CATHOLIC

SUNDAY READINGS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


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With few exceptions, the Sunday Readings are formatted to fit on a SINGLE PAGE:

— C, 9 = Denotes Cycle C readings found on page 9

— ABC, 9 = Denotes readings are identical for Cycles A, B, C

— ABC (2 pages), 9 = Denotes exception to single page for Sunday Readings

For Sundays with READING(S) OPTIONS that exceed one page—where possible—options are given in sequence to permit one-page-per-Sunday:

— C (2 pages), 9 = Includes all optional readings

†

— C, (w/ 1st Reading Option A only), 11 = Denotes text option as described

‡

— C, (w/ 1st Reading Option B only), 12

EXCEPTIONS to Sunday Readings on a single page: Palm (Passion) Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Corpus Christi. In addition, the Christmas Vigil (Cycles ABC), the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent (Cycle A); and the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C) are two pages if the longer form of the Gospel is used. All Souls (November 2) is the only Mass in which there are options for all readings.

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FIRST READING (Is 2:1-5)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THIS is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, 
saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 
In days to come, 
the mountain of the LORD’s house 
shall be established as the highest mountain 
and raised above the hills. 
All nations shall stream toward it; 
many peoples shall come and say: 
“Come, let us climb the LORD’s mountain, 
to the house of the God of Jacob, 
that he may instruct us in his ways, 
and we may walk in his paths.”
For from Zion shall go forth instruction, 
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 
He shall judge between the nations, 
and impose terms on many peoples. 
They shall beat their swords into plowshares 
and their spears into pruning hooks; 
one nation shall not raise the sword against another, 
nor shall they train for war again. 
O house of Jacob, come, 
let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me, 
“We will go up to the house of the LORD.”
And now we have set foot 
within your gates, O Jerusalem.—R.

Jerusalem, built as a city 
with compact unity. 
To it the tribes go up, 
the tribes of the LORD.—R.

According to the decree for Israel, 
to give thanks to the name of the LORD. 
In it are set up judgment seats, 
seats for the house of David.—R.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! 
May those who love you prosper! 
May peace be within your walls, 
prosperity in your buildings.—R.

Because of my brothers and friends 
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
Because of the house of the LORD, our God, 
I will pray for your good.—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 13:11-14)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters: 
You know the time; 
it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. 
For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; 
the night is advanced, the day is at hand. 
Let us then throw off the works of darkness 
and put on the armor of light; 
let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, 
not in orgies and drunkenness, 
not in promiscuity and lust, 
not in rivalry and jealousy. 
But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, 
and make no provision for the desires of the flesh. 

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (cf. Psalm 85:8)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, show us your love; 
and grant us your salvation.—R.

GOSPEL (24:37-44)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his disciples: 
“As it was in the days of Noah, 
so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 
In those days before the flood, 
they were eating and drinking, 
marring and giving in marriage, 
up to the day that Noah entered the ark. 
They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. 
So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. 
Two men will be out in the field; 
one will be taken, and one will be left. 
Two women will be grinding at the mill; 
one will be taken, and one will be left. 
Therefore, stay awake! 
For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. 
Be sure of this: if the master of the house 
had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, 
he would have stayed awake 
and not let his house be broken into. 
So too, you also must be prepared, 
for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

YOU, Lord, are our father,
our redeemer you are named forever.
Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways,
and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
with the mountains quaking before you,
while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for,
such as they had not heard of from of old.
No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you
doing such deeds for those who wait for him.
Would that you might meet us doing right,
that we were mindful of you in our ways!
Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;
all of us have become like unclean people,
al our good deeds are like polluted rags;
we have all withered like leaves,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
There is none who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to cling to you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us up to our guilt.
Yet, O Lord, you are our father;
we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19)

R. (4) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.
O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.—R.

Once again, O Lord of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.—R.

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 1:3-9)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,
that in him you were enriched in every way,
with all discourse and all knowledge,
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He will keep you firm to the end,
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful,
and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Psalm 85:8)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 13:33-37)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS said to his disciples:
“Be watchful!  Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.
It is like a man traveling abroad.
He leaves home and places his servants in charge,
each with his own work,
and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.
Watch, therefore;
you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming,
whether in the evening, or at midnight,
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.
May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.
What I say to you, I say to all: “Watch!”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING    (Jer 33:14-16)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

THE days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise
I made to the house of Israel and Judah.
In those days, in that time,
I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is right and just in the land.
In those days Judah shall be safe
and Jerusalem shall dwell secure;
this is what they shall call her:
“The Lord our justice.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM    (Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14)

R. (1b) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior,
and for you I wait all the day.—R.

Good and upright is the Lord;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and teaches the humble his way.—R.

All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy
toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him,
and his covenant, for their instruction.—R.

SECOND READING    (1 Thes 3:12-4:2)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
May the Lord make you increase and abound in love
for one another and for all,
just as we have for you,
so as to strengthen your hearts,
to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that,
as you received from us
how you should conduct yourselves to please God
—and as you are conducting yourselves—you do so even more.
For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA    (Psalm 85:8)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—A

FIRST READING  (Is 11:1-10)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

ON that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land’s afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra’s den, and the child lay his hand on the adder’s lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; the baby shall play by the cobra’s den, and the child lay his hand on the adder’s lair. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious. The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17)
R. (cf. 7) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king’s son; he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.—R.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.—R.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.—R.

May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun his name shall remain. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rom 15:4-9)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; May his name be blessed forever; He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, May he rule from sea to sea, Justice shall flower in his days, he shall govern your people with justice O God, with your judgment endow the king, R. Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 3:1-12)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JOHN the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Is 40:1-5, 9-11)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

COMFORT, give comfort to my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!
Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power
the Lord GOD,
who rules by his strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock:
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14)
R. (8) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.
I will hear what God proclaims;
the Lord — for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.—R.
Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.—R.
The Lord himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.—R.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—C

FIRST READING  (Bar 5:1-9)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch:

JERUSALEM, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God’s worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God’s command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6)

R. (3)  The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.—R.

Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.—R.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.—R.

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.—R.

SECOND READING  (Phil 1:4-6, 8-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Luke 3:4, 6)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 3:1-6)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

IN the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Is 35:1-6a, 10)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
made firm the knees that are weak,
say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not!

Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
thен will the lame leap like a stag,
thен the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10)

R. (cf. Isaiah 35:4) Lord, come and save us.
or:
R. Alleluia.

The Lord God keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets captives free.—R.

The Lord gives sight to the blind;
the Lord raises up those who were bowed down.
The Lord loves the just;
the Lord protects strangers.—R.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.
The Lord shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations.—R.

SECOND READING (Jas 5:7-10)

A reading from the Letter of Saint James:

BE patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,
being patient with it

until it receives the early and the late rains.
You too must be patient.
Make your hearts firm,
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another,
that you may not be judged.
Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.
Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters,
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.


R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 11:2-11)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

WHEN John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question,
"Are you the one who is to come,
or should we look for another?"

Jesus said to them in reply,
"Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.
And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off,
Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,
"What did you go out to the desert to see?
A reed swayed by the wind?
Then what did you go out to see?
Someone dressed in fine clothing?
Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.
Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
This is the one about whom it is written:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.

Amen, I say to you,
among those born of women
there has been none greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—B

FIRST READING (Is 61:1-2a, 10-11)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54)

R. (Isaiah 61:10b) My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:—R.

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.—R.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Thes 5:16-24)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

BROTHERS and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise prophetic utterances.

Test everything; retain what is good.

Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.


R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 1:6-8, 19-28)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

A MAN named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?” He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Christ.”

So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.”

So they said to him, “Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?”

He said: “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord,” as Isaiah the prophet said.”

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?”

John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—C

FIRST READING  (Zep 3:14-18a)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah:

SHOUT for joy, O daughter Zion!
Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has removed the judgment against you
he has turned away your enemies;
the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty savior;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love,
he will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6)

R. (6) Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

God indeed is my savior;
I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.—R.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;
among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name.—R.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;
let this be known throughout all the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel!—R.

SECOND READING  (Phil 4:4-7)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again:  rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near.
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.


R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 3:10-18)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THE crowds asked John the Baptist,
“What should we do?”
He said to them in reply,
“Whoever has two cloaks
should share with the person who has none.
And whoever has food should do likewise.”
Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him,
“Teacher, what should we do?”
He answered them,
“Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.”
Soldiers also asked him,
“And what is it that we should do?”
He told them,
“Do not practice extortion,
do not falsely accuse anyone,
and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with expectation,
and all were asking in their hearts
whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying,
“I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
Exhorting them in many other ways,
he preached good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Is 7:10-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying:
Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;
let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!
But Ahaz answered,
“I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!”
Then Isaiah said:
Listen, O house of David!
Is it not enough for you to weary people,
must you also weary my God?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

R. (7c and 10b) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.
The LORD’S are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.—R.
Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.—R.
He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 1:1-7)

The beginning of the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

PAUL, a slave of Christ Jesus,
called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God,
which he promised previously through his prophets in the
holy Scriptures,
the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh,
but established as Son of God in power
according to the Spirit of holiness
through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him we have received the grace of apostleship,
to bring about the obedience of faith,
for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles,
among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;
to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Matthew 1:23)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
they shall name him Emmanuel.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 1:18-24)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

THIS is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
“Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.”
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means “God is with us.”
When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16)

A reading from the second Book of Samuel:

WHEN King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!” Nathan answered the king, “Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.” But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: “Go, tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?’ It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock, to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you were, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29)

R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.—R.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations.”—R.

“He shall say of me, ‘You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.’ Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm.”—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 16:25-27)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:

To Him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Luke 1:38)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 1:26-38)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THE angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “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 holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Mi 5:1-4a)

THUS says the LORD:
You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel;
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient times.
Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time
when she who is to give birth has borne,
and the rest of his kindred shall return
to the children of Israel.
He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock
by the strength of the LORD,
in the majestic name of the LORD, his God;
and they shall remain, for now his greatness
shall reach to the ends of the earth;
he shall be peace.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19)

R. (4) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.
O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.—R.

Once again, O Lord of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.—R.

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.—R.

SECOND READING   (Heb 10:5-10)

BROTHERS and sisters:
When Christ came into the world, he said:
“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight.
Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll,
bethold, I come to do your will, O God.’”
First he says, “Sacrifices and offerings,
holocausts and sin offerings,
you neither desired nor delighted in.”
These are offered according to the law.
Then he says, “Behold, I come to do your will.”
He takes away the first to establish the second.

By this “will, ”we have been consecrated
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Luke 1:38)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 1:39-45)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

MARY set out
and traveled to the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah,
where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting,
the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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GOSPEL (Mt 1:18-25)

+A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

FOR Zion’s sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch.

No more shall people call you “Forsaken,” or your land “Desolate,” but you shall be called “My Delight,” and your land “Espoused.”

For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29)

As a young man marries a virgin, my God, the rock, my savior. For the LORD delights in you but you shall be called “My Delight,” and through your justice they are exalted.—R.

He shall say of me, “You are my father, my rock, my savior.” Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm.—R.

SECOND READING (Acts 13:16-17, 22-25)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia and entered the synagogue, he stood up, motivated with his hand, and said, “Fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arm he led them out of it. Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king; of him he testified, ‘I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.’

From this man’s descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.’”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed; the Savior of the world will reign over us.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25)

+ The beginning of the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

FIRST READING  (Is 62:1-5)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

FOR Zion’s sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you “Forsaken,” or your land “Desolate,” but you shall be called “My Delight,” and your land “Espoused.” For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29)

R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations.—R.

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout; in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk. At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted.—R.

He shall say of me, “You are my father, my God, the rock, my savior.” Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm.—R.

SECOND READING   (Acts 13:16-17, 22-25)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia and entered the synagogue, he stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arm he led them out of it. Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king; of him he testified,
Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
Zerubbabel the father of Abiud.
Abiud became the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor the father of Zadok.
Zadok became the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud,
Eliud the father of Eleazar.
Eleazar became the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Thus the total number of generations
from Abraham to David
is fourteen generations;
from David to the Babylonian exile,
fourteen generations;
from the Babylonian exile to the Christ,
fourteen generations.

[ Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."
All this took place to fulfill
what the Lord had said through the prophet:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."
When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.
He had no relations with her until she bore a son,
and he named him Jesus. ]

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 62:1-5)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

FOR Zion’s sake I will not be silent,  
for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet,  
until her vindication shines forth like the dawn  
and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
you shall be called by a new name  
pronounced by the mouth of the LORD.

You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD,  
a royal diadem held by your God.
No more shall people call you “Forsaken,”  
or your land “Desolate.”

but you shall be called “My Delight,”  
and your land “Espoused.”

For the LORD delights in you  
and makes your land his spouse.

As a young man marries a virgin,  
your Builder shall marry you;  
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride  
so shall your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29)

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I have sworn to David my servant:  
Forever will I confirm your posterity  
and establish your throne for all generations.—R.

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout;  
in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk.  
At your name they rejoice all the day,  
and through your justice they are exalted.—R.

He shall say of me, “You are my father,  
my God, the rock, my savior.”  
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,  
and my covenant with him stands firm.—R.

SECOND READING   (Acts 13:16-17, 22-25)

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WHEN Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia and entered the synagogue,  
he stood up, motioned with his hand, and said,  
“Fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen.  
The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors  
and exalted the people during their sojourn in the  
land of Egypt.

With uplifted arm he led them out of it.  
Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king;  
of him he testified,  

‘I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart;  
he will carry out my every wish.’  
From this man’s descendants God, according to his promise,  
has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus.

John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
to all the people of Israel;  
and as John was completing his course, he would say,  
‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he.  
Behold, one is coming after me;  
I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.’”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:  
the Savior of the world will reign over us.—R.

GOSPEL   (Shorter form: Mt 1:18-25)

+ The beginning of the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

NOW this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.  
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,  
but before they lived together,  
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,  
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,  
decided to divorce her quietly.

Such was his intention when, behold,  
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
‘Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.  
For it is through the Holy Spirit  
that this child has been conceived in her.  
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill  
what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke,  
those who had said through the prophet:  

He shall say of me, “You are my father,  
my God, the rock, my savior.”  
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,  
and my covenant with him stands firm.—R.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 9:1-6)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing,
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,
as people make merry when dividing spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
and the rod of their taskmaster
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.
For every boot that tramped in battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
will be burned as fuel for flames.
For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast
and forever peaceful,
from David’s throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
by judgment and justice,
both now and forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13)

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.—R.
Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.—R.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.—R.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.—R.

SECOND READING  (Ti 2:11-14)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus:

BELOVED:
The grace of God has appeared, saving all
and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires
and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age,
as we await the blessed hope,
the appearance of the glory of our great God
and savior Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness
and to cleanse for himself a people as his own,
eager to do what is good.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Luke 2:10-11)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I proclaim to you good news of great joy:
today a Savior is born for us,
Christ the Lord.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 2:1-14)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

IN those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus
that the whole world should be enrolled.
This was the first enrollment,
when Quirinius was governor of Syria.
So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.
And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth
to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem,
because he was of the house and family of David,
to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.
While they were there,
the time came for her to have her child,
and she gave birth to her firstborn son.
She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger,
because there was no room for them in the inn.
Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields
and keeping the night watch over their flock.
The angel of the Lord appeared to them
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were struck with great fear.
The angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid;
for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.
For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.
And this will be a sign for you:
you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger.”
And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying:
“Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 62:11-12)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

SEE, the LORD proclaims
to the ends of the earth:
say to daughter Zion,
your savior comes!
Here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
They shall be called the holy people,
the redeemed of the LORD,
and you shall be called “Frequented,”
a city that is not forsaken.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12)

R. A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.—R.

Light dawns for the just;
and gladness, for the upright of heart.
Be glad in the LORD, you just,
and give thanks to his holy name.—R.

SECOND READING  (Ti 3:4-7)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus:

BELOVED:
When the kindness and generous love
of God our savior appeared,
not because of any righteous deeds we had done
but because of his mercy,
He saved us through the bath of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
whom he richly poured out on us
through Jesus Christ our savior,
so that we might be justified by his grace
and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Luke 2:14)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to those
on whom his favor rests.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 2:15-20)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

WHEN the angels went away from them to heaven,
FIRST READING  (Is 52:7-10)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

HOW beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings glad tidings,
announcing peace, bearing good news,
announcing salvation, and saying to Zion,
“Your God is King!”

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry,
together they shout for joy,
for they see directly, before their eyes,
the LORD restoring Zion.

Break out together in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For the LORD comforts his people,
he redeems Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6)

R. (3c) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
his right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm.—R.

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel.—R.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise.—R.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.—R.

SECOND READING  (Heb 1:1-6)

A reading from the beginning of the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters:
In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways
to our ancestors through the prophets;
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son,
whom he made heir of all things
and through whom he created the universe,
who is the refugence of his glory,
the very imprint of his being,
and who sustains all things by his mighty word.
When he had accomplished purification from sins,
he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
as far superior to the angels
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say:
“‘You are my son; this day I have begotten you’?”

Or again:
“I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me”?
And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says:
“Let all the angels of God worship him.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.
For today a great light has come upon the earth.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ]

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

[ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.]

But to those who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man’s decision but of God.
And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth. ]

John testified to him and cried out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’”

From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God.
The only Son, God, who is at the Father’s side, has revealed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
HOLY FAMILY—ABC (Gospel A)

FIRST READING (Sir 3:2-7, 12-14)

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

GOD sets a father in honor over his children; a mother’s authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever reveres his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5)

R. (cf. 1) Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.—R.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table;—R.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.—R.

SECOND READING (Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17)

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians:

[ BROTHERS and sisters: ]

Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another, as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.]

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Colossians 3:15a, 16a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.—R.

GOSPEL—A (Mt 2:13-15, 19-23)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

WHEN the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son.

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled. He shall be called a Nazorean.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Sir 3:2-7, 12-14)

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

GOD sets a father in honor over his children; a mother’s authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.—R.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5)

R. (cf. 1) Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.—R.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.—R.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.—R.

SECOND READING  (Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17)

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians:

[ BROTHERS and sisters:

Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another, as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body, and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ]

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELEUIA  (Colossians 3:15a, 16a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.—R.

GOSPEL—B  (Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ WHEN the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, ]

just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption 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, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. ]

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Sir 3:2-7, 12-14)

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

GOD sets a father in honor over his children;  
a mother’s authority he confirms over her sons.  
Whoever honors his father atones for sins,  
and preserves himself from them.  
When he prays, he is heard;  
he stores up riches who reveres his mother.  
Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children,  
and, when he prays, is heard.  
Whoever reveres his father will live a long life;  
he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old;  
grieve him not as long as he lives.  
Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him;  
revile him not all the days of his life;  
kindness to a father will not be forgotten,  
firmly planted against the debt of your sins  
—a house raised in justice to you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5)

R. (cf. 1) Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,  
who walks in his ways!  
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;  
blessed shall you be, and favored.—R.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
in the recesses of your home;  
your children like olive plants  
around your table.—R.

Behold, thus is the man blessed  
who fears the LORD.  
The LORD bless you from Zion:  
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.—R.

SECOND READING   (Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians:

BROTHERS and sisters:  
Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,  
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,  
if one has a grievance against another;  
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.  
And over all these put on love,  
that is, the bond of perfection.  
And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,  
the peace into which you were also called in one body.  
And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,  
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs  
with gratitude in your hearts to God.  
And whatever you do, in word or in deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.  
Wives, be subordinate to your husbands,  
as is proper in the Lord.  
Husbands, love your wives,  
and avoid any bitterness toward them.  
Children, obey your parents in everything,  
for this is pleasing to the Lord.  
Fathers, do not provoke your children,  
so they may not become discouraged.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Colossians 3:15a, 16a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;  
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.—R.

GOSPEL—C   (Lk 2:41-52)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

EACH year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the feast  
of Passover,  
and when he was twelve years old,  
they went up according to festival custom.  
After they had completed its days, as they were returning,  
the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem,  
but his parents did not know it.  
Thinking that he was in the caravan,  
they journeyed for a day  
and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances,  
but not finding him,  
they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.  
After three days they found him in the temple,  
sitting in the midst of the teachers,  
listening to them and asking them questions,  
and all who heard him were astounded  
at his understanding and his answers.  
When his parents saw him,  
they were astonished,  
and his mother said to him,  
“Son, why have you done this to us?  
Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”  
And he said to them,  
“Why were you looking for me?  
Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”  
But they did not understand what he said to them.  
He went down with them and came to Nazareth,  
and was obedient to them;  
and his mother kept all these things in her heart.  
And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor  
before God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.” He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.—R.

**GOSPEL** (Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ WHEN the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, ]

just as it is written in the law of the Lord,

Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

He came in the Spirit into the temple;

and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,

and so one of my servants will be my heir.”

“See, you have given me no offspring, and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?”

Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28)

A reading from the first Book of Samuel:

IN those days Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel, since she had asked the LORD for him.

The next time her husband Elkanah was going up with the rest of his household to offer the customary sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vows, Hannah did not go, explaining to her husband, “Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever; I will offer him as a perpetual nazirite.”

Once Samuel was weaned, Hannah brought him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh.

After the boy’s father had sacrificed the young bull, Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said: “Pardon, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD.”

Hannah left Samuel there.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10)

R. (cf. 5a) Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

My soul yearns and pine for the living God.—R.

Happy they who dwell in your house!
Continually they praise you.

Happy the men whose strength you are!
Their hearts are set upon the pilgrimage.—R.

O LORD of hosts, hear our prayer;
harken, O God of Jacob!
O God, behold our shield,
and look upon the face of your anointed.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

BELOVED:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now;

what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (cf. Acts 16:14b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 2:41-52)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

EACH year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.

After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan,
they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
EPHPHANY OF THE LORD—ABC

FIRST READING  (Is 60:1-6)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:
RISE up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the peoples;
but upon you the LORD shines,
and over you appears his glory.
Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance.
Raise your eyes and look about;
they all gather and come to you:
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.
Then you shall be radiant at what you see,
your heart shall throb and overflow,
for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you,
the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.
Caravans of camels shall fill you,
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;
all from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense,
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13)
R. (cf. 11) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.—R.
Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.—R.
The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.—R.
For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.—R.

SECOND READING  (Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:
BROTHERS and sisters:
You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace
that was given to me for your benefit,
namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation.
It was not made known to people in other generations
as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body,
and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Matthew 2:2)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 2:1-12)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:
WHEN Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
in the days of King Herod,
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage."
When King Herod heard this,
he was greatly troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him.
Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,
He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea,
for thus it has been written through the prophet:
And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."
Then Herod called the magi secretly
and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.
He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
"Go and search diligently for the child.
When you have found him, bring me word,
that I too may go and do him homage."
After their audience with the king they set out.
And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house
they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they departed for their country by another way.
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Sir 24:1-2, 8-12)

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

WISDOM sings her own praises and is honored in God,
before her own people she boasts;
in the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,
in the presence of his power she declares her worth,
in the midst of her people she is exalted,
in holy fullness she is admired;
in the multitude of the chosen she finds praise,
and among the blessed she is blessed.

“The Creator of all commanded and said to me,
and he who formed me chose the spot for my tent,
saying, ‘In Jacob make your dwelling,
in Israel your inheritance,
and among my chosen put down your roots’.

Before all ages, in the beginning, he created me,
and through all ages I shall not cease to be.
In the holy tent I ministered before him,
and in Zion I fixed my abode.
Thus in the chosen city I have rested,
in the portion of the LORD, his heritage;
and in the company of the holy ones do I linger.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20)

or:
R. Alleluia.

Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion.
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
he has blessed your children within you.—R.

He has granted peace in your borders;
with the best of wheat he fills you.
He sends forth his command to the earth;
swiftly runs his word!—R.

He has proclaimed his word to Jacob,
his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.
He has not done thus for any other nation;
his ordinances he has not made known to them. Alleluia.—R.

SECOND READING  (Eph 1:3-6, 15-18)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and without blemish before him.
In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ,
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace
that he granted us in the beloved.
Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus
and of your love for all the holy ones,
do not cease giving thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers,
that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation
resulting in knowledge of him.
May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened,
that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call,
what are the riches of glory
in his inheritance among the holy ones.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. 1 Timothy 3:16)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the Gentiles;
Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world!—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14)

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

[ IN the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life;
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it. ]
A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light.
[ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation
nor by human choice nor by man’s decision
but of God.
And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father’s only Son,
full of grace and truth. ]

John testified to him and cried out, saying,
“This was he of whom I said,
‘The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me
because he existed before me.’”

From his fullness we have all received,
grace in place of grace,
because while the law was given through Moses,
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God.
The only Son, God, who is at the Father’s side,
has revealed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 42:1-4, 6-7)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
a bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10)

R. (11b) The Lord will bless his people with peace.
Give to the LORD, you sons of God,
give to the LORD glory and praise,
Give to the LORD the glory due his name;
adore the LORD in holy attire.—R.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters,
the LORD, over vast waters.
The voice of the LORD is mighty;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.—R.

The God of glory thunders,
and in his temple all say, “Glory!”
The LORD is enthroned above the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as king forever.—R.

