas for them. On the other hand, he gave orders to have Jesus flogged and crucified. Then the soldiers took Jesus into the praetorium and gathered the entire detachment before him. They stripped him, and put a scarlet robe on him. They plaited a crown of thorns, placed it on his head, put a reed in his right hand, knelt before him, and derided him, saying: "Hail, King of the Jews!" Moreover, they spat on him, took the reed, and struck him on his head. After deriding him, they took off his scarlet robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. As they went out of the city, they came upon a Cyrenian called Simon. They compelled him to carry his Cross. When they arrived at a place called Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull, they offered him wine mixed with gall. But when he tasted it, he refused to drink it. Then the soldiers crucified him and divided his garment among them by casting lots. Thus the prophecy was fulfilled: "They divided my garments and cast lots for my vesture." Then they sat down and kept guard over him. The accusation against him was placed over his head on an inscription, which read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. The passers-by jeered at him, shook their heads, and said: "You can tear down the temple and rebuild it in three days. If so, save yourself now. If you are the Son of God, come down from the Cross. Then we will believe in you." Likewise, the chief priests, the scribes, the elders, and Pharisees derided him also, and said: "You saved others. But you cannot save yourself. If you are the King of Israel, come down from the Cross. Then we will believe in you. You trusted in God. Let God save you now, if he loves you. For you said: 'I am the Son of God.'" Even the bandits who were crucified with him reviled him in similar terms. Now from the sixth hour darkness overspread all the country until the ninth hour. At about the ninth hour, Jesus cried aloud: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" That is to say: "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard him said: "Listen! He is calling Elijah!" One of them ran at once, took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said: "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried aloud again, and expired. Thereupon the curtain of the temple was rent in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. The rocks were split. The tombs were opened. Many

bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep arose, came out of the tombs after his resurrection went into the Holy City, and appeared to many. When the Centurion and the soldiers who kept guard over him saw the earthquake and the other omens, they were filled with awe, and said: "Indeed he was the Son of God!" Many women also were there looking on from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

*Third Hour, Mk 15.16-41*

**T**hereupon the soldiers led Jesus away into the court, that is the Praetorium, and gathered the whole detachment. Then they put a purple robe on him, plaited a crown of thorns, placed it on his head, and began to salute him: "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they struck his head with a reed, spat on him, and knelt down in homage to him. After they had mocked him, they took off his purple robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him. On the way they compelled a passer-by, Simon the Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. So they brought him to the place called Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull. They offered him wine mingled with myrrh, but he refused to take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them to see what each one should take. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription of the accusation against him was written over his head: "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Thus the passage of the Scriptures was fulfilled: "He was reckoned with the transgressors." Those who passed by jeered at him, shaking their heads and saying: "You who can tear down the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself and come down from the cross." Likewise, the chief priests and the scribes also mocked him among themselves and said: "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. Let Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now. When we see it, we will believe in him." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. When the sixth hour had come, darkness overspread the whole country until the ninth hour. At the ninth hour Jesus cried aloud: "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani!" That is to say: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders, when they heard it, said: "Listen, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, filled a sponge with vinegar, put it on a reed,

and gave it to him to drink, saying: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and expired. Thereupon the curtain of the temple was rent in two from top to bottom. When the centurion, who stood opposite him, saw that he cried aloud and expired, he exclaimed: "Indeed this man was the Son of God." There were also some women watching from afar. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Younger and of Joseph, and Salome. These women used to accompany him and minister to him when he was in Galilee. There were also many other women who had come with him to Jerusalem.