SECOND READING  (Acts 10:34-38)
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

PETER proceeded to speak to those gathered
in the house of Cornelius, saying:
“'In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him.
You know the word that he sent to the Israelites
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,
what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL—A  (Mt 3:13-17)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS came from Galilee to John at the Jordan
to be baptized by him.
John tried to prevent him, saying,
“I need to be baptized by you,
and yet you are coming to me?”
Jesus said to him in reply,
“Allot it now, for thus it is fitting for us
to fulfill all righteousness.”
Then he allowed him.
After Jesus was baptized,
he came up from the water and behold,
the heavens were opened for him,
and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove
and coming upon him.
And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL—B  (Mk 1:7-11)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

THIS is what he proclaimed:
“One mightier than I is coming after me.
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.
I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized in the Jordan by John.
On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open
and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.
And a voice came from the heavens,
“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL—C  (Lk 3:15-16, 21-22)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THE people were filled with expectation,
and all were asking in their hearts
whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying,
“I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

After all the people had been baptized
and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,
heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him
in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven,
“You are my beloved Son;
with you I am well pleased.”
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (First Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In Year B, these readings may be used:

FIRST READING   (Is 55:1-11)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!
You who have no money,
come, receive grain and eat;
come, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!
Why spend your money for what is not bread,
your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.
Come to me heedfully,
listen, that you may have life.
I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,
the benefits assured to David.
As I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of nations,
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,
because of the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked man his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.
For just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord.—R.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6)

R. (3) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior;
I am confident and unafraided.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water

GOSPEL   (Mk 1:7-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

THIS is what John the Baptist proclaimed:
“One mightier than I is coming after me.
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.
I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized in the Jordan by John.
On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open
and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.
And a voice came from the heavens,
“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R.
FIRST READING  (Is 40:1-5, 9-11)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

COMFORT, give comfort to my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!

Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power
the Lord GOD,
who rules by a strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30)

R. (1) O bless the Lord, my soul.

O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
you are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak.
You have spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth;—R.

You have constructed your palace upon the waters.
You make the clouds your chariot;
you travel on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers,
and flaming fire your ministers.—R.

How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have wrought them all—
the earth is full of your creatures;
the sea also, great and wide,
in which are schools without number

of living things both small and great.—R.

They look to you to give them food in due time.
When you give it to them, they gather it;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to the dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING  (Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus:

BELoved:
The grace of God has appeared, saving all
and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires
and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age,
as we await the blessed hope,
the appearance of the glory of our great God
and savior Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness
and to cleanse for himself a people as his own,
eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love
of God our savior appeared,
not because of any righteous deeds we had done
but because of his mercy,
He saved us through the bath of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
whom he richly poured out on us
through Jesus Christ our savior,
so that we might be justified by his grace
and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.


R. Alleluia, alleluia.

John said: One mightier than I is coming;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 3:15-16, 21-22)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THE people were filled with expectation,
and all were asking in their hearts
whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying,
"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

After all the people had been baptized
and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,
heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him
in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my beloved Son;
with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
ASH WEDNESDAY—ABC

FIRST READING  (Jl 2:12-18)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel:

EVEN now, says the LORD,
return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;
Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the LORD, your God.
For gracious and merciful is he,
slow to anger, rich in kindness,
and relenting in punishment.
Perhaps he will again relent
and leave behind him a blessing,
Offerings and libations
for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion!
proclaim a fast,
call an assembly;
Gather the people,
notify the congregation;
Assemble the elders,
gather the children
and the infants at the breast;
Let the bridegroom quit his room
and the bride her chamber.
Between the porch and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep,
and say, “Spare, O LORD, your people,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
with the nations ruling over them!
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land
and took pity on his people.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17)

R. (see 3a) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
throughout my whole life, and again:
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.—R.

For I acknowledge my offense,
and my sin is before me always:
“Atonement is found in you who are faithful and true:
and you love righteous judgment.
Against you only have I sinned,
and not against men.”—R.

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me.—R.

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Cor 5:20–6:2)
A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
We are ambassadors for Christ,
as if God were appealing through us.
We implore you on behalf of Christ,
to be reconciled to God.
For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin,
so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Working together, then,
we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
For he says:

In an acceptable time I heard you,
and on the day of salvation I helped you.

Behold, now is a very acceptable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL  (See Psalm 95:8)

If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

GOSPEL  (Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his disciples:

“Take care not to perform righteous deeds
in order that people may see them;
or otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.
When you give alms,
do not blow a trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets
so that they may be seen by others.

Amen, I say to you,
you have received your reward.

But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right is doing,
so that your almsgiving may be secret.
And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you pray,
do not be like the hypocrites,
who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners
so that others may see them.

Amen, I say to you,
you have received your reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room,
close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.
And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast,
do not look gloomy like the hypocrites.
They neglect their appearance,
so that they may appear to others to be fasting.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast,
anoint your head and wash your face,
so that you may not appear to be fasting,
except to your Father who is hidden.
And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT—A

FIRST READING (Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7)

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

THE LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground
and blew into his nostrils the breath of life,
and so man became a living being.

Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east,
and placed there the man whom he had formed.

Out of the ground the LORD God made various trees grow
that were delightful to look at and good for food,
with the tree of life in the middle of the garden
and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals
that the LORD God had made.
The serpent asked the woman,
‘Did God really tell you not to eat
from any of the trees in the garden?’

The woman answered the serpent:
‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;
it is only about the fruit of the tree
in the middle of the garden that God said,
‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.’”

But the serpent said to the woman:
‘You certainly will not die!
No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it
your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods
who know what is good and what is evil.”

The woman saw that the tree was good for food,
pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom.
So she took some of its fruit and ate it;
and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her,
and he ate it.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they realized that they were naked;
so they sewed fig leaves together
and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17)

R. (cf. 3a) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.—R.

For I acknowledge my offense,
and my sin is before me always:
“Against you only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight.”—R.

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy spirit take not from me.—R.

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ BROTHERS and sisters:
Through one man sin entered the world,
and through sin, death,
and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned — ]

for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world,
though sin is not accounted when there is no law.
But death reigned from Adam to Moses,
even over those who did not sin
after the pattern of the trespass of Adam,
who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression.
For if by the transgression of the one, the many died,
how much more did the grace of God
and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ
overflow for the many.
And the gift is not like the result of the one who sinned.
For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation;
but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression
condemnation came upon all,
so, through one righteous act,
aquittal and life came to all.
For just as through the disobedience of the one man
the many were made sinners,
so, through the obedience of the one,
the many will be made righteous. ]

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (Matthew 4:4b)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 4:1-11)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

AT that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert
to be tempted by the devil.
He fasted for forty days and forty nights,
and afterwards he was hungry.
The tempter approached and said to him,
“If you are the Son of God,
command that these stones become loaves of bread.”
He said in reply,
“It is written:
One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God.”

Then the devil took him to the holy city,
and made him stand on the parapet of the temple,
and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.
For it is written:
He will command his angels concerning you’
and ‘with their hands they will support you,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.”

Jesus answered him,
“Again it is written,
You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.”

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain,
and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,
and he said to him, “All these I shall give to you,
if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.”

At this, Jesus said to him,
“Get away, Satan!
It is written:
The Lord, your God, shall you worship
and him alone shall you serve.”

Then the devil left him and, behold,
angels came and ministered to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Gn 9:8-15)

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

GOD said to Noah and to his sons with him:
“See, I am now establishing my covenant with you
and your descendants after you
and with every living creature that was with you:
all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals
that were with you and came out of the ark.
I will establish my covenant with you,
that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed
by the waters of a flood;
there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.”

God added:
“This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come,
of the covenant between me and you
and every living creature with you:
I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign
of the covenant between me and the earth.
When I bring clouds over the earth,
and the bow appears in the clouds,
I will recall the covenant I have made
between me and you and all living beings,
so that the waters shall never again become a flood
to destroy all mortal beings.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (cf. 10) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep
your covenant.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior.—R.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.—R.

Good and upright is the LORD,
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and he teaches the humble his way.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Pt 3:18-22)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter:

BELOVED:
Christ suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,
that he might lead you to God.
Put to death in the flesh,
he was brought to life in the Spirit.
In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison,
who had once been disobedient
while God patiently waited in the days of Noah
during the building of the ark,
in which a few persons, eight in all,
were saved through water.
This prefigured baptism, which saves you now.
It is not a removal of dirt from the body
but an appeal to God for a clear conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
who has gone into heaven
and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL   (Mt Matthew 4:4b)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 1:12-15)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

THE Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days,
tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts,
and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
“This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repeat, and believe in the gospel.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Dt 26:4-10)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

MOSES spoke to the people, saying:

“The priest shall receive the basket from you
and shall set it in front of the altar of the LORD, your God.
Then you shall declare before the Lord, your God,
‘My father was a wandering Aramean
who went down to Egypt with a small household
and lived there as an alien.
But there he became a nation
great, strong, and numerous.
When the Egyptians maltreated and oppressed us,
imposing hard labor upon us,
we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers,
and he heard our cry
and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.
He brought us out of Egypt
with his strong hand and outstretched arm,
with terrifying power, with signs and wonders;
and bringing us into this country,
gave us this land flowing with milk and honey.
Therefore, I have now brought you the firstfruits
of the products of the soil
which you, O LORD, have given me.’
And having set them before the Lord, your God,
you shall bow down in his presence.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15)

R. (cf. 15b) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.
You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
say to the LORD, “My refuge and fortress,
my God in whom I trust.”—R.

No evil shall befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your tent,
For to his angels he has given command about you,
that they guard you in all your ways.—R.

Upon their hands they shall bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the asp and the viper;
you shall trample down the lion and the dragon.—R.

Because he clings to me, I will deliver him;
I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in distress;
I will deliver him and glorify him.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 10:8-13)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
What does Scripture say?

The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart
— that is, the word of faith that we preach —,
for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.
For one believes with the heart and so is justified,
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.
For the Scripture says,
No one who believes in him will be put to shame.
For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all,
enriching all who call upon him.
For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL   (Matthew 4:4b)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 4:1-13)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

FILLED with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days,
to be tempted by the devil.
He ate nothing during those days,
and when they were over he was hungry.
The devil said to him,
“If you are the Son of God,
command this stone to become bread.”
Jesus answered him,
“It is written, One does not live on bread alone.”
Then he took him up and showed him
all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant.
The devil said to him,
“IT shall give to you all this power and glory;
for it has been handed over to me,
and I may give it to whomever I wish.
All this will be yours, if you worship me.”
Jesus said to him in reply,
“It is written:
You shall worship the Lord, your God,
and him alone shall you serve.”
Then he led him to Jerusalem,
made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him,
“If you are the Son of God,
throw yourself down from here, for it is written:
He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,
and:
With their hands they will support you,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.”
Jesus said to him in reply,
“It also says,
You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.”
When the devil had finished every temptation,
he departed from him for a time.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—A

FIRST READING  (Gn 12:1-4a)
A reading from the Book of Genesis:

THE LORD said to Abram:
“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.

“I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you.
All the communities of the earth
shall find blessing in you.”

Abram went as the LORD directed him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22)
R. (22) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.—R.

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine.—R.

Our soul waits for the LORD,
who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Tim 1:8b-10)
A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

BELOVED:
Bare your share of hardship for the gospel
with the strength that comes from God.
He saved us and called us to a holy life,
not according to our works
but according to his own design
and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began,
but now made manifest
through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus,
who destroyed death and brought life and immortality
to light through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL  (cf. Matthew 17:5)
R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 17:1-9)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS took Peter, James, and John his brother,
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them;
his face shone like the sun
and his clothes became white as light.
And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them,
conversing with him.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
“Lord, it is good that we are here.
If you wish, I will make three tents here,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
While he was still speaking, behold,
a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,
then from the cloud came a voice that said,
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.”
When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate
and were very much afraid.
But Jesus came and touched them, saying,
“Rise, and do not be afraid.”
And when the disciples raised their eyes,
they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain,
Jesus charged them,
“Do not tell the vision to anyone
until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—B

FIRST READING   (Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18)
A reading from the Book of Genesis:

GOD put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" “Here I am!” he replied.
Then God said:
“Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah.
There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you.”

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD’S messenger called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” “Here I am!” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.” As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the LORD’S messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19)
R. (116:9) I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.
I believed, even when I said, “I am greatly afflicted.” Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.—R.

O LORD, I am your servant: I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.—R.

My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people, In the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 8:31b-34)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL   (cf. Matthew 17:5)
R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 9:2-10)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—C

FIRST READING  (Gn 15:5-12, 17-18)
A reading from the Book of Genesis:

THE Lord God took Abram outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."
Abram put his faith in the LORD,
who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him,
"I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans
to give you this land as a possession."
"O Lord GOD," he asked,
"how am I to know that I shall possess it?"
He answered him,
"Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat,
a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."
Abram brought him all these, split them in two,
and placed each half opposite the other;
but the birds he did not cut up.

Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses,
but Abram stayed with them.
As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram,
and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark,
there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch,
which passed between those pieces.
It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram,
saying: "To your descendants I give this land,
from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14)
R. (1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?—R.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.—R.

Your presence, O LORD, I seek.
Hide not your face from me;
do not in anger repel your servant.
You are my helper: cast me not off.—R.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD with courage:
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.—R.

SECOND READING  (Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

JOIN with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters,
and observe those who thus conduct themselves
according to the model you have in us.
For many, as I have often told you
and now tell you even in tears,
conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ.
Their end is destruction.
Their God is their stomach;
their glory is in their “shame.”
Their minds are occupied with earthly things.
[ But our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters,
whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,
in this way stand firm in the Lord. ]
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL  (cf. Matthew 17:5)
R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 9:28b-36)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS took Peter, John, and James
and went up the mountain to pray.

While he was praying his face changed in appearance
and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah,
who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus
that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep,
but becoming fully awake,
they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.
As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus,
"Master, it is good that we are here;
let us make three tents,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

But he did not know what he was saying.
While he was still speaking,
a cloud came and cast a shadow over them,
and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.
Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

They fell silent and did not at that time
tell anyone what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Ex 17:3-7)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

IN those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!” The LORD answered Moses, “Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.” This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD in our midst or not?”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.—R.

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.—R.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: “Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, Where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works.”—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 5:1-2, 5-8)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (cf. John 4:42, 15)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ JESUS came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” —For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.— Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?” Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”]

Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.” The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands,
and the one you have now is not your husband.
What you have said is true.”
The woman said to him,  
[ “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.
Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;
but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”
Jesus said to her,
“Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You people worship what you do not understand;
we worship what we understand,
because salvation is from the Jews.
But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth;
and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.
God is Spirit, and those who worship him
must worship in Spirit and truth.”
The woman said to him,
“I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ;
when he comes, he will tell us everything.”
Jesus said to her,
“I am he, the one speaking with you.”  
]

At that moment his disciples returned,
and were amazed that he was talking with a woman,
but still no one said, “What are you looking for?”
or “Why are you talking with her?”
The woman left her water jar
and went into the town and said to the people,
“Come see a man who told me everything I have done.
Could he possibly be the Christ?”
They went out of the town and came to him.
Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat.”
But he said to them,
“I have food to eat of which you do not know.”
So the disciples said to one another,
“Could someone have brought him something to eat?”
Jesus said to them,
“My food is to do the will of the one who sent me
and to finish his work.
Do you not say, ‘In four months the harvest will be here’? 
I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest.
The reaper is already receiving payment
and gathering crops for eternal life,
so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together.
For here the saying is verified that ‘One sows and another reaps.’
I sent you to reap what you have not worked for;
others have done the work,
and you are sharing the fruits of their work.”

[ Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him
because of the word of the woman who testified,
“He told me everything I have done.”
When the Samaritans came to him,
they invited him to stay with them;
and he stayed there two days.
Many more began to believe in him because of his word,
and they said to the woman,
“We no longer believe because of your word;
for we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”  
]

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
But God proves his love for us
for Christ, while we were still helpless,
and hope does not disappoint,
since we have been justified by faith.

BROTHERS and sisters:
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:
SECOND READING (Rom 5:1-2, 5-8)

they tested me though they had seen my works.”—R.
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
For he is our God,
Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9)
The place was called Massah and Meribah,
This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel.
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.—R.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9)
The place was called Massah and Meribah,
This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel.
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.—R.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

IN those days, in their thirst for water,
the people grumbled against Moses,
saying, “Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?
Was it just to have us die here of thirst
with our children and our livestock?”
So Moses cried out to the LORD,
“What shall I do with this people?
a little more and they will stone me!”
The LORD answered Moses,
“Go over there in front of the people,
along with some of the elders of Israel,
holding in your hand, as you go,
the staff with which you struck the river.
I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb.
Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it
for the people to drink.”
This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel.
The place was called Massah and Meribah,
because the Israelites quarreled there
and tested the LORD, saying,
“Is the LORD in our midst or not?”
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

 RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9)
R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.—R.
Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.—R.
Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 5:1-2, 5-8)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:
BROTHERS and sisters:
Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access by faith
to this grace in which we stand,
and we boast in hope of the glory of God.
And hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (cf. John 4:42, 15)
R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.—R.

GOSPEL (Shorter form: Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:
JESUS came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,

near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.
Jacob’s well was there.
Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well.
It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.
Jesus said to her,
“Give me a drink.”
His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.
The Samaritan woman said to him,
“How can a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?”
—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—
Jesus answered and said to her,
“If you knew the gift of God
and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’
you would have asked him
and he would have given you living water.”
The woman said to him,
“Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep;
where then can you get this living water?
Are you greater than our father Jacob,
who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself
with his children and his flocks?”
Jesus answered and said to her,
“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;
but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
The woman said to him,
“Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty
or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

“Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.
Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;
but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”
Jesus said to her,
“Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You people worship what you do not understand;
we worship what we understand,
because salvation is from the Jews.
But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth;
and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.
God is Spirit, and those who worship him
must worship in Spirit and truth.”
The woman said to him,
“I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ;
when he comes, he will tell us everything.”
Jesus said to her,
“I am he, the one speaking with you.”

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him
because of the word of the woman who testified,
“He told me everything I have done.”
When the Samaritans came to him,
they invited him to stay with them;
and he stayed there two days.
Many more began to believe in him
because of the word of the woman, and they said to the woman,
“We no longer believe because of your word;
for we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING [Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17]

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ IN those days, God delivered all these commandments:
   “I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.
   You shall not have other gods besides me.
   You shall not carve idols for yourselves
   in the shape of anything in the sky above
   or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth;
   you shall not bow down before them or worship them.
   For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God,
   inflicting punishment for their fathers’ wickedness
   on the children of those who hate me,
   down to the third and fourth generation;
   but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation
   on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.
   “You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.
   For the LORD will not leave unpunished
   the one who takes his name in vain.
   “Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.
   Six days you may labor and do all your work,
   but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God.
   No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter,
   or your male or female slave, or your beast,
   or by the alien who lives with you.
   In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth,
   the sea and all that is in them;
   but on the seventh day he rested.
   That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.
]

“Honor your father and your mother,
that you may have a long life in the land
which the LORD, your God, is giving you.
You shall not kill.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.
You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife,
nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass,
nor anything else that belongs to him.”

The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true,
all of them just.—R.

They are more precious than gold,
than a heap of purest gold;
sweeter also than syrup
or honey from the comb.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 1:22-25)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,
but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (John 3:16)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 2:13-25)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

SINCE the Passover of the Jews was near,
Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,
as well as the money changers seated there.
He made a whip out of cords
and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen,
and spilled the coins of the money changers
and overturned their tables,
and to those who sold doves he said,
“Take these out of here,
and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”
His disciples recalled the words of Scripture,
Zeal for your house will consume me.
At this the Jews answered and said to him,
“What sign can you show us for doing this?”
Jesus answered and said to them,
“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”
The Jews said,
“This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,
and you will raise it up in three days?”
But he was speaking about the temple of his body.
Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they came to believe the Scripture
and the word Jesus had spoken.
While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,
many began to believe in his name
when they saw the signs he was doing.
But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all,
and did not need anyone to testify about human nature.
He himself understood it well.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
**FIRST READING**  (Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

**MOSES** was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, “I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned.”

When the LORD saw him coming over to look more closely, God called out to him from the bush, “Moses! Moses!” He answered, “Here I am.”

God said, “Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your fathers, “ he continued, “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.” Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. But the LORD said, “I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.” Moses said to God, “But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ if they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what am I to tell them?” God replied, “I am who am.” Then he added, “This is what you shall tell the Israelites: ‘I AM sent me to you.’”

God spoke further to Moses, “Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  (Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11)

R. (8a) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.—R.

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.—R.

The LORD secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed. He has made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel.—R.

**SECOND READING**  (1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

I DO not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert. These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did. Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall. The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

**VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**  (Matthew 4:17)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.—R.

**GOSPEL**  (Lk 13:1-9)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

SOME people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

And he told them this parable: “There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a)

A reading from the first Book of Samuel:

THE LORD said to Samuel:

“Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons.”

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is here before him.”

But the LORD said to Samuel: “Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart.”

In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any one of these.”

Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse replied, “There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.”

Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance.

The LORD said, “There—anoint him, for this is the one!”

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6)

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.—R.

He guides me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me courage.—R.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.—R.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.—R.

SECOND READING (Eph 5:8-14)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (John 8:12)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

[ AS Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. ]

His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, [ he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam”—which means Sent—, So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is,” but others said, “No, he just looks like him.” He said, “I am.” ]

So they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?”
He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

[ They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." ]

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?"

His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him." So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?"

Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he."

He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. ]

Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?"

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a)

A reading from the first Book of Samuel:

THE LORD said to Samuel:
 Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way.
 I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,
 for I have chosen my king from among his sons.”

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice,
 Samuel looked at Eliab and thought,
 “Surely the Lord’s anointed is here before him.”
 But the LORD said to Samuel:
 “Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature,
 because I have rejected him.
 Not as man sees does God see,
 because man sees the appearance
 but the LORD looks into the heart.”
 In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel,
 but Samuel said to Jesse,
 “The LORD has not chosen any one of these.”
 Then Samuel asked Jesse,
 “Are these all the sons you have?”
 Jesse replied,
 “There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.”
 Samuel said to Jesse,
 “Send for him;
 we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.”
 Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them.
 He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold
 and making a splendid appearance.
 The LORD said,
 “There—anoint him, for this is the one!”
 Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,
 anointed David in the presence of his brothers;
 and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6)

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
 beside restful waters he leads me;
 he refreshes my soul.—R.
 He guides me in right paths
 for his name’s sake.
 Even though I walk in the dark valley
 I fear no evil; for you are at my side
 With your rod and your staff
 that give me courage.—R.
 You spread the table before me
 in the sight of my foes;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.—R.
 Only goodness and kindness follow me
 all the days of my life;
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
 for years to come.—R.

SECOND READING   (Eph 5:8-14)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
 You were once darkness,
 but now you are light in the Lord.
 Live as children of light,
 for light produces every kind of goodness
 and righteousness and truth.
 Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
 Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness;
 rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention
 the things done by them in secret;
 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
 for everything that becomes visible is light.
 Therefore, it says:
 “Awake, O sleeper,
 and arise from the dead,
 and Christ will give you light.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL   (John 8:12)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
 I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
 whoever follows me will have the light of life.—R.

GOSPEL   (Shorter form: Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

AS Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.
 He spat on the ground
 and made clay with the saliva,
 and smeared the clay on his eyes,
 and said to him:
 “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam”—which means Sent—.
 So he went and washed, and came back able to see.
 His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,
 “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?”
 Some said, “It is,”
 but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”
 He said, “I am.”
 They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.
 Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.
 So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.
 He said to them,
 “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”
 Some of the Pharisees said,
 “This man is not from God,
 because he does not keep the sabbath.”
 But others said,
 “How can a sinful man do such signs?”
 And there was a division among them.
 So they said to the blind man again,
 “What do you have to say about him,
 since he opened your eyes?”
 He said, “He is a prophet.”
 They answered and said to him,
 “You were born totally in sin,
 and are you trying to teach us?”
 Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
 he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”
 He answered and said,
 “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”
 Jesus said to him,
 “You have seen him,
 the one speaking with you is he.”
 He said,
 “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23)

A reading from the second Book of Chronicles:

IN those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD’S temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy.

Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power.

All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: “Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled.”

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: “Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth, the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6)

R. (6ab) Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.—R.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL  (John 3:16)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 3:14-21)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT—C

The readings given for Year A may be used in place of these.

FIRST READING (Jos 5:9a, 10-12)
A reading from the Book of Joshua:

THE LORD said to Joshua,
   "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you."

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. On the day after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7)

R. (9a) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad.—R.

Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.—R.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the poor one called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.—R.