*Sixth Hour, Lk 23.32-49*

**T**wo criminals also were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When the soldiers arrived at a place which is called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." The soldiers cast lots to divide his garments. The people stood by watching. The leaders jeered at him and said: "He saved others. Let him save himself, if he is the Messiah, the elect of God." The soldiers also mocked him, came up to him, offered him vinegar, and said: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." There was also an inscription placed over him in Greek, Roman, and Hebrew characters: "This is the King of the Jews." One of the crucified criminals abused him, and said: "If you are the Messiah, save yourself and us." But the other reproved him and said: "Have you no fear of God? You are undergoing the same penalty as he. We suffer justly indeed, for we are receiving the due reward of our misdeeds. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus: "Remember me, O Lord, when you come into your Kingdom." Jesus answered him: "Well, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." It was now about the sixth hour. Darkness overspread the whole country until the ninth hour. The sun was darkened, and the curtain of the temple was rent in two. Then Jesus cried aloud: "Father, I commit my spirit into your hands." With these words he expired. When the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God and said: "Indeed this was a righteous man." All the crowd of those who had gathered to witness this spectacle, when they saw these events, returned home striking their breasts. All his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these occurrences.

*Ninth Hour, Jn 18.28-19.37*

**T**hen they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium in order to avoid defilement and to eat the Passover Supper. So Pilate went out and asked them: "What accusation do you make against this man?" They answered him: "If he were not an evildoer, we would not have turned him over to you." Pilate said to them: "Take him yourselves and try him according to your Law." The Jews said to him: "We have no authority to put anyone to death." This was in fulfillment of what Jesus said when he declared how he was to die. Pilate went back into the praetorium, called Jesus, and asked him: "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered: "Do you ask this question of yourself, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate said: "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and your chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered: "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my soldiers would have fought to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this world." Pilate asked him: "Then you are a King?" Jesus answered him: "Yes, as you say yourself, I am a King. I was born and I have come to the world to give testimony for the truth. Whoever believes in the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him: "What is truth?" With these words Pilate went out, and said to the Jews: "I do not find him guilty at all. But it is your custom to have me release one man for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted back: "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate gave orders to have Jesus flogged. Afterwards, the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, placed it on his head, put on him a purple robe, and saluted him: "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they slapped him. Pilate went out again and said to them: "Look! I bring him out to you to show you that I do not find him guilty at all." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them: "Look! Here is the man." When the chief priests and their attendants saw him, they shouted: "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate answered: "Take him and crucify him yourselves. For I do not find him guilty." The Jews retorted: "We have a Law, and according to our Law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was more frightened than before. So he went back into the praetorium, and asked Jesus: "Where do you come from?" But Jesus made no answer. Then Pilate said to him: "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to crucify you and authority to

release you?" Jesus answered him: "The authority you have over me has not been given you from above. Therefore the man who delivered me to you is guilty of a greater sin." From that moment Pilate tried to release him. But the Jews shouted: "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever calls himself a king is Caesar's rival." Thereupon, Pilate brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. Then he said to the Jews: "Look! Here is your King!" But they shouted: "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate asked them: "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered: "We have no king but Caesar!" Then Pilate handed him over to the soldiers to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led him away. Jesus went forth, carrying his Cross to the Place of the Skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him with two others, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote an inscription also, and placed it upon the Cross. It was written thus: "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews." Many Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was close to the city. It had been written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. The chief priests asked Pilate to change the inscription on the Cross from "King of the Jews" to "Self-appointed King of the Jews." But Pilate answered: "I am through with that inscription." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four shares, one for each soldier. But his tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said to one another: "Let us not tear it. Let us cast lots to decide who will get it." Thus the prophecy of the Scripture was fulfilled: "They divided my garments among them, and they cast lots for my tunic." By the Cross of Jesus were standing his Mother, his Mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his Mother and the Disciple whom he loved standing by, he said to his Mother: "Here is your son." Then he said to his Disciple: "Here is your Mother." From that hour the Disciple took her into his own home. Thereupon Jesus, knowing that everything was now accomplished, in fulfillment of the Scriptures, said: "I am thirsty." A bowl full of vinegar was standing there. The bystanders filled a sponge with vinegar, placed it on a hyssop-stalk, and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said: "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and expired. As it was the day of the Preparation for the Passover, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the Cross on the Sabbath day. For it was a great festival. Therefore they requested Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies removed. So the soldiers went and broke

the legs of the first man and the other who had been crucified with him. When they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water flowed out. The man who saw it testifies to it. His testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth to enable you also to believe. For these events occurred in fulfillment of the Scriptures: "Not one of his bones will be broken." Again another Scriptural passage tells us: "They will see who is the man they have pierced."