SECOND READING (2 Cor 5:17-21)
A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (Luke 15:18)
R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will get up and go to my Father and shall say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 15:1-3, 11-32)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

TAX collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, "Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me." So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son, treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’ So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But his father ordered his servants, "Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.” Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, "Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.’ He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.”’}

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Ez 37:12-14)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THUS says the Lord GOD:
O my people, I will open your graves
and have you rise from them,
and bring you back to the land of Israel.
Then you shall know that I am the LORD,
when I open your graves and have you rise from them,
O my people!
I will put my spirit in you that you may live,
and I will settle you upon your land;
thus you shall know that I am the LORD.
I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8)

R. (7) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication.—R.
If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered.—R.
I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.
More than sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the LORD.—R.
For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption;
And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rom 8:8-11)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
But you are not in the flesh;
on the contrary, you are in the spirit,
if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.
Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
But if Christ is in you,
although the body is dead because of sin,
the spirit is alive because of righteousness.
If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
The one who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also,
through his Spirit dwelling in you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL  (John 11:25a, 26)
R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

NOW a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany,
the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil
and dried his feet with her hair;
it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.
So [ the sisters sent word to him [Jesus ] saying,
“Master, the one you love is ill.”
When Jesus heard this he said,
“This illness is not to end in death,
but is for the glory of God,
that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
So when he heard that he was ill,
he remained for two days in the place where he was.
Then after this he said to his disciples,
“Let us go back to Judea.” ]
The disciples said to him,
“Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you,
and you want to go back there?”
Jesus answered,
“Are there not twelve hours in a day?
If one walks during the day, he does not stumble,
because he sees the light of this world.
But if one walks at night, he stumbles,
because the light is not in him.”
He said this, and then told them,
“Our friend Lazarus is asleep,
but I am going to awaken him.”
So the disciples said to him,
“Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”
But Jesus was talking about his death,
while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep.
So then Jesus said to them clearly,
“Lazarus has died.
And I am glad for you that I was not there,
that you may believe.
Let us go to him.”
So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples,
“Let us also go to die with him.”

[ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus
had already been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.
And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary
to comfort them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,
she went to meet him;
but Mary sat at home.
Martha said to Jesus,
“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”
Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”
Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”
Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”
She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the CHRIST, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, “The teacher is here and is asking for you.”
As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him.

For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him.

So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?”
They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept.
So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

[ So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.
It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”
Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.”
Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?”
So they took away the stone.
And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.”
And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”
The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him. ]

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Ex 37:12-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THUS says the Lord GOD:
O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel.
Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people!
I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD.
I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8)

R. (7) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.—R.
If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.—R.
I trust in the LORD; my soul trusts in his word.
More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the LORD.—R.
For with the LORD is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption;
And he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 8:8-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.
Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness.
If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (John 11:25a, 26)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

THE sisters sent word to him [Jesus ] saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.”
when Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was.
Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.
And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.
Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”
Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”
Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”
Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?”
She said to him, “Yes, Lord.
I have come to believe that you are the CHRIIST, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.
It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.
Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”
Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.”
Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?”
So they took away the stone.
And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me.
I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.”
And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”
The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT—B

The readings given for Year A may be used in place of these.

FIRST READING  (Jer 31:31-34)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

THE days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt;
for they broke my covenant,
and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD.
But this is the covenant that I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD.
I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives
how to know the LORD.
All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD,
for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15)

R. (12a) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.—R.

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy spirit take not from me.—R.

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners shall return to you.—R.

SECOND READING  (Heb 5:7-9)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

IN the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh,
he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverence.
Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered;
and when he was made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL  (John 12:26)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will my servant be.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 12:20-33)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

SOME Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast
came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee,
and asked him, “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.”
Philip went and told Andrew;
then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.
Jesus answered them,
“‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
Amen, amen, I say to you,unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.
Whoever loves his life loses it,
and whoever hates his life in this world
will preserve it for eternal life.
Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me.

“I am troubled now.  Yet what should I say?
‘Father, save me from this hour’?  But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.
Father, glorify your name.’
Then a voice came from heaven,
“I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”
The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder;
but others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”
Jesus answered and said,
“This voice did not come for my sake but for yours.
Now is the time of judgment on this world;
now the ruler of this world will be driven out.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself.”

He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.
The word of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Is 43:16-21)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD,
who opens a way in the sea
and a path in the mighty waters,
who leads out chariots and horsemen,
a powerful army,
till they lie prostrate together, never to rise,
snuffed out and quenched like a wick.
Remember not the events of the past,
the things of long ago consider not;
see, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
In the desert I make a way,
in the wasteland, rivers.
Wild beasts honor me,
jackals and ostriches,
for I put water in the desert
and rivers in the wasteland
for my chosen people to drink,
the people whom I formed for myself,
that they might announce my praise.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6)

R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with rejoicing.—R.
Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed.—R.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those that sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing.—R.

Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves.—R.

SECOND READING   (Phil 3:8-14)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
I consider everything as a loss
because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things
and I consider them so much rubbish,
that I may gain Christ and be found in him,
not having any righteousness of my own based on the law
but that which comes through faith in Christ,
the righteousness from God,
depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection
and the sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death,
if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

It is not that I have already taken hold of it
or have already attained perfect maturity,
but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it,
since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, I for my part
do not consider myself to have taken possession.
Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind
but straining forward to what lies ahead,
I continue my pursuit toward the goal,
the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL   (Joel 2:12-13)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Even now, says the Lord,
return to me with your whole heart;
for I am gracious and merciful.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 8:1-11)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS went to the Mount of Olives.
But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area,
and all the people started coming to him,
and he sat down and taught them.
Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman
who had been caught in adultery
and made her stand in the middle.
They said to him,
“Teacher, this woman was caught
in the very act of committing adultery.
Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women.
So what do you say?”
They said this to test him,
so that they could have some charge to bring against him.
Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger.
But when they continued asking him,
he straightened up and said to them,
“Let the one among you who is without sin
be the first to throw a stone at her.”
Again he bent down and wrote on the ground.
In response, they went away one by one,
beginning with the elders.
So he was left alone with the woman before him.
Then Jesus straightened up and said to her,
“Woman, where are they?
Has no one condemned you?”
She replied, “No one, sir.”
Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.
Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 50:4-7)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24)

R. (2a) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? All who see me scoff at me; they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads: He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, if he loves him.—R. Indeed, many dogs surround me, a pack of evildoers closes in upon me; They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.—R. They divide my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. But you, O LORD, be not far from me; O my help, hasten to aid me.—R. I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you: You who fear the LORD, praise him; all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him; revere him, all you descendants of Israel!—R.

SECOND READING  (Phil 2:6-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

CHRIST Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL  (Phil 2:8-9)

R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54)

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:

ONE of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, The teacher says, My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples." The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, "Surely it is not I, Lord?" He said in reply, "He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born." Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" He answered, "You have said so."
While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed; but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him in reply, "Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be." Jesus said to him, "Amen, I say to you, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you." And all the disciples spoke likewise. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and all the disciples spoke likewise. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. Yes, he said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!" Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."
They said in reply, 
"He deserves to die!"

Then they spat in his face and struck him, 
while some slapped him, saying, 
"Prophesy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. 
One of the maids came over to him and said, 
"You too were with Jesus the Galilean."

But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, 
"I do not know what you are talking about!"

As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him 
and said to those who were there, 
"This man was with Jesus the Nazarene."

Again he denied it with an oath, 
"I do not know the man!"

A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, 
"Surely you too are one of them; 
even your speech gives you away."

At that he began to curse and to swear, 
"I do not know the man."

And immediately a cock crowed.

Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: 
Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.

He went out and began to weep bitterly.

When it was morning, 
all the chief priests and the elders of the people 
took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. 
They bound him, led him away, 
and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, 
deeply regretted what he had done. 
He returned the thirty pieces of silver 
to the chief priests and elders, saying, 
"I have sinned in betraying innocent blood."

They said, 
"What is that to us? 
Look to it yourself."

Flinging the money into the temple, 
he departed and went off and hanged himself. 
The chief priests gathered up the money, but said, 
"It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, 
for it is the price of blood."

After consultation, they used it to buy the potters field 
as a burial place for foreigners. 
That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. 
Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, 
And they took the thirty pieces of silver, 
the value of a man with a price on his head, 
a price set by some of the Israelites, 
and they paid it out for the potters field 
just as the Lord had commanded me.

[ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned him, 
"Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus said, "You say so."
And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer.

Then Pilate said to him, 
"Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?"

But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast 
the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd 
one prisoner whom they wished.

And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. 
So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, 
"Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?"

For he knew that it was out of envy 
that they had handed him over. 
While he was still seated on the bench, 
his wife sent him a message, 
"Have nothing to do with that righteous man. 
I suffered much in a dream today because of him."

The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. 
The governor said to them in reply, 
"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

They answered, "Barabbas!"

Pilate said to them, 
"Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?"

They all said, 
"Let him be crucified!"

But he said, 
"Why? What evil has he done?"

They only shouted the louder, 
"Let him be crucified!"

When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, 
but that a riot was breaking out instead, 
he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, 
saying, 'I am innocent of this mans blood. 
Look to it yourselves, 
And the whole people said in reply, 
"His blood be upon us and upon our children."

Then he released Barabbas to them, 
but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. 
They stripped off his clothes 
and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. 
Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, 
and a reed in his right hand. 
And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, 
"Hail, King of the Jews!"

They spat upon him and took the reed 
and kept striking him on the head. 
And when they had mocked him, 
they stripped him of the cloak, 
dressed him in his own clothes, 
and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; 
this man they pressed into service to carry his cross. 
And when they came to a place called Golgotha —which means Place of the Skull—, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. 
But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink.
After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!”

Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. For he said, I am the Son of God.”

The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Some of the bystanders who heard it said, “This one is calling for Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.” But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

[ Here all kneel and pause for a short time. ]

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over.

Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb. The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, After three days I will be raised up. Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, He has been raised from the dead. This last imposture would be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “The guard is yours; go, secure it as best you can.” So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
PALM SUNDAY—B

FIRST READING   (Is 50:4-7)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.
Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.
I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.
The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24)
R. (2a) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
All who see me scoff at me;
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:
He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,
let him rescue him, if he loves him.—R.
Indeed, many dogs surround me,
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
They have pierced my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.—R.
They divide my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, be not far from me;
O my help, hasten to aid me.—R.
I will proclaim your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:
You who fear the LORD, praise him;
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel!—R.

SECOND READING   (Phil 2:6-11)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

CHRIST Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL   (Phil 2:8-9)
R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39)
The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark:

THE Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread
were to take place in two days time.
So the chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way
to arrest him by treachery and put him to death.
They said, "Not during the festival,
for fear that there may be a riot among the people."

When he was in Bethany reclining at table
in the house of Simon the leper,
a woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil,
costly genuine spikenard.
She broke the alabaster jar and poured it on his head.
There were some who were indignant.
"Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil?
It could have been sold for more than three hundred days wages
and the money given to the poor."
They were infuriated with her.
Jesus said, "Let her alone.
Why do you make trouble for her?
She has done a good thing for me.
The poor you will always have with you,
and whenever you wish you can do good to them,
but you will not always have me.
She has done what she could.
She has anticipated anointing my body for burial.
Amen, I say to you,
wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world,
what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve,
went off to the chief priests to hand him over to them.
When they heard him they were pleased and promised to pay him money.
Then he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,
when they sacrificed the Passover lamb,
his disciples said to him,  
"Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"  
He sent two of his disciples and said to them,  
"Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him.  
Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house,  
'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'  
Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there."  
The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he came with the Twelve.  
And as they reclined at table and were eating, Jesus said,  
"Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."  
They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one,  
"Surely it is not I?"  
He said to them,  
"One of the Twelve, the one who dips with me into the dish.  
For the Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, and woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed.  
It would be better for that man if he had never been born."

While they were eating,  
he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said,  
"Take it; this is my body."  
Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it.  
He said to them,  
"This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you,  
I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."  
Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them,  
"All of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written:  
I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed.  
But after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee."  
Peter said to him,  
"Even though all should have their faith shaken, mine will not be."  
Then Jesus said to him,  
"Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times."  
But he vehemently replied,  
"Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you."  
And they all spoke similarly.  
Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,  
"Sit here while I pray."  

He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed.  
Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch."  
He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him;  
he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you.  
Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will."  
When he returned he found them asleep.  
He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?  
Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."  
Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing.  
Then he returned once more and found them asleep,  
for they could not keep their eyes open and did not know what to answer him.  
He returned a third time and said to them,  
"Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough.  
The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners.  
Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Then, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.  
His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying,  
"The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely."  
He came and immediately went over to him and said,  
"Rabbi." And he kissed him.  
At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. One of the bystanders drew his sword, struck the high priests servant, and cut off his ear.  
Jesus said to them in reply,  
"Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs, to seize me?  
Day after day I was with you teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me; but that the Scriptures may be fulfilled."  
And they all left him and fled. Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body.  
They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked.  
They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together.  
Peter followed him at a distance into the high priests courtyard and was seated with the guards, warming himself at the fire.  
The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none. Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree.  
Some took the stand and testified falsely against him, alleging, "We heard him say, I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another..."
Then Jesus answered, "I am;"
again the high priest asked him and said to him,
"What are these men testifying against you?"
but he was silent and answered nothing.

The high priest rose before the assembly
and questioned Jesus,
"What further need have we of witnesses?
You have heard the blasphemy.
What do you think?"
They all condemned him as deserving to die.

Some began to spit on him.
They blindfolded him and struck him
"Prophesy!"
And the guards greeted him with blows.

While Peter was below in the courtyard,
one of the high priests maids came along.
Seeing Peter warming himself,
she looked intently at him and said,
"You too were with the Nazarene, Jesus."

But he denied it saying,
"I neither know nor understand what you are talking about."
So he went out into the outer court.
Then the cock crowed.
The maid saw him and began again to say to the bystanders,
"This man is one of them."

Once again he denied it.
A little later the bystanders said to Peter once more,
"Surely you are one of them; for you too are a Galilean." He began to curse and to swear,
"I do not know this man about whom you are talking."
And immediately a cock crowed a second time.

Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had said to him,
"Before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times."
He broke down and wept.

[As soon as morning came,]
the chief priests with the elders and the scribes,
that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council.
They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.
Pilate questioned him,
"Are you the king of the Jews?"
He said to him in reply, "You say so."
The chief priests accused him of many things.
Again Pilate questioned him,
"Have you no answer?"
See how many things they accuse you of."
Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them
one prisoner whom they requested.
A man called Barabbas was then in prison
along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion.
The crowd came forward and began to ask him
to do for them as he was accustomed.
Pilate answered,
"Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?"
For he knew that it was out of envy

that the chief priests had handed him over.
But the chief priests stirred up the crowd
to have him release Barabbas for them instead.
Pilate again said to them in reply,
"Then what do you want me to do
with the man you call the king of the Jews?"
They shouted again, "Crucify him."
Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?"
They only shouted the louder, "Crucify him."
So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd,
released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged,
handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away inside the palace,
that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort.
They clothed him in purple and,
weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him.
They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him.
They knelt before him in homage.
And when they had mocked him,
they stripped him of the purple cloak,
dressed him in his own clothes,
and led him out to crucify him.

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon,
a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country,
the father of Alexander and Unus,
to carry his cross.

They brought him to the place of Golgotha
—which is translated Place of the Skull—.
They gave him wine drugged with myrrh,
but he did not take it.
Then they crucified him and divided his garments
by casting lots for them to see what each should take.
It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.
The inscription of the charge against him read,
"The King of the Jews."
With him they crucified two revolutionaries,
one on his right and one on his left.
Those passing by reviled him,
shaking their heads and saying,
"Aha! You who would destroy the temple
and rebuild it in three days,
save yourself by coming down from the cross."
Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes,
mocked him among themselves and said,
"He saved others; he cannot save himself.
Let the Christ, the King of Israel,
come down now from the cross
that we may see and believe."
Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him.

At noon darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon.
And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"
which is translated,
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
Some of the bystanders who heard it said,
"Look, he is calling Elijah."
One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed
and gave it to him to drink saying,
"Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

[ Here all kneel and pause for a short time. ]

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him

saw how he breathed his last he said,

"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

There were also women looking on from a distance.
Among them were Mary Magdalene,
Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses,
and Salome.

These women had followed him when he was in Galilee
and ministered to him.

There were also many other women
who had come up with him to Jerusalem. ]

When it was already evening,

since it was the day of preparation,
the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea,
a distinguished member of the council,
who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God,
came and courageously went to Pilate
and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was amazed that he was already dead.

He summoned the centurion
and asked him if Jesus had already died.

And when he learned of it from the centurion,
he gave the body to Joseph.

Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down,
wrapped him in the linen cloth,
and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.

Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses
watched where he was laid.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
PALM SUNDAY—C

FIRST READING   (Is 50:4-7)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled,
I have not turned back.
I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24)
R. (2a) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me scoff at me;
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:
He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,
let him rescue him, if he loves him.—R.

Indeed, many dogs surround me,
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
They have pierced my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.—R.

They divide my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, be not far from me;
O my help, hasten to aid me.—R.

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:
You who fear the LORD, praise him;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel!—R.

SECOND READING   (Phil 2:6-11)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

CHRIST Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,

he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL   (Phil 2:8-9)
R. Praise to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49)
The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

WHEN the hour came,
Jesus took his place at table with the apostles.
He said to them,
"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you
before I suffer,
for, I tell you, I shall not eat it again
until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said,
"Take this and share it among yourselves;
for I tell you that from this time on
I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine
until the kingdom of God comes."

Then he took the bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
"This is my body, which will be given for you;
do this in memory of me."

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
which will be shed for you.

"And yet behold, the hand of the one who is to betray me
is with me on the table;
for the Son of Man indeed goes as it has been determined;
but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed.

And they began to debate among themselves
who among them would do such a deed."

Then an argument broke out among them
about which of them should be regarded as the greatest.

He said to them,
"The kings of the Gentiles Lord it over them
and those in authority over them are addressed as Benefactors;
but among you it shall not be so.
Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest,
and the leader as the servant."
For who is greater:
the one seated at table or the one who serves?
Is it not the one seated at table?
I am among you as the one who serves.
It is you who have stood by me in my trials;
and I confer a kingdom on you,
just as my Father has conferred one on me,
that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom;
and you will sit on thrones
judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded
to sift all of you like wheat,
but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail;
and once you have turned back,
you must strengthen your brothers."
He said to him,
"Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you."
But he replied,
"I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day,
you will deny three times that you know me."

He said to them,
"When I sent you forth without a money bag or a sack
or sandals,
were you in need of anything?"
"No, nothing," they replied.
He said to them,
"But now one who has a money bag should take it,
and likewise a sack,
and one who does not have a sword
should sell his cloak and buy one.
For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me,
namely, He was counted among the wicked;
and indeed what is written about me is coming to fulfillment."
Then they said,
"Lord, look, there are two swords here."
But he replied, "It is enough!"

Then going out, he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives,
and the disciples followed him.
When he arrived at the place he said to them,
"Pray that you may not undergo the test."
After withdrawing about a stones throw from them and kneeling,
he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing,
take this cup away from me;
still, not my will but yours be done."

and cut off his right ear.
But Jesus said in reply,
"Stop, no more of this!"
Then he touched the servants ear and healed him.
And Jesus said to the chief priests and temple guards
and elders who had come for him,
"Have you come out as against a robber, with swords
and clubs?"
Day after day I was with you in the temple area,
and you did not seize me;
but this is your hour, the time for the power of darkness."

After arresting him they led him away
and took him into the house of the high priest;
Peter was following at a distance.
They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it,
and Peter sat down with them.
When a maid saw him seated in the light,
she looked intently at him and said,
"This man too was with him."
But he denied it saying,
"Woman, I do not know him."
A short while later someone else saw him and said,
"You too are one of them";
but Peter answered, "My friend, I am not."

About an hour later, still another insisted,
"Assuredly, this man too was with him,
for he also is a Galilean."
But Peter said,
"My friend, I do not know what you are talking about."
Just as he was saying this, the cock crowed,
and the Lord turned and looked at Peter;
and Peter remembered the word of the Lord,
how he had said to him,
Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.
He went out and began to weep bitterly.
The men who held Jesus in custody were ridiculing and beating him.
They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying,
"Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?"
And they reviled him in saying many other things against him.

When day came the council of elders of the people met,
both chief priests and scribes,
and they brought him before their Sanhedrin.
They said, "If you are the Christ, tell us,"
but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe,
and if I question, you will not respond.
But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated
at the right hand of the power of God."
They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"
He replied to them, "You say that I am."
Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony?
We have heard it from his own mouth."
But they were adamant and said,  
"He is inciting the people with his teaching  
throughout all Judea,  
from Galilee where he began even to here."

On hearing this Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean;  
and upon learning that he was under Herod's jurisdiction,  
he sent him to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time.  
Herod was very glad to see Jesus;  
he had been wanting to see him for a long time,  
for he had heard about him  
and had been hoping to see him perform some sign.  
He questioned him at length,  
but he gave him no answer.  
The chief priests and scribes, meanwhile,  
stood by accusing him harshly.  
Herod and his soldiers treated him contemptuously and mocked him,  
and after clothing him in resplendent garb,  
he sent him back to Pilate.  
Herod and Pilate became friends that very day,  
even though they had been enemies formerly.  
Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the rulers, and the people  
and said to them, "You brought this man to me  
and accused him of inciting the people to revolt.  
I have conducted my investigation in your presence  
and have not found this man guilty  
of the charges you have brought against him,  
nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us.  
So no capital crime has been committed by him.  
Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him."

But all together they shouted out,  
"Away with this man!  
Release Barabbas to us."
—Now Barabbas had been imprisoned for a rebellion  
that had taken place in the city and for murder.—
Again Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus,  
but they continued their shouting,  
"Crucify him!  Crucify him!"
Pilate addressed them a third time,  
"What evil has this man done?  
I found him guilty of no capital crime.  
Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him."

But with loud shouts, however,  
they persisted in calling for his crucifixion,  
and their voices prevailed.  
The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted.  
So he released the man who had been imprisoned  
for rebellion and murder, for whom they asked,  
and he handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they wished.  
As they led him away  
they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian,  
who was coming in from the country;  
and after laying the cross on him,  
they made him carry it behind Jesus.  
A large crowd of people followed Jesus,  
including many women who mourned and lamented him.  
Jesus turned to them and said,  
"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me;  
weep instead for yourselves and for your children  
for indeed, the days are coming when people will say,  
Blessed are the barren,  
the wombs that never bore  
and the breasts that never nursed.  
At that time people will say to the mountains,  
Fall upon us!  
and to the hills, Cover us!  
for if these things are done when the wood is green  
what will happen when it is dry?"

Now two others, both criminals,  
were led away with him to be executed.  
When they came to the place called the Skull,  
they crucified him and the criminals there,  
one on his right, the other on his left.  
Then Jesus said,  
"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."
They divided his garments by casting lots.  
The people stood by and watched;  
the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said,  
"He saved others, let him save himself  
if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God."  
Even the soldiers jeered at him,  
As they approached to offer him wine they called out,  
If you are King of the Jews, save yourself.  
Above him there was an inscription that read,  
"This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,  
"Are you not the Christ?  
Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,  
"Have you no fear of God,  
for you are subject to the same condemnation?  
And indeed, we have been condemned justly,  
for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,  
but this man has done nothing criminal."
Then he said,  
"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
He replied to him,  
"Amen, I say to you,  
today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon  
because of an eclipse of the sun.  
Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.  
Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit";  
and when he had said this he breathed his last.  
[ Here all kneel and pause for a short time. ]

The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said,  
"This man was innocent beyond doubt."
When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle  
saw what had happened,  
they returned home beating their breasts;  
but all his acquaintances stood at a distance,  
including the women who had followed him from Galilee  
and saw these events. ]

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who,  
though he was a member of the council,  
had not consented to their plan of action.  
He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea  
and was awaiting the kingdom of God.
He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried. It was the day of preparation, and the sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come from Galilee with him followed behind, and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it, they returned and prepared spices and perfumed oils. Then they rested on the sabbath according to the commandment.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
HOLY THURSDAY (MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER)—ABC

FIRST READING (Ex 12:1-8, 11-14)
A reading from the Book of Exodus:

THE LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
“This month shall stand at the head of your calendar;
you shall reckon it the first month of the year.
Tell the whole community of Israel:
On the tenth of this month every one of your families
must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household.
If a family is too small for a whole lamb,
it shall join the nearest household in procuring one
and shall share in the lamb
in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it.
The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish.
You may take it from either the sheep or the goats.
You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month,
and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present,
it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight.
They shall take some of its blood
and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel
of every house in which they partake of the lamb.
That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh
with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

“This is how you are to eat it:
with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand,
you shall eat like those who are in flight.
It is the Passover of the LORD.
For on this same night I will go through Egypt,
striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast,
and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD!
But the blood will mark the houses where you are.
Seeing the blood, I will pass over you;
thus, when I strike the land of Egypt,
no destructive blow will come upon you.

“This day shall be a memorial feast for you,
which all your generations shall celebrate
with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18)
R. (cf. 1 Cor 10:16) Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.—R.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.—R.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.
My vows to the LORD I will pay
in the presence of all his people.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 11:23-26)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over,
took bread, and, after he had given thanks,
broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (John 13:34)
I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you.

GOSPEL (Jn 13:1-15)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

BEFORE the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come
to pass from this world to the Father.
He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.
The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot,
to hand him over.
So, during supper,
fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power
and that he had come from God and was returning to God,
he rose from supper and took off his outer garments.
He took a towel and tied it around his waist.
Then he poured water into a basin
and began to wash the disciples’ feet
and dry them with the towel around his waist.
He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,
“Master, are you going to wash my feet?”
Jesus answered and said to him,
“What I am doing, you do not understand now,
but you will understand later.”
Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.”
Jesus answered him,
“Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.”
Simon Peter said to him,
“Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well.”
Jesus said to him,
“Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed,
for he is clean all over;
so you are clean, but not all.”
For he knew who would betray him;
for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

So when he had washed their feet
and put his garments back on and reclined at table again,
he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you?
You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am.
If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,
you ought to wash one another’s feet.
I have given you a model to follow,
so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 52:13-53:12)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

SEE, my servant shall prosper,
he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.
Even as many were amazed at him—
so marred was his look beyond human semblance
and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man—
so shall he startle many nations,
because of him kings shall stand speechless;
for those who have not been told shall see,
those who have not heard shall ponder it.

Who would believe what we have heard?
To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
He grew up like a sapling before him,
like a shoot from the parched earth;
there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him,
nor appearance that would attract us to him.
He was spurned and avoided by people,
a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity,
one of those from whom people hide their faces,
spurned, and we held him in no esteem.
Yet it was our infirmities that he bore,
our sufferings that he endured,
while we thought of him as stricken,
as one smitten by God and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our offenses,
crushed for our sins;
upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole,
by his stripes we were healed.
We had all gone astray like sheep,
each following his own way;
but the LORD laid upon him
the guilt of us all.

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted
and opened not his mouth;
like a lamb led to the slaughter
or a sheep before the shearsers,
he was silent and opened not his mouth.
Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away,
and who would have thought any more of his destiny?
When he was cut off from the land of the living,
and smitten for the sin of his people,
a grave was assigned him among the wicked
and a burial place with evildoers,
though he had done no wrong
nor spoken any falsehood.
But the LORD was pleased
to crush him in infirmity.

If he gives his life as an offering for sin,
he shall see his descendants in a long life,
and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.

Because of his affliction
he shall see the light
in fullness of days;
through his suffering, my servant shall justify many,
and their guilt he shall bear.
Therefore I will give him his portion among the great,
and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty,
because he surrendered himself to death
and was counted among the wicked;
and he shall take away the sins of many,
and win pardon for their offenses.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25)
In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me.
Into your hands I commend my spirit;
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.—R.
For all my foes I am an object of reproach,
a laughingstock to my neighbors, and a dread to my friends;
they who see me abroad flee from me.
I am forgotten like the unremembered dead;
I am like a dish that is broken.—R.
But my trust is in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God.
In your hands is my destiny; rescue me
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors."—R.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your kindness.
Take courage and be stouthearted,
all you who hope in the LORD.—R.

SECOND READING  (Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9)
A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast to our confession.
For we do not have a high priest
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but one who has similarly been tested in every way,
yet without sin.
So let us confidently approach the throne of grace
to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.
In the days when Christ was in the flesh,
he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverence.
Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered;
and when he was made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.
VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL  (Phil 2:8-9)

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name.

GOSPEL  (cf. Jn 18:1-19:42)

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:

JESUS went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered.

Judas his betrayer also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Whom are you looking for?"

They answered him, "Jesus the Nazarene."

He said to them, "I AM."

Judas his betrayer was also with them.

When he said to them, "I AM, " they turned away and fell to the ground.

So he again asked them, "Whom are you looking for?"

They said, "Jesus the Nazarene."

Jesus answered, "I told you that I AM.

So if you are looking for me, let these men go."

This was to fulfill what he had said, "I have not lost any of those you gave me."

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear.

The slave's name was Malchus.

Jesus answered him, "Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?"

Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm.

And they said to him, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?"

He denied it and said, "I am not."

One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?"

Again Peter denied it.

And immediately the cock crowed.

Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning.

And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover.

So Pilate came out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered and said to him, "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

At this, Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law."

The Jews answered him, "We do not have the right to execute anyone, in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die."

So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?"

Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here."

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"

Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Jesus answered him, "I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said."

When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?"

Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?"

Jesus answered him, "I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said."

When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?"

Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

Then Ananias sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm.

And they said to him, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?"

He denied it and said, "I am not."

One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?"

Again Peter denied it.

And immediately the cock crowed.

Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning.

And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover.

So Pilate came out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered and said to him, "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

At this, Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law."

The Jews answered him, "We do not have the right to execute anyone, in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die."

So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?"

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So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"

Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."
Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

When he had said this, he went out and said to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

They cried out again, "Not this one but Barabbas!"

Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him."

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them, "Behold, the man!"

When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him."

The Jews answered, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?"

Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him, "Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?"

Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out, "If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge's bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your king!"

They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews."

Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be, in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots."

This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

[ Here all kneel and pause for a short time. ]

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus, but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:
Not a bone of it will be broken.
And again another passage says:
They will look upon him whom they have pierced.
After this, Joseph of Arimathea,
secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus.
And Pilate permitted it.
So he came and took his body.
Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night,
also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes
weighing about one hundred pounds.
They took the body of Jesus
and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices,
according to the Jewish burial custom.
Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden,
and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried.
So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day;
for the tomb was close by.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
EASTER VIGIL—ABC

Nine readings are assigned to the Easter Vigil: seven from the OT and two from the NT. If circumstances demand in individual cases, the number of prescribed readings may be reduced. Three selections from the OT, however, should be read before the epistle and Gospel, although when necessary, two may be read. In any case, the reading from Exodus about the escape through the Red Sea (reading 3) should never be omitted.

FIRST READING

A Longer Form  (Gn 1:1-2:2)

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

IN the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered
the abyss,
while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said,
"Let there be light," and there was light.
God saw how good the light was.
God then separated the light from the darkness.
God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”
Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said,
"Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters,
to separate one body of water from the other.”
And so it happened:
God made the dome,
and it separated the water above the dome from the water
below it.
God called the dome “the sky.”
Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said,
"Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin,
so that the dry land may appear.”
And so it happened:
the water under the sky was gathered into its basin,
and the dry land appeared.
God called the dry land “the earth,”
and the basin of the water he called “the sea.”
God saw how good it was.
Then God said,
"Let the earth bring forth vegetation:
every kind of plant that bears seed
and every kind of fruit tree on earth
that bears fruit with its seed in it.”
And so it happened:
the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed
and every kind of fruit tree on earth
that bears fruit with its seed in it.
God saw how good it was.
Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said:
"Let there be lights in the dome of the sky,
to separate day from night.
Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years,
and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky,
to shed light upon the earth.”
And so it happened:
God made the two great lights,
the greater one to govern the day,
and the lesser one to govern the night;
and he made the stars.
God set them in the dome of the sky,
to shed light upon the earth,
to govern the day and the night,
and to separate the light from the darkness.
God saw how good it was.
Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Then God said,
"Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures,
and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.”
And so it happened:
God created the great sea monsters
and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water
teems,
and all kinds of winged birds.
God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying,
"Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas;
and let the birds multiply on the earth.”
Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said,
"Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures:
cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.”
And so it happened:
God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle,
and all kinds of creeping things of the earth.
God saw how good it was.
Then God said:
"Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness.
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air, and the cattle,
and over all the wild animals
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”
God created man in his image;
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.
God blessed them, saying:
"Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.
Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,
and all the living things that move on the earth.”
God also said:
"See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food;
and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air,
and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground,
I give all the green plants for food.”
And so it happened.
God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.
Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed.
Since on the seventh day God was finished
with the work he had been doing,
he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had
undertaken.

The word of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
IN the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth,
God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air, and the cattle,
and over all the wild animals
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.
God created man in his image;
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.
God blessed them, saying:
"Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.
Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,
and all the living things that move on the earth."
God also said:
“See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food;
and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air,
and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground,
I give all the green plants for food.”
And so it happened.
God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

A (Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35)

R. (30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
You are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak.—R.
You fixed the earth upon its foundation,
not to be moved forever;
with the ocean, as with a garment, you covered it;
above the mountains the waters stood.—R.
You send forth springs into the watercourses
that wind among the mountains.
Beside them the birds of heaven dwell;
from among the branches they send forth their song.—R.
You water the mountains from your palace;
the earth is replete with the fruit of your works.
You raise grass for the cattle,
and vegetation for man’s use,
Producing bread from the earth.—R.
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have wrought them all—
the earth is full of your creatures.
Bless the LORD, O my soul! Alleluia.—R.

SECOND READING

A Longer Form   (Gn 22:1-18)

GOD put Abraham to the test.
He called to him, “Abraham!”
“Here I am,”  he replied.
Then God said:
“Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love,
and go to the land of Moriah.
There you shall offer him up as a holocaust
on a height that I will point out to you.”
Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey,
with two of his servants as well,
and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust,
set out for the place of which God had told him.

On the third day Abraham got sight of the place from afar.
Then he said to his servants:
“Both of you stay here with the donkey,
while the boy and I go on over yonder.
We will worship and then come back to you.”
Thereupon Abraham took the wood for the holocaust
and laid it on his son Isaac’s shoulders,
while he himself carried the fire and the knife.
As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham:
“Father!” Isaac said.
“Son,” Abraham answered.
“If the Lord wills, Is that not the Son of God who wills to give me
both you and your mother?”
Then the two continued going forward.
When they came to the place of which God had told him,
Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.
Next he tied up his son Isaac,
and put him on top of the wood on the altar.
Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.
But the LORD’S messenger called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!”

“Here I am!” he answered.

“Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least thing to him.

I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.”

As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh; hence people now say, “On the mountain the LORD will see.”

Again the LORD’S messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said:

“I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing— all this because you obeyed my command.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11)

R. (1) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot. I set the LORD ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.—R.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.—R.

You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.—R.

THIRD READING  (Ex 14:15-15:1)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

THE LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.”

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel’s camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea.

In the night watch just before dawn, the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive.

With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

Then the LORD told Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers.”

So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth.

The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh’s whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped.

But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians.

When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

R. (1b) Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariots he has cast into the sea.

My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior.

He is my God, I praise him; the God of my father, I extol him.—R.

The LORD is a warrior, LORD is his name! Pharaoh’s chariots and army he hurled into the sea; the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.—R.

The flood waters covered them, they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power, your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.—R.

You brought in the people you redeemed and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance— the place where you made your seat, O LORD, the sanctuary, LORD, which your hands established.

The LORD shall reign forever and ever.—R.

FOURTH READING (Is 54:5-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE One who has become your husband is your Maker; his name is the LORD of hosts; your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, called God of all the earth.

The LORD calls you back, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, a wife married in youth and then cast off, says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back.

In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; but with enduring love I take pity on you, says the LORD, your redeemer.

This is for me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; so have I sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you.

Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, my love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsoléd, I lay your pavements in carnelians, and your foundations in sapphires; I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of carbuncles, and all your walls of precious stones.

All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.

In justice shall you be established, far from the fear of oppression, where destruction cannot come near you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13)

R. (2a) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with the dawn, rejoicing.—R.

Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me; O LORD, be my helper.

You changed my mourning into dancing; O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.—R.
FIFTH READING  (Is 55:1-11)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!
You who have no money,
come, receive grain and eat;
come, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!
Why spend your money for what is not bread,
your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.
Come to me heedfully,
listen, that you may have life.
I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,
the benefits assured to David.
As I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of nations,
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,
because of the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.
Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked man his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.
For just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6)

R. (3) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior;
I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.—R.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;
among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name.—R.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;
let this be known throughout all the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel!—R.

SIXTH READING   (Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch:

HEAR, O Israel, the commandments of life:
listen, and know prudence!

How is it, Israel,
that you are in the land of your foes,
grown old in a foreign land,
defiled with the dead,
accounted with those destined for the netherworld?
You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom!
Had you walked in the way of God,
you would have dwelt in enduring peace.
Learn where prudence is,
where strength, where understanding;
that you may know also
where are length of days, and life,
where light of the eyes, and peace.
Who has found the place of wisdom,
who has entered into her treasuries?
The One who knows all things knows her;
he has probed her by his knowledge—
The One who established the earth for all time,
and filled it with four-footed beasts;
he who dismisses the light, and it departs,
calls it, and it obeys him trembling;
before whom the stars at their posts
shine and rejoice;
when he calls them, they answer, "Here we are!"
shining with joy for their Maker.
Such is our God;
no other is to be compared to him:
He has traced out the whole way of understanding,
and has given her to Jacob, his servant,
to Israel, his beloved son.
Since then she has appeared on earth,
and moved among people.
She is the book of the precepts of God,
the law that endures forever;
all who cling to her will live,
but those will die who forsake her.
Turn, O Jacob, and receive her;
walk by her light toward splendor.
Give not your glory to another,
your privileges to an alien race.
Blessed are we, O Israel;
for what pleases God is known to us!

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11)

R. (John 6:68c) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.—R.

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.—R.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.—R.

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold; sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.—R.

SEVENTH READING   (Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THE word of the LORD came to me, saying:

Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefore I poured out my fury upon them because of the blood that they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols. I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations wherever they came, they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: “These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave their land.” So I have relented because of my holy name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations to which you came. Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came. I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when in their sight I prove my holiness through you. For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God. The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

When baptism is celebrated, responsorial psalm A is used; when baptism is not celebrated, responsorial psalm B or C is used.

A (When baptism is celebrated: Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4)

R. (42:2) Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God?—R.

I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God, Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving, with the multitude keeping festival.—R.

Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on and bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling-place.—R.

Then will I go in to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy; then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God!—R.

B (When baptism is not celebrated: Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6)

R. (3) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.—R.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.—R.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!—R.

C (When baptism is not celebrated: Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19)

R. (12a) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me.
I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners shall return to you.—R.

For you are not pleased with sacrifices;  
should I offer a holocaust, you would not accept it.
My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit;  
a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.—R.

EPISTLE  (Rom 7:3-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus  
were baptized into his death?  
We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,  
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,  
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
We know that our old self was crucified with him,  
so that our sinful body might be done away with,  
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
If, then, we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we shall also live with him.
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;  
death no longer has power over him.
As to his death, he died to sin once and for all;  
as to his life, he lives for God.
Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin  
and living for God in Christ Jesus.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23)

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say,  
"His mercy endures forever."—R.

The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.
I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.—R.

The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;  
it is wonderful in our eyes.—R.

GOSPEL—A  (Mt 28:1-10)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

AFTER the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,  
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.
And behold, there was a great earthquake;  
for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven,  
approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.
His appearance was like lightning  
and his clothing was white as snow.
The guards were shaken with fear of him  
and became like dead men.
Then the angel said to the women in reply,  
"Do not be afraid!  
I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.
He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.  
Come and see the place where he lay.
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,  
"He has been raised from the dead,  
and he is going before you to Galilee;  
there you will see him."  
Behold, I have told you."
Then they went away quickly from the tomb,  
fearful yet overjoyed,  
and ran to announce this to his disciples.
And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.
They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.
Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.
Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee;  
and there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL—B  (Mk 16:1-7)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

WHEN the sabbath was over,  
Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome  
bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.
Very early when the sun had risen,  
on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.
They were saying to one another,  
"Who will roll back the stone for us  
from the entrance to the tomb?"
When they looked up,  
they saw that the stone had been rolled back;  
it was very large.
On entering the tomb they saw a young man  
sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe,  
and they were utterly amazed.
He said to them, "Do not be amazed!  
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here.
Behold the place where they laid him.
But go and tell his disciples and Peter,  
"He is going before you to Galilee;  
there you will see him."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL—C  (Lk 24:1-12)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

AT daybreak on the first day of the week  
the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus  
took the spices they had prepared  
and went to the tomb.
They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;  
but when they entered,
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.
While they were puzzling over this, behold,
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.
They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.
They said to them,
“Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised.
Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee,
that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners
and be crucified, and rise on the third day.”
And they remembered his words.
Then they returned from the tomb
and announced all these things to the eleven
and to all the others.
The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother
of James;
the others who accompanied them also told this to
the apostles,
but their story seemed like nonsense
and they did not believe them.
But Peter got up and ran to the tomb,
bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone;
then he went home amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Acts 10:34a, 37-43)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

PETER proceeded to speak and said:

“...You know what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.
This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,
not to all the people, but to us,
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people
and testify that he is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,
that everyone who believes in him
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23)

R. (24) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
“His mercy endures forever.”—R.

“The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.—R.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.—R.

SECOND READING

A   (Col 3:1-4)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians:

BROTHERS and sisters:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
When Christ your life appears,
then you too will appear with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

OR

B   (1 Cor 5:6b-8)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:

Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough?
Clear out the old yeast,
so that you may become a fresh batch of dough,
inasmuch as you are unleavened.
For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.
Therefore, let us celebrate the feast,
not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE   Victimae paschali laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!

A Lamb the sheep redeems;
Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciles sinners to the Father.

Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.

Speak, Mary, declaring
“The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;
bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;
to Galilee he goes before you.”

Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!
Amen. Alleluia.

ALLELUIA   (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:7b-8a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in the Lord.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 20:1-9)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don’t know where they put him.”

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.
When Simon Peter arrived after him,
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,
and the cloth that had covered his head,
not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Acts 2:42-47)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

THEY devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one’s need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24)

R. (1) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting. or: R. Alleluia.

Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.”
Let the house of Aaron say, “His mercy endures forever.”
Let those who fear the LORD say, “His mercy endures forever.”—R.

I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just.—R.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Pt 1:3-9)

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter:

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (John 20:29)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; Blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 20:19-31)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—B

FIRST READING  (Acts 4:32-35)
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

THE community of believers was of one heart and mind,
and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own,
but they had everything in common.

With great power the apostles bore witness
to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,
and great favor was accorded them all.

There was no needy person among them,
for those who owned property or houses would sell them,
bring the proceeds of the sale,
and put them at the feet of the apostles,
and they were distributed to each according to need.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24)
R. (1) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Let the house of Israel say,
“His mercy endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say,
“His mercy endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His mercy endures forever.”—R.

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.

The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just.—R.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Jn 5:1-6)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

BELOVED:
Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God,
and everyone who loves the Father
loves also the one begotten by him.

In this way we know that we love the children of God
when we love God and obey his commandments.

For the love of God is this,
that we keep his commandments.

And his commandments are not burdensome,
for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.

And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.

Who indeed is the victor over the world
but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ,
not by water alone, but by water and blood.
The Spirit is the one that testifies,
and the Spirit is truth.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALELUIA   (John 20:29)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me,
says the Lord;
Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 20:19-31)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”
But he said to them,
“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands
and put my finger into the nailmarks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them.

Jesus came, although the doors were locked,
and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.”

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples
that are not written in this book.
But these are written that you may come to believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—C

FIRST READING (Acts 5:12-16)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

MANY signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon’s portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24)

R. (1) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. or: R. Alleluia.

Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.”
Let the house of Aaron say, “His mercy endures forever.”
Let those who fear the LORD say, “His mercy endures forever.”—R.

I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just.—R.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.—R.

SECOND READING (Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19)

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

I, JOHN, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God’s word and gave testimony to Jesus. I was caught up in spirit on the Lord’s day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said, “Write on a scroll what you see.” Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest.

When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead. He touched me with his right hand and said, “Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld. Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (John 20:29)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; Blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 20:19-31)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—A

FIRST READING  (Acts 2:14, 22-33)
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

THEN Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed:

“You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. For David says of him:

'I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted, my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

“My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth, as you see and hear.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11)

R. (11a) Lord, you will show us the path of life.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge; I say to the LORD, “My Lord are you.” O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot.—R.

I bless the LORD who counsels me; even in the night my heart exults me. I set the LORD ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.—R.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.—R.

You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Pt 1:17-21)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter:

BELOVED:
If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn while you speak to us.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 24:13-35)

+A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THAT very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?” And he replied to them, “What sort of things?” They said to him, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—B


A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

PETER said to the people:
"The God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,
the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus,
whom you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence
when he had decided to release him.
You denied the Holy and Righteous One
and asked that a murderer be released to you.
The author of life you put to death,
but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses.
Now I know, brothers,
that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did;
but God has thus brought to fulfillment
what he had announced beforehand
through the mouth of all the prophets,
that his Christ would suffer.
Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9)

R. (7a) Lord, let your face shine on us.
or:
R. Alleluia.
When I call, answer me, O my just God,
you who relieve me when I am in distress;
have pity on me, and hear my prayer!—R.

Know that the LORD does wonders for his faithful one;
the LORD will hear me when I call upon him.—R.

O LORD, let the light of your countenance shine upon us!
You put gladness into my heart.—R.

As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep,
for you alone, O LORD,
bring security to my dwelling.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Jn 2:1-5a)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

MY children, I am writing this to you
so that you may not commit sin.
But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous one.
He is expiation for our sins,
and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world.
The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep
his commandments.
Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments
are liars, and the truth is not in them.
But whoever keeps his word,
the love of God is truly perfected in him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.


R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;
make our hearts burn while you speak to us.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 24:35-48)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THE two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way,
and how Jesus was made known to them
in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this,
he stood in their midst and said to them,
"Peace be with you."
But they were startled and terrified
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled?
And why do questions arise in your hearts?
Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.
Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones
as you can see I have."
And as he said this,
he showed them his hands and his feet.
While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,
he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?"
They gave him a piece of baked fish;
he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them,
"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,
that everything written about me in the law of Moses
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled."
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.
And he said to them,
"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—C

FIRST READING (Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN the captain and the court officers had brought the apostles in
and made them stand before the Sanhedrin,
the high priest questioned them,
"We gave you strict orders, did we not,
to stop teaching in that name?
Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching
and want to bring this man's blood upon us."
But Peter and the apostles said in reply,
"We must obey God rather than men.
The God of our ancestors raised Jesus,
though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree.
God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior
to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins.
We are witnesses of these things,
as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Sanhedrin ordered the apostles
to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them.
So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin,
rejoicing that they had been found worthy
to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13)

R. (2a) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.
or:
R. Alleluia.

I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld;
you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.—R.

Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger lasts but a moment;
but with the dawn, rejoicing.—R.

Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;
O LORD, be my helper.
You changed my mourning into dancing;
O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.—R.

SECOND READING (Rev 5:11-14)

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

I, JOHN, looked and heard the voices of many angels
who surrounded the throne
and the living creatures and the elders.
They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice:
"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and blessing."
Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth
and under the earth and in the sea,
everything in the universe, cry out:
"To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor, glory and might,
forever and ever."
The four living creatures answered, "Amen,"
and the elders fell down and worshiped.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is risen, creator of all; he has shown pity on all people.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ AT that time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at
the Sea of Tiberias.
He revealed himself in this way.
Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus,
Nathanael from Cana in Galilee,
Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples.
Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."
They said to him, "We also will come with you."
So they went out and got into the boat,
but that night they caught nothing.
When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore;
but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.
Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?"
They answered him, "No."
So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat
and you will find something."
So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in
because of the number of fish.
So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord."
When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord,
he took off his garment, for he was lightly clad,
and jumped into the sea.
The other disciples came in the boat,
for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards,
dragging the net with the fish.
When they climbed out on shore,
they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread.
Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught."
Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore
full of one hundred fifty-three large fish.
Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.
Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast."
And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?"
Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them,
and in like manner the fish.
This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples
after being raised from the dead.]

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter,
"Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"
Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."
He then said to Simon Peter a second time,
"Simon, son of John, do you love me?"
Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."
Jesus said to him the third time,
"Simon, son of John, do you love me?"
Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time,
"Do you love me?" and he said to him,
"Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."
Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.
Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger,
you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted;
but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands,
and someone else will dress you
and lead you where you do not want to go."
He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God.
And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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FIRST READING  (Acts 2:14a, 36-41)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

THEN Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed:
"Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?"

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call."

He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 23: 13a, 3b4, 5, 6)

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
or:
R. Alleluia.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.—R.

He guides me in right paths for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side. With your rod and your staff that give me courage.—R.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.—R.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Pt 2:20b-25)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter:

BELOVED:
If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (John 10:14)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 10:1-10)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said:
"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.”

Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Acts 4:8-12)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

PETER, filled with the Holy Spirit, said:

"Leaders of the people and elders:
If we are being examined today
about a good deed done to a cripple,
namely, by what means he was saved,
then all of you and all the people of Israel should know
that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene
whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead;
in his name this man stands before you healed.
He is the stone rejected by you, the builders,
which has become the cornerstone.
There is no salvation through anyone else,
nor is there any other name under heaven
given to the human race by which we are to be saved."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29)

R. (22) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in man.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.—R.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and have been my savior.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.—R.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and have been my savior.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his kindness endures forever.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Jn 3:1-2)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

BELOVED:
See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.
Yet so we are.
The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.
Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.
FIRST READING  (Acts 13:14, 43-52)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

PAUL and Barnabas continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia.
On the sabbath they entered the synagogue and took their seats.
Many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God.

On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said.
Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.
For so the Lord has commanded us, I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.”

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord.
All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region.
The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory.
So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium.
The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5)

R. (3c) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; serve the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful song.—R.

Know that the LORD is God; he made us, his we are; his people, the flock he tends.—R.