*Vespers, Mt 27.1-38;*

**I**n the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people consulted together against Jesus, in order to put him to death. So they bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the procurator. When Judas saw that Jesus was sentenced to death, he repented, and brought back the thirty silver pieces to the chief priests and the elders, saying: "I have sinned by betraying an innocent man." They answered: "That does not concern us. That is your affair." Thereupon Judas flung down the silver pieces, left the temple, went away, and hanged himself. The chief priests took the silver pieces and said: "It is not lawful to put this money into the treasury, because it is blood money." So after a consultation, they bought with it the Potter's Field as a cemetery for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Thus the prophecy of Jeremiah was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver pieces, the reward for the man on whom a price was set by the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the Potter's Field, as the Lord had ordered them." Then Jesus stood before the procurator. He asked him: "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him: "Yes. You said it yourself." But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he made no answer. Pilate asked him again: "Have you heard how many accusations they made against you?" But he gave no answer even to a single accusation. The procurator was greatly surprised. Now during the festival the procurator was accustomed to release for the people any prisoner they chose. At this time, there was a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. So when the people were assembled for this purpose, Pilate asked them: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he knew that they had delivered him out of envy. Moreover, while he was sitting on the tribunal, his wife sent him the following message: "Do not harm that righteous man. For I have suffered much in a dream

today on his account." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. The procurator asked them again: "Which one of the two do you want me to release for you?" They all answered: "Barabbas!" Pilate asked them again: "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" They all answered: "Let him be crucified." The procurator asked them again: "What crime has he committed?" But they shouted all the louder: "Let him be crucified!" Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing. For the uproar only became worse. So he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said: "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man. The responsibility is all yours." All the people answered: "Let his blood be on us and on our children." So Pilate released Barabbas for them. On the other hand, he gave orders to have Jesus flogged and crucified. Then the soldiers took Jesus into the praetorium and gathered the entire detachment before him. They stripped him, and put a scarlet robe on him. They plaited a crown of thorns, placed it on his head, put a reed in his right hand, knelt before him, and derided him, saying: "Hail, King of the Jews!" Moreover, they spat on him, took the reed, and struck him on his head. After deriding him, they took off his scarlet robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. As they went out of the city, they came upon a Cyrenian called Simon. They compelled him to carry his Cross. When they arrived at a place called Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull, they offered him wine mixed with gall. But when he tasted it, he refused to drink it. Then the soldiers crucified him and divided his garment among them by casting lots. Thus the prophecy was fulfilled: "They divided my garments and cast lots for my vesture." Then they sat down and kept guard over him. The accusation against him was placed over his head on an inscription, which read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left.

*Lk 23.39-43;*

**O**ne of the crucified criminals abused him, and said: "If you are the Messiah, save yourself and us." But the other reproved him and said: "Have you no fear of God? You are undergoing the same penalty as he. We suffer justly indeed, for we are receiving the due reward of our misdeeds. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus: "Remember me, O Lord, when you come into your Kingdom." Jesus answered him: "Well, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."



*Mt 27.39-54;*

**T**he passers-by jeered at him, shook their heads, and said: "You can tear down the temple and rebuild it in three days. If so, save yourself now. If you are the Son of God, come down from the Cross. Then we will believe in you." Likewise, the chief priests, the scribes, the elders, and Pharisees derided him also, and said: "You saved others. But you cannot save yourself. If you are the King of Israel, come down from the Cross. Then we will believe in you. You trusted in God. Let God save you now, if he loves you. For you said: 'I am the Son of God.'" Even the bandits who were crucified with him reviled him in similar terms. Now from the sixth hour darkness overspread all the country until the ninth hour. At about the ninth hour, Jesus cried aloud: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" That is to say: "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard him said: "Listen! He is calling Elijah!" One of them ran at once, took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said: "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried aloud again, and expired. Thereupon the curtain of the temple was rent in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. The rocks were split. The tombs were opened. Many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep arose, came out of the tombs after his resurrection went into the Holy City, and appeared to many. When the Centurion and the soldiers who kept guard over him saw the earthquake and the other omens, they were filled with awe, and said: "Indeed he was the Son of God!"

*Jn 19.31-37;*

**A**s it was the day of the Preparation for the Passover, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the Cross on the Sabbath day. For it was a great festival. Therefore they requested Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies removed. So the soldiers went and broke the legs of the first man and the other who had been crucified with him. When they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water flowed out. The man who saw it testifies to it. His testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth to enable you also to believe. For these events occurred in fulfillment of the Scriptures: "Not one of his bones will be broken." Again another Scriptural passage tells us: "They will see who is the man they have pierced."

*Mt 27.55-61*

**M**any women also were there looking on from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. In the evening a rich man from Arimathea called Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus, came forward boldly. He went to Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus. Pilate granted his request. Joseph took down the body from the Cross, wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and buried it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. Thereupon he rolled a great stone over the door of the tomb, and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

## *HOLY SATURDAY*

### *GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY, Mt 28.1-20*

**A**fter the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. Thereupon a violent earthquake shook the earth. For an Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, came to the tomb, rolled the stone back from the entrance, and sat upon it. His face was shining like lightning, and his garments were as white as snow. The guards trembled for fear and became like dead men. Then the Angel said to the women: "Do not be afraid. For I know that you are looking for Jesus the Crucified. He is not here. For he has risen, as he foretold you. Come and look at the place where the Lord lay. Now go quickly and tell his Disciples that he has risen from the dead, and is going to Galilee before you. You will see him there. Now I have told you my message." The women hurried away from the tomb frightened yet overjoyed, and ran to announce the news to the Disciples. On the way, Jesus met them and said to them: "Hail!" The women went up to him, clasped his feet, and worshipped him. Jesus said to them: "Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee. They will see me there." While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests the miracle of the Resurrection. The chief priests held a meeting with the elders, and after a consultation they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, saying: "Tell the people: 'His Disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report reaches the procurator, we will persuade him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were ordered. This story has been current among the Jews until this day. Now the eleven Apostles went to the mountain in Galilee where Jesus had ordered them to meet him. When they saw him they worshipped him. But some of them hesitated. Then Jesus came and said to them: "Full authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, convert all nations, baptize them in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe the commandments I have given you. And remember, I will be with you always, to the very end of the world. Amen.

*MAJOR FIXED FEASTS*

*The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 February), Lk 2.22-40*

**T**hen the days of his Mother's purification were fulfilled. So, according to the Law of Moses, the parents brought the Child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, because it is written in the Scriptures that "every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord." Moreover, they had to offer the sacrifice prescribed in the Scriptures, namely a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. At that time, there was in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. This man was righteous and devout. He was awaiting the redemption of Israel and he was inspired by the Holy Spirit. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Lord's Messiah. So he went to the temple under the influence of the Holy Spirit. When the parents brought in the Child Jesus for the purpose of fulfilling the customary prescriptions of the Law, Simeon took him in his arms, blessed God, and said: "Lord, now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your promise. For my eyes have seen the salvation, which you have prepared for all peoples, a light of revelation for the Gentiles, and a glory for your people Israel." His mother and Joseph were amazed at what was spoken about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his Mother: "Listen! This child is destined to cause the fall and the rise of many in Israel. He will become a subject of controversy. A sword will pierce your own heart. Thus the thoughts of many people will be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. When she was young, she had been married for seven years. She had been a widow until she reached the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshipped night and day with fasts and prayers. She came up at that very moment, gave praise to the Lord, and spoke about the Child to all those who were looking for the liberation of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The Child grew and became strong in spirit. He was full of wisdom, and imbued with the grace of God.