The LORD is good: his kindness endures forever, and his faithfulness, to all generations.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rev 7:9, 14b-17)

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

I, JOHN, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

Then one of the elders said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“For this reason they stand before God’s throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Jn 10:14)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 10:27-30)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said: “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Acts 6:1-7)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

AS the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19)

R. (22) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. or: R. Alleluia.

Exult, you just, in the LORD; praise from the upright is fitting. Give thanks to the LORD on the harp; with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.—R.

Upright is the word of the LORD, and all his works are trustworthy. He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.—R.

Second Reading   (1 Pt 2:4-9)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter:

BELOVED: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture: Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame. Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall. They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny. You are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 14:6)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 14:1-12)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.”

Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Acts 9:26-31)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.
Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.
He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord.
He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him.
And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus.
The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace.
It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32)

R. (26a) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.
or:
R. Alleluia.
I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.
The lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek the LORD shall praise him: “May your hearts live forever!”—R.
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of the nations shall bow down before him.—R.
To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bend all who go down into the dust.—R.
And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him.
Let the coming generation be told of the LORD that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born the justice he has shown.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Jn 3:18-24)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

CHILDREN, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.
Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.
Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.
Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (John 15:4a, 5b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 15:1-8)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples:
“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.
You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you.
Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned.
If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.
By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Acts 14:21-27)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

AFTER Paul and Barnabas had proclaimed the good news to that city
and made a considerable number of disciples,
they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch.

They strengthened the spirits of the disciples
and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying,
“It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships
to enter the kingdom of God.”

They appointed elders for them in each church and,
with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord
in whom they had put their faith.

Then they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia.

After proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia.

From there they sailed to Antioch,
where they had been commended to the grace of God
for the work they had now accomplished.

And when they arrived, they called the church together
and reported what God had done with them
and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13)

R. (cf. 1) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.
or:
R. Alleluia.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.—R.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.—R.

Let them make known your might to the children of Adam,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is a kingdom for all ages,
and your dominion endures through all generations.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rev 21:1-5a)

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

THEN I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said,
“Behold, I make all things new.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 13:34)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

WHEN Judas had left them, Jesus said,
“Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.
If God is glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself,
and God will glorify him at once.
My children, I will be with you only a little while longer.
I give you a new commandment: love one another.
As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.
This is how all will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17)
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

PHILIP went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20)
R. (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. or:
R. Alleluia.

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth, sing praise to the glory of his name; proclaim his glorious praise. Say to God, “How tremendous are your deeds!—R.

Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you, sing praise to your name!”

Come and see the works of God, his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam.—R.

He has changed the sea into dry land; through the river they passed on foot; therefore let us rejoice in him. He rules by his might forever.—R.

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare what he has done for me. Blessed be God who refused me not my prayer or his kindness!—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Pt 3:15-18)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter:

BELOVED:
Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned,

those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 14:23)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 14:15-21)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, "Get up. I myself am also a human being."

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?"

He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4)

R. (cf. 2b) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. or: R. Alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; His right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.—R. The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.—R.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Jn 4:7-10)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

BELoved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him.

In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.
FIRST READING  (Acts 15:1-2, 22-29)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

SOME who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved." Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question.

The apostles and elders, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers. This is the letter delivered by them:

"The apostles and the elders, your brothers, to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia of Gentile origin: greetings.

Since we have heard that some of our number who went out without any mandate from us have upset you with their teachings and disturbed your peace of mind, we have with one accord decided to choose representatives and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth: 'It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.'"

The word of the Lord.—Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8)

R. (4) O God, let all the nations praise you! or:
R. Alleluia.

May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.—R.

May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide.—R.

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him!—R.

SECOND READING   (Rev 21:10-14, 22-23)

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

THE angel took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west.

The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 14:23)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 14:23-29)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Acts 1:1-11)

A reading from the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles:

IN the first book, Theophilus,
I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught
until the day he was taken up,
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit
to the apostles whom he had chosen.

He presented himself alive to them
by many proofs after he had suffered,
appearing to them during forty days
and speaking about the kingdom of God.

While meeting with the them,
he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,
but to wait for "the promise of the Father
about which you have heard me speak;
for John baptized with water,
but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they had gathered together they asked him,
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore
the kingdom to Israel?"

He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons
that the Father has established by his own authority.
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
throughout Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said this, as they were looking on,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.
While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going,
suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.

They said, "Men of Galilee,
why are you standing there looking at the sky?
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven
will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (6) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
or:
R. Alleluia.

All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness,
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth.—R.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.
Sing praise to God, sing praise;
sing praise to our king, sing praise.—R.

For king of all the earth is God;
sing hymns of praise.
God reigns over the nations,
God sits upon his holy throne.—R.

SECOND READING (Eph 1:17-23)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation
resulting in knowledge of him.

May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened,
that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call,
what are the riches of glory
in his inheritance among the holy ones,
and what is the surpassing greatness of his power
for us who believe,
in accord with the exercise of his great might,
which he worked in Christ,
raising him from the dead
and seating him at his right hand in the heavens,
far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion,
and every name that is named
not only in this age but also in the one to come.

And he put all things beneath his feet
and gave him as head over all things to the church,
which is his body,
the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Matthew 28:19a, 20b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 28:16-20)

+ The conclusion of the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

THE eleven disciples went to Galilee,
to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.
When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.
Then Jesus approached and said to them,
"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD—B

FIRST READING  (Acts 1:1-11)

A reading from the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles:

IN the first book, Theophilus,
when they had gathered together they asked him,
while meeting with them, he presented himself alive to them
by many proofs after he had suffered,
and speaking about the kingdom of God.
When they had gathered together they asked him,
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore
the kingdom to Israel?"
He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons
that the Father has established by his own authority.
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
to the ends of the earth.
When he had said this, as they were looking on,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (6) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness,
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
the one God and Father of all,
and seating him at his right hand in the heavens,
far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion,
and every name that is named
not only in this age but also in the one to come.
And he put all things beneath his feet
and gave him as head over all things to the church,
which is his body,
the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING A  (Eph 1:17-23)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation
resulting in knowledge of him.
May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened,
that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call,
resulting in knowledge of him.
May the riches of glory
in his inheritance among the holy ones,
and what is the surpassing greatness of his power
for us who believe,
in accord with the exercise of his great might,
which he worked in Christ,
raising him from the dead
and seating him at his right hand in the heavens,
far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion,
and every name that is named
not only in this age but also in the one to come.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Acts 1:1-11)
The beginning of the Acts of the Apostles:

IN the first book, Theophilus,
I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught
until the day he was taken up,
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit
to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9)
R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Sing praise to God, sing praise; God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome, all you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness,
is the great king over all the earth.—R.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.
Sing praise to God, sing praise;
sing praise to our king, sing praise.—R.

For king of all the earth is God;
sing hymns of praise.
God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne.—R.

SECOND READING
A (Eph 1:17-23)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might: which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL (Lk 24:46-53)

alleluia (Matthew 28:19a, 20b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world.—R.

The conclusion of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS said to his disciples: “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

AFTER Jesus had been taken up to heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away.

When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8)

R. (13) I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

R. Alleluia.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life’s refuge; of whom should I be afraid?—R.

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD and contemplate his temple.—R.

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me.
Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Pt 4:13-16)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter:

BELOVED:
Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly.
If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil-doer, or as an intriguer. But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (cf. John 14:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord.
I will come back to you, and your heart will rejoice.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 17:1-11a)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me.
I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—B

FIRST READING  (Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

PETER stood up in the midst of the brothers
—there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons
in the one place—.

He said, “My brothers,
the Scripture had to be fulfilled
which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand
through the mouth of David, concerning Judas,
who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus.

He was numbered among us
and was allotted a share in this ministry.

“For it is written in the Book of Psalms:
May another take his office.

“Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men
who accompanied us the whole time
the Lord Jesus came and went among us,
beginning from the baptism of John
until the day on which he was taken up from us,
become with us a witness to his resurrection.”

So they proposed two, Judas called Barsabbas,
who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

Then they prayed,
“You, Lord, who know the hearts of all,
show which one of these two you have chosen
to take the place in this apostolic ministry
from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.”

Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias,
and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20)

R. (19a) The Lord has set his throne in heaven.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and forget not all his benefits.—R.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all my being, bless his holy name.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.—R.

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the LORD, all you his angels,
you mighty in strength, who do his bidding.—R.

SECOND READING  (Jn 4:11-16)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

BELOVED, if God so loved us,
we also must love one another.
No one has ever seen God.
Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us,
that he has given us of his Spirit.
Moreover, we have seen and testify
that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world.
Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,
God remains in him and he in God.
We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and whoever remains in love
remains in God and God in him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. John 14:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 17:11b-19)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

LIFTING up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying:
“Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one just as we are one.
When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me,
and I guarded them, and none of them was lost
except the son of destruction,
in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
But now I am coming to you.
I speak this in the world
so that they may share my joy completely.
I gave them your word, and the world hated them,
because they do not belong to the world
any more than I belong to the world.
I do not ask that you take them out of the world
but that you keep them from the evil one.
They do not belong to the world
any more than I belong to the world.
Consecrate them in the truth.  Your word is truth.
As you sent me into the world,
so I sent them into the world.
And I consecrate myself for them,
so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Acts 7:55-60)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

STEPHEN, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and Stephen said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears, and rushed upon him together. They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them; and when he said this, he fell asleep.

The word of the Lord.—Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 97:1-2, 6-7, 9)

R. (1a and 9a) The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad. Justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.—R.

The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory. All gods are prostrate before him.—R.

You, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth, exalted far above all gods.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20)

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

I, JOHN, heard a voice saying to me: “Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates.

“I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star.”

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let the hearer say, “Come.” Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water.

The one who gives this testimony says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. John 14:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 17:20-26)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

LIFTING up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying: “Holy Father, I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING

A (Gn 11:1-9)

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

THE whole world spoke the same language, using the same words. While the people were migrating in the east, they came upon a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, “Come, let us mold bricks and harden them with fire.” They used bricks for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered all over the earth.”

The LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the people had built. Then the LORD said: “If now, while they are one people, all speaking the same language, they have started to do this, nothing will later stop them from doing whatever they presume to do. Let us then go down there and confuse their language, so that one will not understand what another says.” Thus the LORD scattered them from there all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the speech of all the world. It was from that place that he scattered them all over the earth.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

OR

B (Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

MOSES went up the mountain to God. Then the LORD called to him and said, “Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob; tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself. Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation. That is what you must tell the Israelites.” So Moses went and summoned the elders of the people. When he set before them all that the LORD had ordered him to tell them, the people all answered together, “Everything the LORD has said, we will do.”

On the morning of the third day there were peals of thunder and lightning, and a heavy cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. But Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stationed themselves at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was all wrapped in smoke, for the LORD came down upon it in fire. The smoke rose from it as though from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. The trumpet blast grew louder and louder, while Moses was speaking, and God answering him with thunder.

When the LORD came down to the top of Mount Sinai, he summoned Moses to the top of the mountain.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

OR

C (Ez 37:1-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THE hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the plain, which was now filled with bones. He made me walk among the bones in every direction so that I saw how many they were on the surface of the plain. How dry they were! He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come to life? I answered, “Lord GOD, you alone know that.” Then he said to me: Prophesy over these bones, and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: See! I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life. I will put sinews upon you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put spirit in you so that you may come to life and know that I am the LORD. I, Ezekiel, prophesied as I had been told, and even as I was prophesying I heard a noise; it was a rattling as the bones came together, bone joining bone. I saw the sinews and the flesh come upon them, and the skin cover them, but there was no spirit in them. Then the LORD said to me: Prophesy to the spirit, prophesy, son of man, from the four winds come, O spirit, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life. I prophesied as he told me, and even as I was prophesying I heard a noise; it was a rattling as the bones came together, bone joining bone. Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel.
Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING (Rom 8:22-27)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance. In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 7:37-39)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. As Scripture says: Rivers of living water will flow from within him who believes in me.” He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

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FIRST READING

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THE whole world spoke the same language, using the same words. While the people were migrating in the east, they came upon a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, “Come, let us mold bricks and harden them with fire.” They used bricks for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered all over the earth.”

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The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 104:1-2, 24, 25-28, 29, 30)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or:
R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak.—R.

How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have wrought them all—the earth is full of your creatures; bless the LORD, O my soul! Alleluia.—R.

Creatures all look to you to give them food in due time. When you give it to them, they gather it; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

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In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will.

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The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING

B (Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

MOSES went up the mountain to God. Then the LORD called to him and said,
“Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob;
tell the Israelites:
You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians
and how I bore you up on eagle wings
and brought you here to myself.
Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant,
you shall be my special possession,
dearer to me than all other people,
though all the earth is mine.
You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.
That is what you must tell the Israelites.”

So Moses went and summoned the elders of the people.
When he set before them
all that the LORD had ordered him to tell them,
the people all answered together,
“Everything the LORD has said, we will do.”

On the morning of the third day
there were peals of thunder and lightning,
and a heavy cloud over the mountain,
and a very loud trumpet blast,
so that all the people in the camp trembled.
But Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God,
and they stationed themselves at the foot of the mountain.
Mount Sinai was all wrapped in smoke,
for the LORD came down upon it in fire.
The smoke rose from it as though from a furnace,
and the whole mountain trembled violently.
The trumpet blast grew louder and louder, while Moses was
speaking,
and God answering him with thunder.

When the LORD came down to the top of Mount Sinai,
he summoned Moses to the top of the mountain.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
You are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak.—R.

How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have wrought them all—
the earth is full of your creatures;
bless the LORD, O my soul! Alleluia.—R.

Creatures all look to you
to give them food in due time.
When you give it to them, they gather it;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.—R.

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A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THE hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the plain, which was now filled with bones.

He made me walk among the bones in every direction so that I saw how many they were on the surface of the plain. How dry they were!

He asked me:

Son of man, can these bones come to life?

I answered, “Lord GOD, you alone know that.”

Then he said to me:

Prophesy over these bones, and say to them:

Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones:

See! I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life.

I will put sinews upon you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put spirit in you so that you may come to life and know that I am the LORD.

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I saw the sinews and the flesh come upon them, and the skin cover them, but there was no spirit in them.

Then the LORD said to me:

Prophesy to the spirit, prophesy, son of man, and say to the spirit: Thus says the Lord GOD:

From the four winds come, O spirit, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life.

I prophesied as he told me, and the spirit came into them; they came alive and stood upright, a vast army.

Then he said to me:

Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.

They have been saying,

“Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off.”

Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel.

Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD.

I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
FIRST READING

D (Jl 3:1-5)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel:

THUS says the Lord:
I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh.
Your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
your young men shall see visions;
even upon the servants and the handmaids,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.
And I will work wonders in the heavens and on the earth,
blood, fire, and columns of smoke;
the sun will be turned to darkness,
and the moon to blood,
at the coming of the day of the LORD,
the great and terrible day.
Then everyone shall be rescued
who calls on the name of the LORD;
for on Mount Zion there shall be a remnant,
as the LORD has said,
and in Jerusalem survivors
whom the LORD shall call.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or:
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Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
You are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak.—R.

How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have wrought them all—
the earth is full of your creatures;
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Creatures all look to you
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When you give it to them, they gather it;
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If you take away their breath, they perish
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When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
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SECOND READING   (Rom 8:22-27)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
For in hope we were saved.
Now hope that sees is not hope.
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knows what is the intention of the Spirit,
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The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL   (Jn 7:37-39)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the last and greatest day of the feast,
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There was, of course, no Spirit yet,
because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Acts 2:1-11)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O Lord! the earth is full of your creatures;—R.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue’s sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.
Alleluia.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 20:19-23)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
PENTECOST SUNDAY (MASS DURING THE DAY)—B

FIRST READING (Acts 2:1-11)
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

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Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O LORD! the earth is full of your creatures;—R.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works! Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD.—R.
If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING
A (1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

OR

B (Gal 5:16-25)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

BROTHERS and sisters, live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want.
But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, lust, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like.
I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue’s sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.
Alleluia.

ALLELUIA
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL

A (Jn 20:19-23)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

OR

B (Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples:
“When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father,
he will testify to me.
And you also testify,
because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.
But when he comes, the Spirit of truth,
he will guide you to all truth.
He will not speak on his own,
but he will speak what he hears,
and will declare to you the things that are coming.
He will glorify me,
because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.
Everything that the Father has is mine;
for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine
and declare it to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Acts 2:1-11)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O LORD! the earth is full of your creatures;—R. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works! Pleading to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING

A (1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters: No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE    Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come! And from your celestial home Shed a ray of light divine! Come, Father of the poor! Come, source of all our store! Come, within our bosoms shine. You, of comforters the best; You, the soul’s most welcome guest; Sweet refreshment here below; In our labor, rest most sweet; Grateful coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe. O most blessed Light divine, Shine within these hearts of yours, And our inmost being fill! Where you are not, we have naught, Nothing good in deed or thought, Nothing free from taint of ill. Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour your dew; Wash the stains of guilt away: Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray. On the faithful, who adore And confess you, evermore In your sevenfold gift descend; Give them virtue’s sure reward; Give them your salvation, Lord; Give them joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL

A (Jn 20:19-23)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
PENTECOST SUNDAY (MSS DURING THE DAY)—B

Only Second Reading Option A and Gospel Option B given below.

FIRST READING   (Acts 2:1-11)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven
staying in Jerusalem.
At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,
but they were confused
because each one heard them speaking in his own language.
They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,
"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?
Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?
We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites,
inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,
as well as travelers from Rome,
both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues
of the mighty acts of God."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
the earth is full of your creatures;—R.
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING

A (1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone.
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,
so also Christ.
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE   Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best:
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue’s sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL

B (Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples:
"When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father,
he will testify to me.
And you also testify,
because you have been with me from the beginning.
"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.
But when he comes, the Spirit of truth,
he will guide you to all truth.
He will not speak on his own,
but he will speak what he hears,
and will declare to you the things that are coming.
He will glorify me,
because he will take from what is mine
and declare it to you.
Everything that the Father has is mine;
for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine
and declare it to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
PENTECOST SUNDAY (MASS DURING THE DAY)—B

Only Second Reading Option B and Gospel Option A given below.

FIRST READING   (Acts 2:1-11)
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
and parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven
staying in Jerusalem.
At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,
but they were confused
because each one heard them speaking in his own language.
They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,
"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?
Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?
We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites,
and inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,
both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues
of the mighty acts of God."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)
R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
the earth is full of your creatures;—R.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING
B   (Gal 5:16-25)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

BROTHERS and sisters, live by the Spirit
and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh.
For the flesh has desires against the Spirit,
and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other,
so that you may not do what you want.
But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
Now the works of the flesh are obvious:
immorality, impurity, lust, idolatry,
sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy,
outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness,
dissensions, factions, occasions of envy,
drinking bouts, orgies, and the like.
I warn you, as I warned you before,
those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
Against such there is no law.
Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh
with its passions and desires.
If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SEQUENCE   Veni, Sancte Spiritus
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
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Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
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Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Wash the stains of guilt away:
Solace in the midst of woe.
Sweet refreshment here below;
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL
A   (Jn 20:19-23)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
SECOND READING
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
If you take away their breath, they perish
Pleasing to him be my theme;
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
R. Alleluia.
or:
R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
PENTECOST SUNDAY (MASS DURING THE DAY)—B

FIRST READING (Acts 2:1-11)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven
staying in Jerusalem.
At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,
but they were confused
because each one heard them speaking in his own language.
They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,
"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?
Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?
We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites,
inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,
as well as travelers from Rome;
both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues
of the mighty acts of God."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIONAL PSALM (Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
the earth is full of your creatures;—R.
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING
B (Gal 5:16-25)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

BROTHERS and sisters, live by the Spirit
and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh.
For the flesh has desires against the Spirit,
and the Spirit against the flesh;
these are opposed to each other,
so that you may not do what you want.
But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
Now the works of the flesh are obvious:
immorality, impurity, lust, idolatry,
sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy,
outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness,
dissensions, factions, occasions of envy,
drinking bouts, orgies, and the like.
I warn you, as I warned you before,
that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
Against such there is no law.
Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh
with its passions and desires.
If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE Veni, Sancte Spiritus
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue’s sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.
Alleluia.

ALLELUIA
R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL
B (Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples:
"When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father,
he will testify to me.
And you also testify,
because you have been with me from the beginning.
"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.
But when he comes, the Spirit of truth,
he will guide you to all truth.
He will not speak on his own,
but he will speak what he hears,
and will declare to you the things that are coming.
He will glorify me,
because he will take from what is mine
and declare it to you.
Everything that the Father has is mine;
for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine
and declare it to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
PENTECOST SUNDAY (MASS DURING THE DAY)—C

FIRST READING

WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
you were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven
staying in Jerusalem.
At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,
but they were confused
because each one heard them speaking in his own language.
They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,
“Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?
Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?
We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites,
inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,
as well as travelers from Rome,
both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues
of the mighty acts of God.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
the earth is full of your creatures;—R.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING
A (1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone.
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,
so also Christ.
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

OR

B (Rom 8:8-17)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
But you are not in the flesh;
on the contrary, you are in the spirit,
if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.
Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
But if Christ is in you,
although the body is dead because of sin,
the spirit is alive because of righteousness.
If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
the one who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also,
through his Spirit that dwells in you.
Consequently, brothers and sisters,
we are not debtors to the flesh,
to live according to the flesh.
For if you live according to the flesh, you will die,
but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,
you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you received a Spirit of adoption,
through whom we cry, “Abba, Father!”
The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE   Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue’s sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.
Alleluia.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL

A (Jn 20:19-23)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

OR

B (Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples:
“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.

“Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words;
yet the word you hear is not mine
but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you.
The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send
in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all that I told you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
PENTECOST SUNDAY (MASS DURING THE DAY)—C

Only Second Reading Option A and Gospel Option A given below.

FIRST READING

WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven
staying in Jerusalem.
At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,
but they were confused
because each one heard them speaking in his own language.
They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,
“Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?
Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?
We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites,
inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,
as well as travelers from Rome,
both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues
of the mighty acts of God.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
the earth is full of your creatures;—R.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING
A (1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for some benefit.
As a body is one though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,
so also Christ.
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE   Veni, Sancte Spiritus
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue’s sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end.  Amen.

ALLELUIA
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL
A (Jn 20:19-23)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

ON the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING


WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven
staying in Jerusalem.
At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,
but they were confused
because each one heard them speaking in his own language.
They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,
"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?
Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?
We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites,
inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,
as well as travelers from Rome,
both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues
of the mighty acts of God."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!  
How manifold are your works, O LORD!  
the earth is full of your creatures;—R.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD be glad in his works!  
Pleasing to him be my theme;  
I will be glad in the LORD.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish  
and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING

A   (1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:  
No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.  
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;  
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;  
there are different workings but the same God  
who produces all of them in everyone.  
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit  
is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts,  
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,  
so also Christ.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,  
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,  
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Praise be to God.

SEQUENCE   Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
And from your celestial home  
Shed a ray of light divine!  
Come, Father of the poor!  
Come, source of all our store!  
Come, within our bosoms shine.  
You, of comforters the best;  
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;  
Sweet refreshment here below;  
In our labor, rest most sweet;  
Grateful coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.  
O most blessed Light divine,  
Shine within these hearts of yours,  
And our inmost being fill!  
Where you are not, we have naught,  
Nothing good in deed or thought,  
Nothing free from taint of ill.  
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour your dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away:  
Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore  
And confess you, evermore  
In your sevenfold gift descend;  
Give them virtue’s sure reward;  
Give them your salvation, Lord;  
Give them joys that never end.  
Amen.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL

B   (Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples:
“Everyone who loves me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.  
Those who do not love me do not keep my words;  
yet the word you hear is not mine  
but that of the Father who sent me.  
“Whoever loves me will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words;  
yet the word you hear is not mine  
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“I have told you this while I am with you.  
The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send  
in my name,  
will teach you everything  
and remind you of all that I told you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING

WHEN the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R. (cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

R. Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!

How manifold are your works, O LORD! the earth is full of your creatures;—R.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works; Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD.—R.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING
B   (Rom 8:8-17)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Consequently, brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, “Abba, Father”

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE   Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
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You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
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Nothing free from taint of ill.
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A   (Jn 20:19-23)

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The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING

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May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works; Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD.—R. If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING
B   (Rom 8:8-17)

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For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

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ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.—R.

GOSPEL

B   (Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Is 49:3, 5-6)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

THE LORD said to me: You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory.

Now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength!

It is too little, the LORD says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10)

R. (8a and 9a) Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the LORD, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.

And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.—R.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, “Behold I come.”—R.

“In the written scroll it is prescribed for me, to do your will, O my God, is my delight, And your law is within my heart!”—R.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 1:1-3)

The beginning of the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

PAUL, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (John 1:14a, 12a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

GOSPEL (Jn 1:29-34)

+A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JOHN the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’

I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel.”

John testified further, saying, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’

Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
A reading from the first Book of Samuel:

SAMUEL was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, “Here I am.” Samuel ran to Eli and said, “Here I am. You called me.” “I did not call you,” Eli said. “Go back to sleep.” So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. “Here I am,” he said. “You called me.” But Eli answered, “I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep.”