*The Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (25 March), Lk 1.24-38*

**S**oon afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She kept herself in seclusion for five months. She said: "The Lord has done this favor to me. He has deigned to remove the disgrace I have endured among men." Six months later, the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. So the Angel went to her house, and said to her: "Hail gracious Virgin, the Lord is with you." She was startled by what he said and wondered what his greeting meant. But the Angel said to her: "Do not be afraid, Mary. For you have found grace with God. Consequently, you will become pregnant, you will give birth to a Son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord our God will give him the throne of his forefather David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end." Mary asked the Angel: "How can this happen, when I have no husband?" The Angel answered her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the Child to be born will be called the holy Son of God. "Look, your relative Elizabeth in her old age became pregnant with a son. Now this is the sixth month of pregnancy of a woman who was called barren. For with God nothing is impossible." Mary said: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. I am ready to serve as you say." Then the Angel departed from her.

*The Holy, Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul (29 June), Mt 16.13-19*

**W**hen Jesus came to the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his Disciples: "Who do the people say that I am?" They answered him: "Some say, John the Baptist. Others say, Elijah. And others, Jeremiah, or one of the Prophets." Jesus asked them again: "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered him: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him: "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! For you have not received that revelation from a man, but from my Father in heaven. So I say to you: You are Peter the rock, and upon that rock I will build my Church, which the powers of Hades will be unable to overcome. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Moreover, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

*The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (6 August), Mt 17.1-9*

**S**ix days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John, led them apart on a high mountain, and was transfigured before them. His face glittered as the sun, and his garments became as white as the light. Thereupon Moses and Elijah appeared conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus: "Master, we would like to stay here. If you wish, I will erect here three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a shining cloud overshadowed them. Thereupon a voice came out of the cloud, saying: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him." When the Disciples heard the voice, they fell upon their faces and were dreadfully frightened. In the meantime, Jesus came, touched them, and said: "Arise, and do not be afraid. When they looked up, they saw no one but Jesus alone. As they were going down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying: "Do not tell anyone of this vision until the Messiah is risen from the dead."



*The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (15 August), Lk 10.38-42; 11.27, 28*

**A**s Jesus went along, he entered a village. A woman named Martha received him in her home. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. Martha was over-busy with much serving. So she went to him and said: "My Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me." Jesus answered her: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen that good part which must not be taken away from her." As he made this statement, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said: "Blessed is the mother who bore you and nursed you." But he said: "Blessed are those who hear the Gospel and obey it."

*The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (8 September), Lk 10.38-42; 11.27, 28*

(Readings are the same as for Dormition)

**A**s Jesus went along, he entered a village. A woman named Martha received him in her home. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. Martha was over-busy with much serving. So she went to him and said: "My Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me." Jesus answered her: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen that good part which must not be taken away from her." As he made this statement, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said: "Blessed is the mother who bore you and nursed you." But he said: "Blessed are those who hear the Gospel and obey it."

*Saturday Before the Exaltation of the Cross, Mt 10.37-11.1*

**E**veryone who loves father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me. Everyone who loves son or daughter more than me, is not worthy of me. And everyone who does not take his cross and follow me, is not worthy of me. Everyone who finds his life, will lose it. And everyone who loses his life for my sake, will find it." "Everyone who receives you, receives me. And everyone who receives me, receives my Father who sent me. Everyone who receives a prophet, because he is a prophet, will receive a prophet's reward. Everyone who receives a righteous man, because he is a righteous man, will receive a righteous man's reward. And everyone who gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, because he is a disciple of mine, well, I tell you that he will not lose his reward." When Jesus had finished his instructions to his twelve Disciples, he left that region and went to teach and preach in their cities.

*Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross, Jn 3.13-17*

**T**he Messiah, who descended from heaven is the only one who ascended into heaven, where he is dwelling. Now, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Messiah be lifted up also. Then whoever believes in him will not perish, but will find everlasting life. "God loved men so much that he gave up his only-begotten Son for them. For whoever believes in him will not perish, but will find eternal life. God did not send his Son to mankind to condemn them, but to save them through him. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said: "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and expired. As it was the day of the Preparation for the Passover, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the Cross on the Sabbath day. For it was a great festival. Therefore they requested Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies removed. So the soldiers went and broke the legs of the first man and the other who had been crucified with him. When they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water flowed out. The man who saw it testifies to it. His testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth to enable you also to believe.

*The Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross (14 September), Jn 19.6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35*

**W**hen the chief priests and their attendants saw him, they shouted: "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate answered: "Take him and crucify him yourselves. For I do not find him guilty." The Jews retorted: "We have a Law, and according to our Law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was more frightened than before. So he went back into the praetorium, and asked Jesus: "Where do you come from?" But Jesus made no answer. Then Pilate said to him: "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to crucify you and authority to release you?" Jesus answered him: "The authority you have over me has not been given you from above. Therefore the man who delivered me to you is guilty of a greater sin." Thereupon, Pilate brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. Then he said to the Jews: "Look! Here is your King!" But they shouted: "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate asked them: "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered: "We have no king but Caesar!" Then Pilate handed him over to the soldiers to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led him away. Jesus went forth, carrying his Cross to the Place of the Skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him with two others, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote an inscription also, and placed it upon the Cross. It was written thus: "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews." Many Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was close to the city. It had been written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. By the Cross of Jesus were standing his Mother, his Mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his Mother and the Disciple whom he loved standing by, he said to his Mother: "Here is your son." Then he said to his Disciple: "Here is your Mother." From that hour the Disciple took her into his own home. Thereupon Jesus, knowing that everything was now accomplished, in fulfillment of the Scriptures, said: "I am thirsty."

*Saturday After the Exaltation of the Cross, Jn 8.21-30*

**T**hen Jesus added: "I am going away, and you will search for me. But you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come." Therefore the Jews began to ask: "Is he going to kill himself? For he says: 'Where I am going you cannot come.'" Jesus answered them: "You are from below, I am from above. You are of this world. I am not of this world. That is why I told you before and I am telling you now: You will die in your sins unless you believe that I am the one you are looking for." Then they asked him: "Who are you?" Jesus answered them: "I am what I told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you and condemn you. Certainly the Father who sent me is true. So I tell mankind what I have learned from him." They could not understand why he called God his Father. Therefore Jesus said: "When you have lifted up the Messiah, then you will know that I am the one you are waiting for. I do nothing of myself, and I am speaking as the Father taught me. Now the Father who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone. For I am doing what is pleasing to him." After he made this statement, many believed in him.

*Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross, Mk 8.34-9.1*

**T**hen Jesus called the people along with his Disciples, and said to them: "Whoever wants to come after me let him deny himself, let him take up his cross, and let him follow me. "For everyone who wants to save his life will lose it. And everyone who loses his life for me and for my Gospel will save it. "It does not profit a man at all, if he gains the entire world, but loses his own life. There is no ransom a man can give to recover the life he has lost. Moreover, If anyone is ashamed of me and of my Gospel in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Messiah will also be ashamed of him, when he comes with his holy angels in the glory of his Father." Then Jesus added: "Well, I tell you, some of you who standing here will certainly live to see the Kingdom of God when it comes with all its majesty."

*The Protection of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (1 October), Lk 10.38-42; 11.27, 28*

**A**s Jesus went along, he entered a village. A woman named Martha received him in her home. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. Martha was over busy with much serving. So she went to him and said: "My Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me." Jesus answered her: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen that good part which must not be taken away from her." As he made this statement, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said: "Blessed is the mother who bore you and nursed you." But he said: "Blessed are those who hear the Gospel and obey it."



*The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple (21 November), Lk 10.38-42, 11.27, 28*

**A**s Jesus went along, he entered a village. A woman named Martha received him in her home. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. Martha was over busy with much serving. So she went to him and said: "My Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me." Jesus answered her: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen that good part which must not be taken away from her." As he made this statement, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said: "Blessed is the mother who bore you and nursed you." But he said: "Blessed are those who hear the Gospel and obey it."