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, “Here I am. You called me.” Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, “Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel answered, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10)

R. (8a and 9a) Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.
I have waited, waited for the LORD, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.—R.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, “Behold I come.”—R.

“In the written scroll it is prescribed for me, to do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!”—R.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?

But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 1:41, 17b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 1:35-42)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JOHN was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi”—which translated means Teacher—, “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day.

It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah”—which is translated Christ—. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas”—which is translated Peter.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING  (Is 62:1-5)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

FOR Zion’s sake I will not be silent,
for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet,
until her vindication shines forth like the dawn
and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
you shall be called by a new name
pronounced by the mouth of the LORD.
You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD,
a royal diadem held by your God.
No more shall people call you “Forsaken,”
or your land “Desolate,”
but you shall be called “My Delight,”
and your land “Espoused.”
For the LORD delights in you
and makes your land his spouse.
As a young man marries a virgin,
your Builder shall marry you;
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride
so shall your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10)

R. (3) Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.—R.

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
Among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.—R.

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his name!—R.

Worship the LORD in holy attire.
Tremble before him, all the earth;
Say among the nations: The LORD is king.
He governs the peoples with equity.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 12:4-11)

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone.
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for some benefit.
To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;
to another, the expression of knowledge according to the

same Spirit;
to another, faith by the same Spirit;
to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit;
to another, mighty deeds;
to another, prophecy;
to another, discernment of spirits;
to another, varieties of tongues;
to another, interpretation of tongues.
But one and the same Spirit produces all of these,
distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. 2 Thes 2:14)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God has called us through the Gospel
to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 2:1-11)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

THERE was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.
When the wine ran short,
the mother of Jesus said to him,
“They have no wine.”
And Jesus said to her,
“Woman, how does your concern affect me?
My hour has not yet come.”
His mother said to the servers,
“Do whatever he tells you.”
Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings,
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.
Jesus told them,
“Fill the jars with water.”
So they filled them to the brim.
Then he told them,
“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”

So they took it.
And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from
(although the servers who had drawn the water knew),
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,
“Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;
but you have kept the good wine until now.”
Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory,
and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING (Is 8:23-9:3)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

FIRST the Lord degraded the land of Zebulun
and the land of Naphtali;
but in the end he has glorified the seaward road,
the land west of the Jordan,
the District of the Gentiles.

Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness:
for there is no gloom where but now there was distress.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing,
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,
as people make merry when dividing spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
and the rod of their taskmaster
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14)

R. (1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?  
The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?—R.

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:  
To dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD  
and contemplate his temple.—R.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 1:10-13, 17)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

I URGE you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that all of you agree in what you say,  
and that there be no divisions among you,  
but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.
For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters,  
by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you.
I mean that each of you is saying,  
"I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos,"  
or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."
Is Christ divided?

Was Paul crucified for you?  
Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel,  
and not with the wisdom of human eloquence,  
so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (cf. Matthew 4:23)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom  
and cured every disease among the people.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17)

+A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ WHEN Jesus heard that John had been arrested,  
he withdrew to Galilee.
He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea,  
in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,  
that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet  
might be fulfilled:
Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles,  
the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,  
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death  
light has arisen.  
From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,  
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ]

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,  
Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew,  
casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.
He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father  
and followed him.
He went around all of Galilee,  
teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom,  
and curing every disease and illness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Jon 3:1-5, 10)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jonah:

THE word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying:

"Set out for the great city of Nineveh,
and announce to it the message that I will tell you."

So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh,
according to the LORD'S bidding.

Now Nineveh was an enormously large city;
it took three days to go through it.

Jonah began his journey through the city,
and had gone but a single day's walk announcing,
"Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed,"
when the people of Nineveh believed God;
they proclaimed a fast
and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way,
he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them;
he did not carry it out.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (4a) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior.—R.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.—R.

Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice
and teaches the humble his way.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 7:29-31)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

I TELL you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out.
From now on, let those having wives act as not having them,
those weeping as not weeping,
those rejoicing as not rejoicing,
those buying as not owning,
those using the world as not using it fully.

For the world in its present form is passing away.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Mark 1:15)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent and believe in the Gospel.—R.

GOSPEL (Mk 1:14-20)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

AFTER John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God:
"This is the time of fulfillment.
The Kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea;
they were fishermen.

Jesus said to them,
"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Then they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along a little farther
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

They too were in a boat mending their nets.

Then he called them.

So they left their father Zebedee in the boat
along with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING (Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10)
A reading from the Book of Nehemiah:

EZRA the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. He opened the scroll, so that all the people might see it—for he was standing higher up than any of the people; and, as he opened it, all the people rose. Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, “Amen, amen!” Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the LORD, their faces to the ground.

Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people:

“Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep”—for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law.

He said further: “Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15

R. (cf. John 6:63c) Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.—R.

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.—R.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; The ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.—R.

Let the words of my mouth and the thought of my heart find favor before you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ BROTHERS and sisters: As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. ]

If a foot should say, “Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body,” it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, “Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body;” it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I do not need you.” Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. Now [ you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. ] Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (cf. Luke 4:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, and to proclaim liberty to captives.

GOSPEL (Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21)
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

SINCE many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Zep 2:3; 3:12-13)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah:

SEEK the LORD, all you humble of the earth,
who have observed his law;
seek justice, seek humility;
perhaps you may be sheltered
on the day of the LORD’S anger.

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst
a people humble and lowly,
who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD:
the remnant of Israel.
They shall do no wrong
and speak no lies;
nor shall there be found in their mouths
a deceitful tongue;
they shall pasture and couch their flocks
with none to disturb them.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10)

R. (Matthew 5:3) Blessed the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
or:
R. Alleluia.

The LORD keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets captives free.—R.

The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.
The LORD loves the just;
the LORD protects strangers.—R.

The fatherless and the widow the LORD sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwart.
The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations.
Alleluia.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 1:26-31)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

CONSIDER your own calling, brothers and sisters.
Not many of you were wise by human standards,
not many were powerful,
not many were of noble birth.
Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise,
and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong,
and God chose the lowly and despised of the world,
those who count for nothing,
to reduce to nothing those who are something,
so that no human being might boast before God.
It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus,
who became for us wisdom from God,
as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption,
so that, as it is written,
“Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Matthew 5:12a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward will be great in heaven.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 5:1-12a)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

WHEN Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Deut 18:15-20)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

MOSES spoke to all the people, saying:
"A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you
from among your own kin;
to him you shall listen.
This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb
on the day of the assembly, when you said,
'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God,
or see this great fire any more, lest we die.'
And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said.
I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin,
and will put my words into his mouth;
he shall tell them all that I command him.'
Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name,
I myself will make him answer for it.
But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name
an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak,
or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9)

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.—R.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.—R.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 7:32-35)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
I should like you to be free of anxieties.
An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord,
how he may please the Lord.
But a married man is anxious about the things of the world,
how he may please his wife, and he is divided.
An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord,
so that she may be holy in both body and spirit.
A married woman, on the other hand,
is anxious about the things of the world,
how she may please her husband.
I am telling you this for your own benefit,
not to impose a restraint upon you,
but for the sake of propriety

and adherence to the Lord without distraction.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Matthew 4:16)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light;
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death,
light has arisen.—R.

GOSPEL (Mk 1:21-28)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

THEN they came to Capernaum,
and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.
The people were astonished at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.
In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit;
he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”
Jesus rebuked him and said,
“Quiet! Come out of him!”
The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.
All were amazed and asked one another,
“What is this?
A new teaching with authority.
He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.”
His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING  (Jer 1:4-5, 17-19)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

THE word of the LORD came to me, saying:
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

But do you gird your loins; stand up and tell them
all that I command you.
Be not crushed on their account,
as though I would leave you crushed before them;
for it is I this day
who have made you a fortified city,
a pillar of iron, a wall of brass,
against the whole land:
against Judah’s kings and princes,
against its priests and people.
They will fight against you but not prevail over you,
for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17)

R. (cf. 15ab) I will sing of your salvation.
In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, and deliver me;
incline your ear to me, and save me.—R.

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.—R.

For you are my hope, O Lord; my trust, O God, from my youth.
On you I depend from birth;
from my mother’s womb you are my strength.—R.

My mouth shall declare your justice,
day by day your salvation.
O God, you have taught me from my youth,
ant the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 12:31-13:13 or 13:4-13)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ BROTHERS and sisters: ]
Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.
But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues,
but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.
And if I have the gift of prophecy, and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away everything I own,
and if I hand my body over so that I may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

[ Love is patient, love is kind.
It is not jealous, it is not pompous,
It is not inflated, it is not rude,
it does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.
If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing;
if tongues, they will cease;
if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.
For we know partially and we prophesy partially,
but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.
When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child;
when I became a man, I put aside childish things.
At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror,
but then face to face.
At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.
So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love. ]

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Luke 4:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 4:21-30)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS began speaking in the synagogue, saying:
"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

And all spoke highly of him
and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.

They also asked, “Isn’t this the son of Joseph?”
He said to them, “Surely you will quote me this proverb, ‘Physician, cure yourself,’ and say, ‘Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.’”

And he said, “Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.
Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land.
It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon.
Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury.
They rose up, drove him out of the town,
and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong.
But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 58:7-10)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
Share your bread with the hungry,
shelter the oppressed and the homeless;
clothe the naked when you see them,
and do not turn your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer,
you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!
If you remove from your midst
oppression, false accusation and malicious speech;
if you bestow your bread on the hungry
and satisfy the afflicted;
then light shall rise for you in the darkness,
and the gloom shall become for you like midday.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (4a) The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Light shines through the darkness for the upright;
he is gracious and merciful and just.
Well for the man who is gracious and lends,
who conducts his affairs with justice.—R.

He shall never be moved;
the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance.
An evil report he shall not fear;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.—R.

His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear.
Lavishly he gives to the poor;
His justice shall endure forever;
his horn shall be exalted in glory.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 2:1-5)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

WHEN I came to you, brothers and sisters,
proclaiming the mystery of God,
I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling,
and my message and my proclamation
were not with persuasive words of wisdom,
but with a demonstration of Spirit and power,
so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom
but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (John 8:12)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 5:13-16)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his disciples:
“you are the salt of the earth.
But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?
It is no longer good for anything
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;
it is set on a lampstand,
where it gives light to all in the house.
Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Job 7:1-4, 6-7)

A reading from the Book of Job:

JOB spoke, saying:
Is not man’s life on earth a drudgery?
Are not his days those of hirelings?
He is a slave who longs for the shade,
a hireling who waits for his wages.
So I have been assigned months of misery,
and troubled nights have been allotted to me.
If in bed I say, “When shall I arise?”
then the night drags on;
I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.
My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle;
they come to an end without hope.
Remember that my life is like the wind;
I shall not see happiness again.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

R. (cf. 3a) Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.
or: 
R. Alleluia.

Praise the LORD, for he is good;
sing praise to our God, for he is gracious;
it is fitting to praise him.
The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem;
the dispersed of Israel he gathers.—R.
He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
He tells the number of the stars;
he calls each by name.—R.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
to his wisdom there is no limit.
The LORD sustains the lowly;
the wicked he casts to the ground.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast,
for an obligation has been imposed on me,
and woe to me if I do not preach it!
If I do so willingly, I have a recompense,
but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship.
What then is my recompense?
That, when I preach,
I offer the gospel free of charge
so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.
Although I am free in regard to all,
I have made myself a slave to all
so as to win over as many as possible.
To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak.
I have become all things to all, to save at least some.
All this I do for the sake of the gospel,
so that I too may have a share in it.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Matthew 8:17)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ took away our infirmities
and bore our diseases.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 1:29-39)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

ON leaving the synagogue
Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.
Simon’s mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.
They immediately told him about her.
He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.
Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset,
they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons.
The whole town was gathered at the door.
He cured many who were sick with various diseases,
and he drove out many demons,
not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left
and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.
Simon and those who were with him pursued him
and on finding him said, “Everyone is looking for you.”
He told them, “Let us go on to the nearby villages
that I may preach there also.
For this purpose have I come.”
So he went into their synagogues,
preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Is 6:1-2a, 3-8)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

IN the year King Uzziah died,
I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne,
with the train of his garment filling the temple.
Seraphim were stationed above.

They cried one to the other,
"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!
All the earth is filled with his glory!"
At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook
and the house was filled with smoke.

Then I said, “Woe is me, I am doomed!
For I am a man of unclean lips,
living among a people of unclean lips;
yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me,
holding an ember that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

He touched my mouth with it, and said,
"See, now that this has touched your lips,
your wickedness is removed, your sin purged."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
"Whom shall I send?  Who will go for us?"
"Here I am," I said; "send me!"

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8)

R. (1c) In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple
and give thanks to your name.—R.

Because of your kindness and your truth;
for you have made great above all things
your name and your promise.
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.—R.

All the kings of the earth shall give thanks to you, O LORD, when they hear the words of your mouth;
and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD:
"Great is the glory of the LORD."—R.

Your right hand saves me.
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

I AM reminding you, [ brothers and sisters, ]
of the gospel I preached to you,
which you indeed received and in which you also stand.

Through it you are also being saved,
if you hold fast to the word I preached to you,
unless you believed in vain.

For [ I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received:
that Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
that he was buried;
that he was raised on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.

After that, Christ appeared to more
than five hundred brothers at once,
most of whom are still living,
though some have fallen asleep.

After that he appeared to James,
then to all the apostles.

Last of all, as to one born abnormally,
he appeared to me. ]

For I am the least of the apostles,
not fit to be called an apostle,
because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am,
and his grace to me has not been ineffective.

Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them;
not I, however, but the grace of God that is with me.
[ Therefore, whether it be I or they,
so we preach and so you believed. ]

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Matthew 4:19)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come after me
and I will make you fishers of men.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 5:1-11)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

WHILE the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening
to the word of God,
he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.
He saw two boats there alongside the lake;
the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets.
Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon,
he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore.
Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,
"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."
Simon said in reply,
"Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing,
but at your command I will lower the nets."

When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish
and their nets were tearing.

They signaled to their partners in the other boat
to come to help them.
They came and filled both boats
so that the boats were in danger of sinking.
When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said,
"Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him
and all those with him,
and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
who were partners of Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid;
from now on you will be catching men.”

When they brought their boats to the shore,
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Sir 15:15-20)

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you shall live; he has set before you fire and water, to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him. Immense is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power, and all-seeing. The eyes of God are on those who fear him; he understands mans every deed. No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34)

R. (1b) Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Blessed are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who observe his decrees, who seek him with all their heart.—R.

You have commanded that your precepts be diligently kept. Oh, that I might be firm in the ways of keeping your statutes!—R.

Be good to your servant, that I may live and keep your words. Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law.—R.

Instruct me, O LORD, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them. Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 2:6-10)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:

We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak Gods wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written:

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. Matthew 11:25)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL  (Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

[ JESUS said to his disciples:]

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 

[ I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. “You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with brother will be liable to judgment;] and whoever says to brother, ‘Raga,’ will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny. [ “You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ] If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce. But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife unless the marriage is unlawful causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. [ “Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow. But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ] If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna. It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce. But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife unless the marriage is unlawful causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. [ “Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow. But I say to you, not by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. [ Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one.” ]

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Lev 13:1-2, 44-46)
A reading from the Book of Leviticus:

THE Lord said to Moses and Aaron,  
“If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy,  
he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest,  
or to one of the priests among his descendants.  
If the man is leprous and unclean,  
the priest shall declare him unclean  
by reason of the sore on his head.  
“The one who bears the sore of leprosy  
shall keep his garments rent and his head bare,  
and shall muffle his beard;  
he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’  
As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean,  
since he is in fact unclean.  
He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.”  

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11)
R. (7) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with 
the joy of salvation.

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away,  
whose sin is covered.  
Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt,  
in whose spirit there is no guile.—R.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
my guilt I covered not.  
I said, “I confess my faults to the LORD,”  
and you took away the guilt of my sin.—R.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just;  
exult, all you upright of heart.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 10:31-11:1)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters,  
Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,  
do everything for the glory of God.  
Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or  
the church of God,  
just as I try to please everyone in every way,  
not seeking my own benefit but that of the many,  
that they may be saved.  
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.  

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Luke 7:16)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
A great prophet has arisen in our midst,

GOSPEL  (Mk 1:40-45)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

A LEPER came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said,  
“If you wish, you can make me clean.”  
Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand,  
touched him, and said to him,  
“I do will it. Be made clean.”  
The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.  
Then, warning the him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, “See that you tell no one anything,  
but go, show yourself to the priest  
and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed;  
that will be proof for them.”  
The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter.  
He spread the report abroad  
so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.  
He remained outside in deserted places,  
and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Jer 17:5-8)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

THUS says the LORD:
Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings,
who seeks his strength in flesh,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.
He is like a barren bush in the desert
that enjoys no change of season,
but stands in a lava waste,
a salt and empty earth.
Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose hope is the LORD.
He is like a tree planted beside the waters
that stretches out its roots to the stream:
it fears not the heat when it comes;
it leaves stay green;
in the year of drought it shows no distress,
but still bears fruit.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6)

R. (40:5a) Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Blessed the man who follows not
the counsel of the wicked,
nor walks in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the company of the insolent,
but delights in the law of the LORD
and meditates on his law day and night.—R.

He is like a tree
planted near running water,
that yields its fruit in due season,
and whose leaves never fade.
Whatever he does, prospers.—R.

Not so the wicked, not so;
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,
but the way of the wicked vanishes.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 15:12, 16-20)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
If Christ is preached as raised from the dead,
how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead?
If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised,
and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain;
you are still in your sins.
Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are the most pitiable people of all.

But now Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Luke 6:23ab)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward will be great in heaven.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 6:17, 20-26)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS came down with the twelve
and stood on a stretch of level ground
with a great crowd of his disciples
and a large number of the people
from all Judea and Jerusalem
and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon.
And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said:
"Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours.
Blessed are you who are now hungry,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who are now weeping,
for you will laugh.
Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude and insult you,
and denounce your name as evil
on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice and leap for joy on that day!
Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.
For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way.
But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.
Woe to you who are filled now,
for you will be hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will grieve and weep.
Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Lev 19:1-2, 17-18)

A reading from the Book of Leviticus:

THE LORD said to Moses,
“Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them:
Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.
“You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart.
Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen,
do not incur sin because of him.
Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people.
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
I am the LORD.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13)

R. (8a) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.—R.

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.—R.

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.—R.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Cor 3:16-23)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:

Do you not know that you are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person;
for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

Let no one deceive himself.
If anyone among you considers himself wise in this age,
let him become a fool, so as to become wise.
For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God,
for it is written:
God catches the wise in their own ruses,
and again:
The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are vain.

So let no one boast about human beings, for everything belongs to you,

Paul or Apollos or Cephas,
or the world or life or death,
or the present or the future:
all belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (1 John 2:5)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
the love of God is truly perfected in him.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 5:38-48)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his disciples:
“You have heard that it was said,
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.
But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.
When someone strikes you on your right cheek,
turn the other one as well.
If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic,
hand over your cloak as well.
Should anyone press you into service for one mile,
go for two miles.
Give to the one who asks of you,
and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

“You have heard that it was said,
You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be children of your heavenly Father,
for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,
and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.
For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?
Do not the tax collectors do the same?
And if you greet your brothers only,
what is unusual about that?
Do not the pagans do the same?
So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
Remember not the events of the past,
the things of long ago consider not;
see, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
In the desert I make a way,
in the wasteland, rivers.
The people I formed for myself,
that they might announce my praise.
Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob,
for you grew weary of me, O Israel.
You burdened me with your sins,
and wearied me with your crimes.
It is I, I, who wipe out,
for my own sake, your offenses;
your sins I remember no more.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 41:2-3, 4-5, 13-14)

R. (5b) Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.
Blessed is the one who has regard for the lowly and the poor;
in the day of misfortune the LORD will deliver him.
The LORD will keep and preserve him;
and make him blessed on earth,
and not give him over to the will of his enemies.—R.
The LORD will help him on his sickbed,
he will take away all his ailment when he is ill.
Once I said, “O LORD, have pity on me; heal me, though I have sinned against you.”—R.
But because of my integrity you sustain me
and let me stand before you forever.
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from all eternity. Amen. Amen.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 1:18-22)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
As God is faithful,
our word to you is not “yes” and “no.”
For the Son of God, Jesus Christ,
who was proclaimed to you by us, Silvanus and Timothy and me,
was not “yes” and “no,” but “yes” has been in him.
For however many are the promises of God, their Yes is in him;
therefore, the Amen from us also goes through him to God for glory.
But the one who gives us security with you in Christ
and who anointed us is God;
he has also put his seal upon us
and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. Luke 4:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
and to proclaim liberty to captives.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 2:1-12)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

WHEN Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days,
it became known that he was at home.
Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them,
not even around the door,
and he preached the word to them.
They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.
Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd,
they opened up the roof above him.
After they had broken through,
they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying.
When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,
“Child, your sins are forgiven.”
Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves,
“Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming.
Who but God alone can forgive sins?”
Jesus immediately knew in his mind
what they were thinking to themselves,
so he said, “Why are you thinking such things in your hearts?
Which is easier, to say to the paralytic,
‘Your sins are forgiven,’
or to say, ‘Rise, pick up your mat and walk?’
But that you may know
that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth”—he said to the paralytic,
“I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home.”
He rose, picked up his mat at once,
and went away in the sight of everyone.
They were all astounded
and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23)

A reading from the first Book of Samuel:

IN those days, Saul went down to the desert of Ziph with three thousand picked men of Israel, to search for David in the desert of Ziph. So David and Abishai went among Saul’s soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his men sleeping around him.

Abishai whispered to David:

“God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust!”

But David said to Abishai, “Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the LORD’S anointed and remain unpunished?”

So David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul’s head, and they got away without anyone’s seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep, because the LORD had put them into a deep slumber.

Going across to an opposite slope, David stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner, son of Ner, and the troops. He said: “Here is the king’s spear. Let an attendant come over to get it. The LORD will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD’S anointed.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13)

R. (8a) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.—R.

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.—R.

Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.—R.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 15:45-49)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:

“IT is written, The first man, Adam, became a living being, the last Adam a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (John 13:34)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 6:27-38)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS said to his disciples:

“To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING   (Is 49:14-15)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

ZION said, “The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.”
Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 62:2-3, 6-7, 8-9)
R. (6a) Rest in God alone, my soul.
Only in God is my soul at rest; from him comes my salvation.
He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed at all.—R.

Only in God be at rest, my soul, for from him comes my hope.
He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed.—R.

With God is my safety and my glory, he is the rock of my strength; my refuge is in God.
Trust in him at all times, O my people! Pour out your hearts before him.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Cor 4:1-5)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
Now it is of course required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.
It does not concern me in the least that I be judged by you or any human tribunal; I do not even pass judgment on myself; I am not conscious of anything against me, but I do not thereby stand acquitted; the one who judges me is the Lord.
Therefore do not make any judgment before the appointed time, until the Lord comes, for he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will manifest the motives of our hearts, and then everyone will receive praise from God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Heb 4:12)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of God is living and effective; discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 6:24-34)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his disciples:
“No one can serve two masters, he will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and mammon.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear.
Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?
Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are not you more important than they?
Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?
Why are you anxious about clothes?

Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin.
But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them.
If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?
So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’

All these things the pagans seek.
Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.
But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.
Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.
Sufficient for a day is its own evil.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Hos 2:16b, 17b, 21-22)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Hosea:

THUS says the Lord:
I will lead her into the desert
and speak to her heart.
She shall respond there as in the days of her youth,
when she came up from the land of Egypt.
I will espouse you to me forever:
I will espouse you in right and in justice,
in love and in mercy;
I will espouse you in fidelity,
and you shall know the Lord.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13)

R. (8a) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.—R.

He pardons all your iniquities,
he heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
he crowns you with kindness and compassion.—R.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.—R.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Cor 3:1b-6)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Do we need, as some do,
letters of recommendation to you or from you?
You are our letter, written on our hearts,
known and read by all,
shown to be a letter of Christ ministered by us,
written not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh.

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.
Not that of ourselves we are qualified
to take credit for anything as coming from us;
rather, our qualification comes from God,
who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant,
ot of letter but of spirit;
for the letter brings death, but the Spirit gives life.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Jas 1:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth
that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 2:18-22)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

THE disciples of John and of the Pharisees were accustomed to fast.
People came to him and objected,
“Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast,
but your disciples do not fast?”
Jesus answered them,
“Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?
As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast.
But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them,
and then they will fast on that day.
No one sews a piece of unshrunken cloth on an old cloak.
If he does, its fullness pulls away,
the new from the old, and the tear gets worse.
Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins.
Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins,
and both the wine and the skins are ruined.
Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING   (Sir 27:4-7)
A reading from the Book of Sirach:

WHEN a sieve is shaken, the husks appear;
so do one’s faults when one speaks.
As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace,
so in tribulation is the test of the just.
The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had;
so too does one’s speech disclose the bent of one’s mind.
Praise no one before he speaks,
for it is then that people are tested.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16)
R. (cf. 2a) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, Most High,
To proclaim your kindness at dawn
and your faithfulness throughout the night.—R.