*St. John the Baptist Conception (23 September), Lk 1.5-25*

**D**uring the reign of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the division of Abijah. His wife was also a descendant of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God, strictly observing the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. They had no children, for Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years. Now he was officiating as priest before God when his division was on duty. According to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to his lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer him incense. All the congregation of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. Thereupon an Angel appeared to him standing on the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and overcome with fear. But the Angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. For your prayer has been heard. Your wife will bear you a son and you will name him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink no wine nor strong drinks. He will be inspired by the Holy Spirit from his very birth. He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord our God. He will go before him in the Spirit and power of Elijah. He will reconcile fathers to their children, He will bring the disobedient back to the wisdom of the righteous. He will prepare the people perfectly for the Lord." Zechariah said to the Angel: "How can I believe such a thing? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." The Angel answered him: "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God. I have been sent to speak to you and to announce to you these good tidings. Now you will be silent and unable to speak until the day when this event will take place. For you have not believed my words which will be fulfilled in their time." In the meantime, the people were waiting for Zechariah. They wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he came out, he could not speak to them. So they knew that he had seen a vision in the temple. He kept making signs to them, but remained dumb. When the days of his ministration were completed, he went back to his home. Soon afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She kept herself in seclusion for five months. She said: "The Lord has done this favor to me. He has deigned to remove the disgrace I have endured among men."

*Nativity of John the Baptist (24 June), Lk 1.1-15, 57-68, 76, 80*

**M**any writers have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have occurred among us in fulfillment of the Scriptural prophecies. Their stories were based on the testimonies handed down to us by the original eyewitnesses and missionaries of the Gospel. As you know, most excellent Theophilus, I have carefully investigated the entire revelation from its beginning. For this reason I myself have decided to write its history in a connected form for your benefit. Thus you will obtain a reliable handbook of the doctrines in which you have been instructed. During the reign of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the division of Abijah. His wife was also a descendant of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God, strictly observing the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. They had no children, for Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years. Now he was officiating as priest before God when his division was on duty. According to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to his lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer him incense. All the congregation of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. Thereupon an Angel appeared to him standing on the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and overcome with fear. But the Angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. For your prayer has been heard. Your wife will bear you a son and you will name him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink no wine nor strong drinks. He will be inspired by the Holy Spirit from his very birth. When the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard of the great mercy the Lord had shown her. So they visited her and congratulated her. On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child, and they wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said: "No, he must be named John." They told her: "None of your relatives is called by that name." So they made signs to the child's father to learn what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name will be John." They were all amazed. Thereupon his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue was loosed. He began to speak and to praise God. All their neighbors were overcome with awe. These stories were told all over the highlands of Judea. All those who heard them pondered over them, and asked: "What is this child going to be?" For the hand of the Lord was over him. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and

prophesied, saying: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. "And you, my child, will be called a Prophet of the Most High. For you will become the forerunner of the Lord, and you will prepare his way. So the child grew up, became strong in spirit, and lived in the desert until the day when he was manifested to the people of Israel.

*Beheading of John the Baptist (29 August), Mk 6.14-30*

**K**ing Herod heard of Jesus, whose name was now well known, and said: "John the Baptist has risen from the dead. That is why he possesses such miraculous powers." Others said: "He is Elijah." Still others said: "He is a Prophet, or like one of the old Prophets." When Herod heard these comments, he said again: "He is John the Baptist whom I have beheaded. He has risen from the dead." Now Herod himself had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife whom he had married. For John said to Herod: "It is not lawful for you to marry your brother's wife." Herodias felt bitterly against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not. For Herod feared John, as he knew that he was a righteous and holy man. So he protected him. He was very much disturbed when he heard him talk. Yet he liked to hear him. An opportunity came when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers, his officers, and the chieftains of Galilee. Then the daughter of Herodias came in and danced. She pleased Herod and his guests so much that the King said to the girl: "Ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you." He repeated the pledge with an oath: "I will give you whatever you ask me for, up to half my kingdom." The girl went out and asked her mother: "What shall I ask him for?" She answered: "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried back immediately to the king, and made her request: "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was exceedingly sorry. But because of his oath and his guests he did not want to break his promise. So the king immediately sent a soldier of his bodyguard with orders to bring John's head. Accordingly, the soldier went out and beheaded John in the prison. Then he brought back his head on a platter, gave it to the girl, and the girl handed it to her mother. When John's disciples heard of it, they came, removed his body, and laid it in a tomb. In the meantime, the Apostles returned to Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.