The just one shall flourish like the palm tree,
like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow.
They that are planted in the house of the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God.—R.

They shall bear fruit even in old age;
vigorous and sturdy shall they be,
Declaring how just is the Lord,
my rock, in whom there is no wrong.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Cor 15:54-58)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
When this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:
Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?

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

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters,
be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Phil 2:15d, 16a)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Shine like lights in the world
as you hold on to the word of life.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 6:39-45)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS told his disciples a parable,
“Can a blind person guide a blind person?
Will not both fall into a pit?
No disciple is superior to the teacher;
but when fully trained,
every disciple will be like his teacher.
Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye,
do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye?
How can you say to your brother,
‘Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,’
when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye?
You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first;
then you will see clearly
to remove the splinter in your brother’s eye.

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit,
nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.
For every tree is known by its own fruit.
For people do not pick figs from thorns
nor do they gather grapes from brambles.
A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good,
but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil;
for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Deut 11:18, 26-28, 32)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

MOSES told the people,
   “Take these words of mine into your heart and soul.
   Bind them at your wrist as a sign,
   and let them be a pendant on your forehead.

   “I set before you here, this day, a blessing and a curse:
   a blessing for obeying the commandments of the Lord, your God,
   which I enjoin on you today;
   a curse if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord, your God,
   but turn aside from the way I ordain for you today,

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 31:2-3, 3-4, 17, 25)

R. (3b) Lord, be my rock of safety.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
   let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me,
   incline your ear to me,
make haste to deliver me!—R.

Be my rock of refuge,
   a stronghold to give me safety.
You are my rock and my fortress;
   for your name’s sake you will lead and guide me.—R.

Let your face shine upon your servant;
   save me in your kindness.
Take courage and be stouthearted,
   all you who hope in the Lord.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 3:21-25, 28)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters,
Now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law,
   though testified to by the law and the prophets,
   the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ
   for all who believe.
For there is no distinction;
   all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God.
They are justified freely by his grace
   through the redemption in Christ Jesus,
   whom God set forth as an expiation,
   through faith, by his blood.
For we consider that a person is justified by faith
   apart from works of the law.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 15:5)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord:

GOSPEL   (Mt 7:21-27)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his disciples:
   “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’
   will enter the kingdom of heaven,
   but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.
Many will say to me on that day,
   ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name?
Did we not drive out demons in your name?
Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?’
Then I will declare to them solemnly,
   ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them
   will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.
The rain fell, the floods came,
   and the winds blew and buffeted the house.
But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.
And everyone who listens to these words of mine
   but does not act on them
   will be like a fool who built his house on sand.
The rain fell, the floods came,
   and the winds blew and buffeted the house.
And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Deut 5:12-15)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

THUS says the Lord:
“Take care to keep holy the sabbath day
as the Lord, your God, commanded you.
Six days you may labor and do all your work;
but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord, your God.
No work may be done then, whether by you, or your son or daughter,
or your male or female slave,
or your ox or ass or any of your beasts,
or the alien who lives with you.
Your male and female slave should rest as you do.
For remember that you too were once a slave in Egypt,
and the Lord, your God, brought you from there
with his strong hand and outstretched arm.
That is why the Lord, your God, has commanded you
to observe the sabbath day.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 81:3-4, 5-6, 6-8, 10-11)

R. (2a) Sing with joy to God our help.

Take up a melody, and sound the timbrel,
the pleasant harp and the lyre.
Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
at the full moon, on our solemn feast.—R.

For it is a statute in Israel,
an ordinance of the God of Jacob,
Who made it a decree for Joseph
when he came forth from the land of Egypt.—R.

An unfamiliar speech I hear:
“I relieved his shoulder of the burden;
his hands were freed from the basket.
In distress you called, and I rescued you.”—R.

“There shall be no strange god among you
nor shall you worship any alien god.
I, the Lord, am your God
who led you forth from the land of Egypt.”—R.

SECOND READING (2 Cor 4:6-11)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
God who said, Let light shine out of darkness,
has shone in our hearts to bring to light
the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.
But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.
We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned;
struck down, but not destroyed;
always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.

For we who live are constantly being given up to death
for the sake of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (cf. John 17:17b, 17a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Your word, O Lord, is truth;
consecrate us in the truth.—R.

GOSPEL (Mk 2:23-3:6 or 2:23-28)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ AS Jesus was passing through a field of grain on the sabbath,
his disciples began to make a path while picking the heads of grain.
At this the Pharisees said to him,
“Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?”
He said to them, “Have you never read what David did
when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry?
How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest
and ate the bread of offering
that only the priests could lawfully eat,
and shared it with his companions?”
Then he said to them,
“The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath.
That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.” ]

Again he entered the synagogue.
There was a man there who had a withered hand.
They watched him closely
to see if he would cure him on the sabbath
so that they might accuse him.
He said to the man with the withered hand,
“Come up here before us.”
Then he said to them,
“Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil,
to save life rather than to destroy it?”
But they remained silent.
Looking around at them with anger
and grieved at their hardness of heart,
he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.”
He stretched it out and his hand was restored.
The Pharisees went out
and immediately took counsel with the Herodians against him
to put him to death.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (1 Kgs 8:41-43)

A reading from the first Book of Kings:

IN those days, Solomon prayed in the temple, saying, “To the foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, but comes from a distant land to honor you—since they will learn of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when he comes and prays toward this temple, listen from your heavenly dwelling. Do all that foreigner asks of you, that all the peoples of the earth may know your name, may fear you as do your people Israel, and may acknowledge that this temple which I have built is dedicated to your honor.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 117:1, 2)

R. (Mark 16:15) Go out to all the world and tell the good news. or:
R. Alleluia.

Praise the Lord, all you nations; glorify him, all you peoples!—R.

For steadfast is his kindness toward us, and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.—R.

SECOND READING  (Gal 1:1-2, 6-10)

A reading from the beginning of the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

PAUL, an apostle not from human beings nor through a human being but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead, and all the brothers who are with me, to the churches of Galatia.

I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel— not that there is another.

But there are some who are disturbing you and wish to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed!

As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than what you have received, let that one be accursed!

Am I now currying favor with humans or with God? Or am I seeking to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (John 3:16)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 7:1-10)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

WHEN Jesus had finished all his words to the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave who was ill and about to die, and he was valuable to him. When he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and save the life of his slave. They approached Jesus and strongly urged him to come, saying, “He deserves to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation and built the synagogue for us.” And Jesus went with them, but when he was only a short distance from the house, the centurion sent friends to tell him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed.

For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him and, turning, said to the crowd following him, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” When the messengers returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Hos 6:3-6)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Hosea:

In their affliction, people will say:
“Let us know, let us strive to know the Lord;
as certain as the dawn is his coming,
and his judgment shines forth like the light of day!
He will come to us like the rain,
like spring rain that waters the earth.”

What can I do with you, Ephraim?
What can I do with you, Judah?
Your piety is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that early passes away.

For this reason I smote them through the prophets,
I slew them by the words of my mouth;
for it is love that I desire, not sacrifice,
and knowledge of God rather than holocausts.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  Psalm 50:1, 8, 12-13, 14-15
R. (23b) To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

God the Lord has spoken and summoned the earth,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

“If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for mine are the world and its fullness.
Do I eat the flesh of strong bulls,
or is the blood of goats my drink?”—R.

“Offer to God praise as your sacrifice
and fulfill your vows to the Most High;
Then call upon me in time of distress;
I will rescue you, and you shall glorify me.”—R.

SECOND READING  (Rom 4:18-25)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Abraham believed, hoping against hope,
that he would become “the father of many nations,”
according to what was said, “Thus shall your descendants be.”
He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body
as already dead—for he was almost a hundred years old—and
the dead womb of Sarah.
He did not doubt God’s promise in unbelief;
rather, he was strengthened by faith and gave glory to God
and was fully convinced that what he had promised
he was also able to do.

That is why it was credited to him as righteousness.
But it was not for him alone that it was written
that it was credited to him;
it was also for us, to whom it will be credited,
who believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,
who was handed over for our transgressions
and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. Luke 4:18)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
and to proclaim liberty to captives.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 9:9-13)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

AS Jesus passed on from there,
he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post.
He said to him, “Follow me.”
And he got up and followed him.

While he was at table in his house,
many tax collectors and sinners came
and sat with Jesus and his disciples.
The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples,
“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”
He heard this and said,
“Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.
Go and learn the meaning of the words,
‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’
I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—B

FIRST READING  (Gn 3:9-15)

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

AFTER the man, Adam, had eaten of the tree,
the Lord God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?"
He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid,
because I was naked, so I hid myself."
Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked?"
You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!"
The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me—
she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate."
The Lord God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?"
The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it."

Then the Lord God said to the serpent:
"Because you have done this, you shall be banned
from all the animals and from all the wild creatures;
on your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8)

R. (7bc) With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.—R.

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities,
Lord, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.—R.

I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in his word.
More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord.—R.

For with the Lord is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption
and he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Cor 4:13-5:1)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, I believed, therefore I spoke, we too believe and therefore we speak, knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.
For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ALLELUIA  (John 12:31b-32)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Now the ruler of this world will be driven out, says the Lord; and when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 3:20-35)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS came home with his disciples.
Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat.
When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."
The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons."
Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him. But no one can enter a strong man’s house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder the house.

Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin."
For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."
His mother and his brothers arrived.
Standing outside they sent word to him and called him.

A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you."
But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"
And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (1 Kgs 17:17-24)

A reading from the first Book of Kings:

ELIJAH went to Zarephath of Sidon to the house of a widow. The son of the mistress of the house fell sick, and his sickness grew more severe until he stopped breathing. So she said to Elijah, “Why have you done this to me, O man of God? Have you come to me to call attention to my guilt and to kill my son?”

Elijah said to her, “Give me your son.” Taking him from her lap, he carried the son to the upper room where he was staying, and put him on his bed.

Elijah called out to the Lord: “O Lord, my God, will you afflict even the widow with whom I am staying by killing her son?”

Then he stretched himself out upon the child three times and called out to the Lord: “O Lord, my God, let the life breath return to the body of this child.”

The Lord heard the prayer of Elijah; the life breath returned to the child’s body and he revived.

Taking the child, Elijah brought him down into the house from the upper room and gave him to his mother.

Elijah said to her, “See! Your son is alive.”

The woman replied to Elijah, “Now indeed I know that you are a man of God. The word of the Lord comes truly from your mouth.”

SECOND READING  (Gal 1:11-19)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

I WANT you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Ex 19:2-6a)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

IN those days, the Israelites came to the desert of Sinai and pitched camp. While Israel was encamped here in front of the mountain, Moses went up the mountain to God. Then the Lord called to him and said, “Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob; tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself. Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5)

R. (3c) We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful song.—R.

Know that the Lord is God; he made us, his we are; his people, the flock he tends.—R.

The Lord is good: his kindness endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 5:6-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:

Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Mark 1:15)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 9:36-10:8)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

AT the sight of the crowds, Jesus’ heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon from Cana, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, “Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Ez 17:22-24)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THUS says the Lord GOD:
I, too, will take from the crest of the cedar,
from its topmost branches tear off a tender shoot,
and plant it on a high and lofty mountain;
on the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it.
It shall put forth branches and bear fruit,
and become a majestic cedar.
Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it,
every winged thing in the shade of its boughs.
And all the trees of the field shall know
that I, the Lord, have spoken, so will I do.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16)

R. (cf. 2a) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, Most High,
To proclaim your kindness at dawn
and your faithfulness throughout the night.—R.

The just one shall flourish like the palm tree,
like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow.
They that are planted in the house of the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God.—R.

They shall bear fruit even in old age;
vigorous and sturdy shall they be,
Declaring how just is the Lord,
my rock, in whom there is no wrong.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Cor 5:6-10)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
We are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.
Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.
Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower.
All who come to him will live for ever.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 4:26-34)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS said to the crowds:
“This is how it is with the kingdom of God;
it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land
and would sleep and rise night and day
and through it all the seed would sprout and grow,
he knows not how.
Of its own accord the land yields fruit,
first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.
And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once,
for the harvest has come.”

He said,
“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God,
or what parable can we use for it?
It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground,
is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.
But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants
and puts forth large branches,
so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

With many such parables
he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.
Without parables he did not speak to them,
but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (2 Sam 12:7-10, 13)

A reading from the second Book of Samuel:

NATHAN said to David:
“Thus says the Lord God of Israel:
‘I anointed you king of Israel.
I rescued you from the hand of Saul.
I gave you your lord’s house and your lord’s wives for your own.
I gave you the house of Israel and of Judah.
And if this were not enough, I could count up for you still more.
Why have you spurned the Lord and done evil in his sight?
You have cut down Uriah the Hittite with the sword;
you took his wife as your own,
and him you killed with the sword of the Ammonites.
Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house,
because you have despised me
and have taken the wife of Uriah to be your wife.’

Then David said to Nathan,
“I have sinned against the Lord.”

Nathan answered David:
“The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin:
you shall not die.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (32:1-2, 5, 7, 11)

R. (cf. 5c)  Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

Blessed is the one whose fault is taken away,
whose sin is covered.
Blessed the man to whom the Lord imputes not guilt,
in whose spirit there is no guile.—R.

I acknowledged my sin to you,
my guilt I covered not.
I said, “I confess my faults to the Lord,”
and you took away the guilt of my sin.—R.

You are my shelter; from distress you will preserve me;
with glad cries of freedom you will ring me round.—R.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just;
exult, all you upright of heart.—R.

SECOND READING   (Gal 2:16, 19-21)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
We who know that a person is not justified by works of the law
but through faith in Jesus Christ,
even we have believed in Christ Jesus
that we may be justified by faith in Christ
and not by works of the law,
because by works of the law no one will be justified.
For through the law I died to the law,
that I might live for God.
I have been crucified with Christ;
yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me;
insofar as I now live in the flesh,
I live by faith in the Son of God
who has loved me and given himself up for me.
I do not nullify the grace of God;
for if justification comes through the law,
then Christ died for nothing.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (1 John 4:10b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God loved us and sent his Son
as expiation for our sins.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 7:36-8:3 or 7:36-50)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[A PHARISEE invited Jesus to dine with him,
and he entered the Pharisee’s house and reclined at table.
Now there was a sinful woman in the city
who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee.
Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment,
she stood behind him at his feet weeping
and began to bathe his feet with her tears.
Then she wiped them with her hair,
kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment.
When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself,
“If this man were a prophet,
he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is
touching him,
that she is a sinner.”

Jesus said to him in reply,
“Simon, I have something to say to you.”
“Tell me, teacher,” he said.
“Two people were in debt to a certain creditor;
one owed five hundred days’ wages and the other owed fifty.
Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both.
Which of them will love him more?”

Simon said in reply,
“The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven.”

He said to him, “You have judged rightly.”

Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon,
“Do you see this woman?
When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet,
but she has bathed them with her tears
and wiped them with her hair.
You did not give me a kiss,
but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered.
You did not anoint my head with oil,
but she anointed my feet with ointment.
So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven
because she has shown great love.
But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.”

He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

The others at table said to themselves,
“Who is this who even forgives sins?”

But he said to the woman,
“You faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Afterward he journeyed from one town and village to another,
preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.
Accompanying him were the Twelve
and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities.
Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,
Joanna, the wife of Herod’s steward Chuza,
Susanna, and many others who provided for them
out of their resources.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Jer 20:10-13)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

JEREMIAH said:

“I hear the whisperings of many: ‘Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!’

All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. ‘Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.’

But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion.

O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause.

Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35)

R. (14c) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

For your sake I bear insult, and shame covers my face. I have become an outcast to my brothers, a stranger to my children, because zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me.—R.

I pray to you, O Lord, for the time of your favor, O God! In your great kindness answer me with your constant help. Answer me, O Lord, for bounteous is your kindness; in your great mercy turn toward me.—R.

“See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, may your hearts revive! For the Lord hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds he spurns not. Let the heavens and the earth praise him, the seas and whatever moves in them!”—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 5:12-15)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters: Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned— for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law.

But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ bring life through the grace of the one man Jesus Christ?

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (John 15:26b, 27a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord; and you also will testify.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 10:26-33)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to the Twelve: “Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Job 38:1, 8-11)

A reading from the Book of Job:

THE Lord addressed Job out of the storm and said:
Who shut within doors the sea,
when it burst forth from the womb;
when I made the clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling bands?
When I set limits for it
and fastened the bar of its door,
and said: Thus far shall you come but no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stilled!

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 107:23-24, 25-29, 30-31)

R. (1b) Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.
or:
R. Alleluia.

They who sailed the sea in ships,
trading on the deep waters,
These saw the works of the Lord
and his wonders in the abyss.—R.

His command raised up a storm wind
which tossed its waves on high.
They mounted up to heaven; they sank to the depths;
their hearts melted away in their plight.—R.

They cried to the Lord in their distress;
from their straits he rescued them,
He hushed the storm to a gentle breeze,
and the billows of the sea were stilled.—R.

They rejoiced that they were calmed,
and he brought them to their desired haven.
Let them give thanks to the Lord for his kindness
and his wondrous deeds to the children of men.—R.

SECOND READING (2 Cor 5:14-17)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
The love of Christ impels us,
once we have come to the conviction that one died for all;
therefore, all have died.
He indeed died for all,
so that those who live might no longer live for themselves
but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh;
even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh,
yet now we know him so no longer.
So whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Luke 7:16)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has risen in our midst
God has visited his people.—R.

GOSPEL (Mk 4:35-41)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

ON that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples:
"Let us cross to the other side."
Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was.
And other boats were with him.
A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat,
so that it was already filling up.
Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.
They woke him and said to him,
"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"
He woke up,
rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!"
The wind ceased and there was great calm.
Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified?
Do you not yet have faith?"
They were filled with great awe and said to one another,
"Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Zec 12:10-11; 13:1)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah:

THUS says the Lord:
I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and petition; and they shall look on him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son, and they shall grieve over him as one grieves over a firstborn.

On that day the mourning in Jerusalem shall be as great as the mourning of Hadadrnimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

On that day there shall be open to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a fountain to purify from sin and uncleanness.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9)

R. (2b) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.—R.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.—R.

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.—R.

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.—R.

SECOND READING  (Gal 3:26-29)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

BROTHERS and sisters: Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (John 10:27)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 9:18-24)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

ONCE when Jesus was praying in solitude, and the disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, 'One of the ancient prophets has arisen.'" Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said in reply, "The Christ of God." He rebuked them and directed them not to tell this to anyone.

He said, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."

Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a)

A reading from the second Book of Kings:

ONE day Elisha came to Shunem, where there was a woman of influence, who urged him to dine with her. Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop there to dine. So she said to her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there." Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room overnight.

Later Elisha asked, "Can something be done for her?" His servant Gehazi answered, "Yes! She has no son, and her husband is getting on in years." Elisha said, "Call her." When the woman had been called and stood at the door, Elisha promised, "This time next year you will be fondling a baby son."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19)

R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the Lord I will sing forever, through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness."—R.

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout; in the light of your countenance, O Lord, they walk. At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted.—R.

You are the splendor of their strength, and by your favor our horn is exalted. For to the Lord belongs our shield, and the Holy One of Israel, our king.—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 6:3-4, 8-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (1 Peter 2:9)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 10:37-42)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his apostles: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24)
A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

GOD did not make death, 
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. 
For he fashioned all things that they might have being; 
and the creatures of the world are wholesome, 
and there is not a destructive drug among them 
or any domain of the netherworld on earth, 
for justice is undying. 
For God formed man to be imperishable; 
the image of his own nature he made him. 
But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, 
and there is not a destructive drug among them 
for justice is undying. 

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13)

R. (2a) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Sing praise to the Lord, you his faithful ones, 
and give thanks to his holy name. 
For his anger lasts but a moment; 
a lifetime, his good will. 
At nightfall, weeping enters in, 
but with the dawn, rejoicing.—R.

Hear, O Lord, and have pity on me; 
O Lord, be my helper. 
You changed my mourning into dancing; 
O Lord, my God, forever will I give you thanks.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15)
A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters: 
As you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, 
knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, 
may you excel in this gracious act also. 

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, 
that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, 
so that by his poverty you might become rich. 
Not that others should have relief while you are burdened, 
but that as a matter of equality, 
your abundance at the present time should supply their needs, 
so that their abundance may also supply your needs, 
that there may be equality. 
As it is written: 
Whoever had much did not have more, 
and whoever had little did not have less. 
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL   (Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ WHEN Jesus had crossed again in the boat 
to the other side, 
a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. 
One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. 
Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, 
"My daughter is at the point of death. 
Please, come lay your hands on her 
that she may get well and live." 
He went off with him, 
and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him. ]

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. 
She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors 
and had spent all that she had. 
Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. 
She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd 
and touched his cloak. 
She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." 
Immediately her flow of blood dried up. 
She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. 
Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, 
turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?"
But his disciples said to Jesus, 
"You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, 
and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'" 
And he looked around to see who had done it. 
The woman, realizing what had happened to her, 
approached in fear and trembling. 
She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. 
He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. 
Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."
[ While he was still speaking, 
people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, 
"Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?"
Disregarding the message that was reported, 
Jesus said to the synagogue official, 
"Do not be afraid; just have faith." 
He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside 
except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. 
When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, 
he caught sight of a commotion, 
people weeping and wailing loudly. 
So he went in and said to them, 
"Why this commotion and weeping? 
The child is not dead but asleep." 
And they ridiculed him. 
Then he put them all out. 
He took along the child's father and mother 
and those who were with him 
and entered the room where the child was. 
He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum," 
which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" 
The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. 
At that they were utterly astounded. 
He gave strict orders that no one should know this 
and said that she should be given something to eat. ]

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21)

A reading from the first Book of Kings:

THE Lord said to Elijah:
"You shall anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah,
as prophet to succeed you."

Elijah set out and came upon Elisha, son of Shaphat,
as he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen;
he was following the twelfth.
Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak over him.
Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said,
"Please, let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,
and I will follow you."
Elijah answered, "Go back!
Have I done anything to you?"
Elisha left him, and taking the yoke of oxen, slaughtered them;
he used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh,
and gave it to his people to eat.
Then Elisha left and followed Elijah as his attendant.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11)

R. (cf. 5a) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;
I say to the Lord, "My Lord are you.
O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot."—R.

I bless the Lord who counsels me;
even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the Lord ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.—R.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.—R.

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.—R.

SECOND READING (Gal 5:1, 13-18)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
For freedom Christ set us free;
so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters.
But do not use this freedom
as an opportunity for the flesh;
rather, serve one another through love.
For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement,
namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
But if you go on biting and devouring one another,
FIRST READING (Zec 9:9-10)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah:

THUS says the LORD:
Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion,
shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king shall come to you;
a just savior is he,
meek, and riding on an ass,
on a colt, the foal of an ass.
He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim,
and the horse from Jerusalem;
the warrior’s bow shall be banished,
and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.
His dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14)

R. (cf. 1) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.
or:
R. Alleluia.

I will extol you, O my God and King,
and I will bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.—R.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The Lord is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.—R.

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.—R.

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and holy in all his works.
The Lord lifts up all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 8:9, 11-13)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
You are not in the flesh;
on the contrary, you are in the spirit.
if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.
Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
the one who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also,
through his Spirit that dwells in you.
Consequently, brothers and sisters,
we are not debtors to the flesh,
to live according to the flesh.

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die,
but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,
you will live.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (cf. Matthew 11:25)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 11:25-30)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

AT that time Jesus exclaimed:
“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to little ones.
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Ez 2:2-5)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

AS the LORD spoke to me, the spirit entered into me
and set me on my feet,
and I heard the one who was speaking say to me:
Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites,
rebels who have rebelled against me;
they and their ancestors have revolted against me to this very day.
Hard of face and obstinate of heart
are they to whom I am sending you.
But you shall say to them: Thus says the LORD GOD!
And whether they heed or resist-for they are a rebellious house-
they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 123:1-2, 2, 3-4)

R. (2cd) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

To you I lift up my eyes
who are enthroned in heaven—
As the eyes of servants
are on the hands of their masters.—R.

As the eyes of a maid
are on the hands of her mistress,
So are our eyes on the Lord, our God,
till he have pity on us.—R.

Have pity on us, O Lord, have pity on us,
for we are more than sated with contempt;
our souls are more than sated
with the mockery of the arrogant,
with the contempt of the proud.—R.

SECOND READING   (2 Cor 12:7-10)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
That I, Paul, might not become too elated,
because of the abundance of the revelations,
a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan,
to beat me, to keep me from being too elated.
Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me,
but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,
for power is made perfect in weakness.”
I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses,
in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me.
Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults,
hardships, persecutions, and constraints,
for the sake of Christ;
for when I am weak, then I am strong.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (cf. Luke 4:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
for he sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 6:1-6)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by
his disciples.
When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue,
and many who heard him were astonished.
They said, “Where did this man get all this?
What kind of wisdom has been given him?
What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!
Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary,
and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon?
And are not his sisters here with us?”
And they took offense at him.
Jesus said to them,
“A prophet is not without honor except in his native place
and among his own kin and in his own house.”
So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there,
apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.
He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 66:10-14c)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her,
all you who love her;
exult, exult with her,
all you who were mourning over her!
Oh, that you may suck fully
of the milk of her comfort,
that you may nurse with delight
at her abundant breasts!
For thus says the LORD:
Lo, I will spread prosperity over Jerusalem like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent.
As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms,
and fondled in her lap;
as a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you;
in Jerusalem you shall find your comfort.
When you see this, your heart shall rejoice
and your bodies flourish like the grass;
the LORD's power shall be known to his servants.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20)

R. (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.
Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,
sing praise to the glory of his name;
proclaim his glorious praise.
Say to God, How tremendous are your deeds!—R.
"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,
sing praise to your name!"
Come and see the works of God,
his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam.—R.
He has changed the sea into dry land;
through the river they passed on foot;
therefore let us rejoice in him.
He rules by his might forever.—R.

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare
what he has done for me.
Blessed be God who refused me not
my prayer or his kindness!—R.

SECOND READING  (Gal 6:14-18)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
through which the world has been crucified to me,
and I to the world.
For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision,
but only a new creation.

Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule
and to the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make troubles for me;
for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit,
brothers and sisters. Amen.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Col 3:15a, 16a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

[ Short form in brackets. ]

[ AT that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others
whom he sent ahead of him in pairs
to every town and place he intended to visit.
He said to them,
"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;
so ask the master of the harvest
to send out laborers for his harvest.
Go on your way;
behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves.
Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals;
and greet no one along the way.
Into whatever house you enter, first say,
'Peace to this household.'
If a peaceful person lives there,
your peace will rest on him;
but if not, it will return to you.
Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you,
for the laborer deserves his payment.
Do not move about from one house to another.
Whatever town you enter and they welcome you,
eat what is set before you,
cure the sick in it and say to them,
'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'
Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you,
go out into the streets and say,
'The dust of your town that clings to our feet,
even that we shake off against you.'
Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand.
I tell you,
it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town.
The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said,
"Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name.
Jesus said, 'I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky.
Behold, I have given you the power to 'tread upon serpents' and  scorpions
and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you.
Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you,
but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 55:10-11)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
Just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
until they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks to be God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14)

R. (Luke 8:8) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You have visited the land and watered it;
greatly have you enriched it.
You have prepared the land:
drenching its furrows,
softening it with showers,
blessing its yield.—R.

The fields are garmented with flocks
and the valleys blanketed with grain.
They shout and sing for joy.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rom 8:18-23)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL  (Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower.
All who come to him will have life forever.—R.

The disciples approached him and said,
"Why do you speak to them in parables?"
He said to them in reply,
"Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted.
To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich;
from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away.
This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.
Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:
You shall indeed hear but not understand,
you shall indeed look but never see.
Gross is the heart of this people,
they will hardly hear with their ears,
they have closed their eyes,
lest they see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears
and understand with their hearts and be converted,
and I heal them.

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see,
and your ears, because they hear.
Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it,
and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

"Hear then the parable of the sower.
The seed sown on the path is the one
who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it,
and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart.
The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy.
But he has no root and lasts only for a time.
When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away.
The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.
But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it,
who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Am 7:12-15)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos:

AMAZIAH, priest of Bethel, said to Amos, "Off with you, visionary, flee to the land of Judah! There earn your bread by prophesying, but never again prophesy in Bethel; for it is the king's sanctuary and a royal temple."

Amos answered Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor have I belonged to a company of prophets; I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. The LORD took me from following the flock, and said to me, Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14)

R. (8) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.
I will hear what God proclaims; the Lord—for he proclaims peace.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.—R.
Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.—R.
The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.—R.

SECOND READING   ( Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. ]

In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ.

In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (cf. Eph 1:17-18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 6:7-13)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic.

He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them."

So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING  (Deut 30:10-14)
A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

MOSES said to the people:
"If only you would heed the voice of the LORD, your God, and keep his commandments and statutes that are written in this book of the law, when you return to the LORD, your God, with all your heart and all your soul."

"For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you. It is not up in the sky, that you should say, 'Who will go up in the sky to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?'
Nor is it across the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?'
No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

A. (Psalm 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37)
R. (cf. 33) Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

I pray to you, O Lord, for the time of your favor, O God! In your great kindness answer me with your constant help. Answer me, O Lord, for bounteous is your kindness: in your great mercy turn toward me.—R.

I am afflicted and in pain; let your saving help, O God, protect me. I will praise the name of God in song, and I will glorify him with thanksgiving.—R.

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, may your hearts revive! For the Lord hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds he spurns not."—R.

For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. The descendants of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall inhabit it.—R.

OR

B. (Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11)
R. (9a) Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.—R.

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.—R.

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye.—R.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true, all of them just.—R.

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold; sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.—R.

SECOND READING  (Col 1:15-20)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians:

CHRIST Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. John 6:63c, 68c)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 10:25-37)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THERE was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING   (Wis 12:13, 16-19)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

THERE is no god besides you who have the care of all,
that you need show you have not unjustly condemned.
For your might is the source of justice;
your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all.
For you show your might when the perfection of your power is
disbelieved;
and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity.
But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency,
and with much lenience you govern us;
for power, whenever you will, attends you.
And you taught your people, by these deeds,
those who are just must be kind;
and you gave your children good ground for hope
that you would permit repentance for their sins.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16)

R. (5a) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

You, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in kindness to all who call upon you.
Hearken, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my pleading.—R.

All the nations you have made shall come
and worship you, O Lord,
and glorify your name.
For you are great, and you do wondrous deeds;
you alone are God.—R.

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity.
Turn toward me, and have pity on me;
give your strength to your servant.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 8:26-27)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.
And the one who searches hearts
knows what is the intention of the Spirit,
because he intercedes for the holy ones
according to God's will.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (cf. Matthew 11:25)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ JESUS proposed another parable to the crowds, saying:
"The kingdom of heaven may be likened
to a man who sowed good seed in his field.
While everyone was asleep his enemy came
and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.
When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.
The slaves of the householder came to him and said,
'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field?
Where have the weeds come from?'
He answered, 'An enemy has done this.'
His slaves said to him,
'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'
He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds
you might uproot the wheat along with them.
Let them grow together until harvest;
then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters,
"First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning;
but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

He proposed another parable to them.
"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed
that a person took and sowed in a field.
It is the smallest of all the seeds,
yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants.
It becomes a large bush,
and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

He spoke to them another parable.
"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast
that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour
until the whole batch was leavened."

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables.
He spoke to them only in parables,
to fulfill what had been said through the prophet:
"I will open my mouth in parables,
I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation
of the world."

Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house.
His disciples approached him and said,
"Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."
He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man,
the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.
The weeds are the children of the evil one,
and the enemy who sows them is the devil.
The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.
Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire,
so will it be at the end of the age.
The Son of Man will send his angels,
and they will collect out of his kingdom
all who cause others to sin and all evildoers.
They will throw them into the fiery furnace,
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.
Then the righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.
Whoever has ears ought to hear."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Jer 23:1-6)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:
WOE to the shepherds
who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture,
says the LORD.
Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel,
against the shepherds who shepherd my people:
You have scattered my sheep and driven them away.
You have not cared for them,
but I will take care to punish your evil deeds.
I myself will gather the remnant of my flock
from all the lands to which I have driven them
and bring them back to their meadow;
there they shall increase and multiply.
I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them
so that they need no longer fear and tremble;
and none shall be missing, says the LORD.
Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David;
as king he shall reign and govern wisely,
he shall do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah shall be saved,
Israel shall dwell in security.
This is the name they give him:
"The LORD our justice."
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6)
R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.—R.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage.—R.
You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.—R.
Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come.—R.
SECOND READING   (Eph 2:13-18)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:
BROTHERS and sisters:
In Christ Jesus you who once were far off
have become near by the blood of Christ.
For he is our peace, he who made both one
and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh,
abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims,
that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two,
thus establishing peace,
and might reconcile both with God,
in one body, through the cross,
putting that enmity to death by it.
He came and preached peace to you who were far off
and peace to those who were near,
for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.
ALLELUIA   (John 10:27)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.
My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.—R.
GOSPEL   (Mk 6:30-34)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:
THE apostles gathered together with Jesus
and reported all they had done and taught.
He said to them,
"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."
People were coming and going in great numbers,
and they had no opportunity even to eat.
So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.
People saw them leaving and many came to know about it.
They hastened there on foot from all the towns
and arrived at the place before them.
When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd,
his heart was moved with pity for them,
for they were like sheep without a shepherd;
and he began to teach them many things.
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING   (Gn 18:1-10a)

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

THE LORD appeared to Abraham by the terebinth of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, Abraham saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said: "Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past your servant.

Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves under the tree.

Now that you have come this close to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way."

The men replied, "Very well, do as you have said."

Abraham hastened into the tent and told Sarah, "Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls."

He ran to the herd, picked out a tender, choice steer, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it. Then Abraham got some curds and milk, as well as the steer that had been prepared, and set these before the three men; and he waited on them under the tree while they ate.

They asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?"
He replied, "There in the tent."
One of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 5)

R. (1a) He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

One who walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue.—R.

Who harms not his fellow man, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor; by whom the profligate is despised, while he honors those who fear the Lord.—R.

Who lends not his money at usury and accepts no bribe against the innocent. One who does these things shall never be disturbed.—R.

SECOND READING   (Col 1:24-28)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past.

But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory.

It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. Luke 8:15)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 10:38-42)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me."

The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING (1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12)

A reading from the first Book of Kings:

THE LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night.
God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you."
Solomon answered:
"O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king
to succeed my father David;
but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act.
I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen,
a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted.
Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart
to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong.
For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?"

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request.
So God said to him:
"Because you have asked for this—
not for a long life for yourself,
nor for riches,
nor for the life of your enemies,
but for understanding so that you may know what is right—
I do as you requested.
I give you a heart so wise and understanding
that there has never been anyone like you up to now,
and after you there will come no one to equal you."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130)

R. (97a) Lord, I love your commands.
I have said, O Lord, that my part
is to keep your words.
The law of your mouth is to me more precious
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.—R.

Let your kindness comfort me
according to your promise to your servants.
Let your compassion come to me that I may live,
for your law is my delight.—R.

For I love your command
more than gold, however fine.
For in all your precepts I go forward;
every false way I hate.—R.

Wonderful are your decrees;
therefore I observe them.
The revelation of your words sheds light,
giving understanding to the simple.—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 8:28-30)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
We know that all things work for good for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose.

For those he foreknew he also predestined
to be conformed to the image of his Son,
so that he might be the firstborn
among many brothers and sisters.
And those he predestined he also called;
and those he called he also justified;
and those he justified he also glorified.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (cf. Matthew 11:25)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
for you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 13:44-52 or 13:44-46)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

JESUS said to his disciples:
"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant
searching for fine pearls.
When he finds a pearl of great price,
he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.
Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea,
which collects fish of every kind.
When it is full they haul it ashore
and sit down to put what is good into buckets.
What is bad they throw away.
Thus it will be at the end of the age.
The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous
and throw them into the fiery furnace,
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

"Do you understand all these things?"
They answered, "Yes."
And he replied,
"Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven
is like the head of a household
who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (2 Kgs 4:42-44)

A reading from the second Book of Kings:

A MAN came from Baal-shalishah bringing to Elisha, the man of God, twenty barley loaves made from the firstfruits, and fresh grain in the ear.

Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat."

But his servant objected, "How can I set this before a hundred people?"

Elisha insisted, "Give it to the people to eat."

For thus says the LORD, "They shall eat and there shall be some left over."

And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the LORD had said.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18)

R. (cf. 16) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your faithful ones bless you.

Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might.—R.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.—R.

The Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.—R.

SECOND READING  (Eph 4:1-6)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Luke 7:16)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has risen in our midst God has visited his people.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 6:1-15)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?"

He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little."

One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

Jesus said, "Have the people recline."

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."

So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat.

When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."

Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
IN those days, the LORD said: "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me. I mean to find out."

While Abraham's visitors walked on farther toward Sodom, the LORD remained standing before Abraham. Then Abraham drew nearer and said: "Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike! Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?"

The LORD replied, "If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Abraham spoke up again: "See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes! What if there are five less than fifty innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city because of those five?"

He answered, "I will not destroy it, if I find forty-five there." But Abraham persisted, saying "What if only forty are found there?"

He replied, "I will forbear doing it for the sake of the forty."

Then Abraham said, "Let not my Lord grow impatient if I go on. What if only thirty are found there?"

He replied, "I will forbear doing it if I can find but thirty there."

Still Abraham went on, "Since I have thus dared to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes!"

The LORD answered, "I will not destroy it, for the sake of the twenty."

But he still persisted: "Please, let not my Lord grow angry if I speak up this last time. What if there are at least ten there?"

He replied, "For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8)

R. (3a) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple and give thanks to your name.—R.

Because of your kindness and your truth; for you have made great above all things your name and your promise.

When I called you answered me; you built up strength within me.—R.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING (Col 2:12-14)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians:

BROTHERS and sisters:

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

And even when you were dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Rom 8:15bc)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You have received a Spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, Father.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 11:1-13)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JE"SUS was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say:

'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.'"

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

The word of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING  (Is 55:1-3)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
All you who are thirsty,  
come to the water!
You who have no money,  
come, receive grain and eat;  
Come, without paying and without cost,  
drink wine and milk!
Why spend your money for what is not bread;  
your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you shall eat well,  
you shall delight in rich fare.
Come to me heedfully,  
listen, that you may have life.
I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,  
the benefits assured to David.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18)

R. (cf. 16) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The Lord is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.—R.
The eyes of all look hopefully to you,  
you give them their food in due season;  
you open your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.—R.
The Lord is just in all his ways  
and holy in all his works.
The Lord is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rom 8:35, 37-39)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
What will separate us from the love of Christ?  
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly  
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor present things, nor future things,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor any other creature will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Matthew 4:4b)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 14:13-21)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

WHEN Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist,  
he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself.
The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns.
When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd,  
his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.
When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said,  
"This is a deserted place and it is already late;  
dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages  
and buy food for themselves."
Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away;  
give them some food yourselves."
But they said to him,  
"Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."
Then he said, "Bring them here to me,"  
and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.
Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven,  
he said the blessing, broke the loaves,  
and gave them to the disciples,  
who in turn gave them to the crowds.
They all ate and were satisfied,  
and they picked up the fragments left over—  
twelve wicker baskets full.
those who ate were about five thousand men,  
not counting women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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FIRST READING (Ex 16:2-4, 12-15)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

THE whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "Would that we had died at the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread! But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!"

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will now rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not."

"I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you may know that I, the LORD, am your God."

In the evening quail came up and covered the camp. In the morning a dew lay all about the camp, and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. On seeing it, the Israelites asked one another, "What is this?" for they did not know what it was.

But Moses told them, "This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54)

R. (24b) The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

What we have heard and know, and what our fathers have declared to us, We will declare to the generation to come the glorious deeds of the Lord and his strength and the wonders that he wrought.—R.

He commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven; he rained manna upon them for food and gave them heavenly bread.—R.

Man ate the bread of angels, food he sent them in abundance. And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountains his right hand had won.—R.

SECOND READING (Eph 4:17, 20-24)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters: I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; that is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Matthew 4:4b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 6:24-35)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

WHEN the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal."

So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent."

So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23)
A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes:

VANITY of vanities, says Qoheleth, vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!

Here is one who has labored with wisdom and knowledge and skill, and yet to another who has not labored over it, he must leave property. This also is vanity and a great misfortune. For what profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored under the sun? All his days sorrow and grief are their occupation; even at night his mind is not at rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 89:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17)
R. (1) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
You turn man back to dust, saying, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday, now that it is past, or as a watch of the night.—R.

You make an end of them in their sleep; the next morning they are like the changing grass, Which at dawn springs up anew, but by evening wilts and fades.—R.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!—R.

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. And may the gracious care of the Lord our God be ours; prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands!—R.

SECOND READING  (Col 3:1-5, 9-11)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator.

Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Matthew 5:3)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 12:13-21)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

SOMEONE in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.” He replied to him, “Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?”
Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Then he told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, ‘What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?’ And he said, ‘This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, ‘Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!’”

But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong? Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a)

A reading from the first Book of Kings:

AT the mountain of God, Horeb,
Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter.
Then the LORD said to him,
"Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD;
the LORD will be passing by."
A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains
and crushing rocks before the LORD—
but the LORD was not in the wind.
After the wind there was an earthquake—
but the LORD was not in the earthquake.
After the earthquake there was fire—
but the LORD was not in the fire.
After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound.
When he heard this,
Elijah hid his face in his cloak
and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14)

R. (8) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims;
the Lord—for he proclaims peace.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.—R.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.—R.

The Lord himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rom 9:1-5)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie;
my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness
that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart.
For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ
for the sake of my own people,
my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites;
their the adoption, the glory, the covenants,
the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises;
their the patriarchs, and from them,
according to the flesh, is the Christ,
who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. Psalm 130:5)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I wait for the Lord;
my soul waits for his word.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 14:22-33)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

AFTER he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat
and precede him to the other side,
while he dismissed the crowds.
After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.
When it was evening he was there alone.
Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore,
was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.
During the fourth watch of the night,
he came toward them walking on the sea.
When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified.
"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.
At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."
Peter said to him in reply,
"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."
He said, "Come."
Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.
But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened;
and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"
Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter,
and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"
After they got into the boat, the wind died down.
Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying,
"Truly, you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (1 Kgs 19:4-8)

A reading from the first Book of Kings:

ELIJAH went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it.
He prayed for death saying:
"This is enough, O LORD! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."
He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat.
Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water.
After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the LORD came back a second time, touched him, and ordered, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!"
He got up, ate, and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (9a) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad.—R.
Glorify the Lord with me, Let us together extol his name.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.—R.
Look to him that you may be radiant with joy. And your faces may not blush with shame.
When the afflicted man called out, the Lord heard, And from all his distress he saved him.—R.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the Lord is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him.—R.

SECOND READING  (Eph 4:30-5:2)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption.
All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice.
And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.
So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (John 6:51)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 6:41-51)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

THE Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"
Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: They shall all be taught by God, Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, but now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one. If they had been thinking of the land from which they had come, they did not receive what had been promised. All these died in faith.

So it was that there came forth from one man, by faith he received power to generate, by faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, by faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and as countless as the sands on the seashore. Descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. 

For we know that the children of Israel did not receive what had been promised, because God had determined beforehand to give them a possession to which even as the people of the world itself did not attain. So then, you are not children of the mere flesh, but sons through faith in Christ Jesus, that he might bring to you who were not gods, but sons, the might of the glory of God.

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people he has chosen for his own inheritance, and who have put our hope in you.

R. (12b) Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield. May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, who have put our hope in you.

R. (12b) Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, because of it the ancients were well attested. Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING   (Is 56:1, 6-7)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed.

The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
ministering to him,
loving the name of the LORD,
and becoming his servants—
all who keep the sabbath free from profanation
and hold to my covenant,
them I will bring to my holy mountain
and make joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar,
for my house shall be called
a house of prayer for all peoples.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8)
R. (4) O God, let all the nations praise you!

May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.
So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.—R.

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.—R.

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear him!—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 11:13-15, 29-32)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
I am speaking to you Gentiles.
Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles,
I glory in my ministry in order to make my race jealous
and thus save some of them.
For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world,
what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.
Just as you once disobeyed God
but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,
so they have now disobeyed in order that,
by virtue of the mercy shown to you,
they too may now receive mercy.
For God delivered all to disobedience,
that he might have mercy upon all.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (cf. Matthew 4:23)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom
and cured every disease among the people.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 15:21-28)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

AT that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.
And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out,
"Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!
My daughter is tormented by a demon."
But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her.
Jesus’ disciples came and asked him,
"Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us."
He said in reply,
"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me."
He said in reply,
"It is not right to take the food of the children
and throw it to the dogs."
She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps
that fall from the table of their masters."
Then Jesus said to her in reply,
"O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish."
And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Prv 9:1-6)

A reading from the Book of Proverbs:

WISDOM has built her house,
she has set up her seven columns;
she has dressed her meat, mixed her wine,
yes, she has spread her table.
She has sent out her maidens; she calls
from the heights out over the city:
“Let whoever is simple turn in here;
To the one who lacks understanding, she says,
Come, eat of my food,
and drink of the wine I have mixed!
Forsake foolishness that you may live;
advance in the way of understanding.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 34:2-3, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15)

R. (9a) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.—R.

Glorify the Lord with me,
let us together extol his name.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.—R.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the Lord heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.—R.

SECOND READING  (Eph 5:15-20)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Watch carefully how you live,
not as foolish persons but as wise,
making the most of the opportunity,
because the days are evil.
Therefore, do not continue in ignorance,
but try to understand what is the will of the Lord.
And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery,
but be filled with the Spirit,
addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts,
giving thanks always and for everything
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL  (Jn 6:51-58)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to the crowds:
"I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world."
The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,
"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"
Jesus said to them,
"Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you do not have life within you.
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life,
and I will raise him on the last day.
For my flesh is true food,
and my blood is true drink.
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him.
Just as the living Father sent me
and I have life because of the Father,
so also the one who feeds on me
will have life because of me.
This is the bread that came down from heaven.
Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,
whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.—R.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING   (Jer 38:4-6, 8-10)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

IN those days, the princes said to the king:
"Jeremiah ought to be put to death;
he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in this city,
and all the people, by speaking such things to them;
he is not interested in the welfare of our people,
but in their ruin."

King Zedekiah answered: "He is in your power";
for the king could do nothing with them.
And so they took Jeremiah
and threw him into the cistern of Prince Malchiah,
which was in the quarters of the guard,
letting him down with ropes.
There was no water in the cistern, only mud,
and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

Ebed-melech, a court official,
went there from the palace and said to him:
"My lord king,
these men have been at fault
in all they have done to the prophet Jeremiah,
casting him into the cistern.
He will die of famine on the spot,
for there is no more food in the city."

Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite
to take three men along with him,
and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before
he should die.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 40:2, 3, 4, 18)

R. (14b) Lord, come to my aid!

I have waited, waited for the Lord,
and he stooped toward me.—R.

The Lord heard my cry.
He drew me out of the pit of destruction,
out of the mud of the swamp;
he set my feet upon a crag;
he made firm my steps.—R.

And he put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.
Many shall look on in awe
and trust in the Lord.—R.

Though I am afflicted and poor,
yet the Lord thinks of me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
O my God, hold not back!—R.

SECOND READING   (Heb 12:1-4)
A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us
and persevere in running the race that lies before us
while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus,
the leader and perfecter of faith.

For the sake of the joy that lay before him
he endured the cross, despising its shame,
and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.

Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners,
in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

In your struggle against sin
you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 10:27)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 12:49-53)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS said to his disciples:
"I have come to set the earth on fire,
and how I wish it were already blazing!
There is a baptism with which I must be baptized,
and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!
Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?
No, I tell you, but rather division.
From now on a household of five will be divided,
three against two and two against three;
a father will be divided against his son
and a son against his father,
a mother against her daughter
and a daughter against her mother,
a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 22:19-23)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the Lord to Shebna, master of the palace:
“I will thrust you from your office
and pull you down from your station.
On that day I will summon my servant
Eliakim, son of Hilkiah;
I will clothe him with your robe,
and gird him with your sash,
and give over to him your authority.
He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
and to the house of Judah.
I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim’s shoulder;
when he opens, no one shall shut
when he shuts, no one shall open.
I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot,
to be a place of honor for his family.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8)

R. (8bc) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple.—R.

I will give thanks to your name,
because of your kindness and your truth:
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.—R.

The Lord is exalted, yet the lowly he sees,
and the proud he knows from afar.
Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rom 11:33-36)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

OH, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!
For who has known the mind of the Lord
or who has been his counselor?
Or who has given the Lord anything
that he may be repaid?
For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be glory forever.  Amen.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Matthew 16:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church
and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.—R.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—B

FIRST READING (Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b)

A reading from the Book of Joshua:

JOSHUA gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem,
summoning their elders, their leaders,
their judges, and their officers.
When they stood in ranks before God,
Joshua addressed all the people:
"If it does not please you to serve the LORD,
decide today whom you will serve,
the gods your fathers served beyond the River
or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling.
As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

But the people answered,
"Far be it from us to forsake the LORD
for the service of other gods.
For it was the LORD, our God,
who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt,
out of a state of slavery.
He performed those great miracles before our very eyes
and protected us along our entire journey
and among the peoples through whom we passed.
Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23)

R. (9a) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.—R.

The Lord has eyes for the just,
and ears for their cry.
The Lord confronts the evildoers,
to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.
Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.—R.

When the just cry out, the Lord hears them,
and from all their distress he rescues them.
The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.—R.

Many are the troubles of the just one,
but out of them all the Lord delivers him;
he watches over all his bones;
not one of them shall be broken.—R.

SECOND READING (Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ BROTHERS and sisters:
(Shorter form only adds vs. 2a: Live in love, as Christ loved us.) ]

Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.
For the husband is head of his wife
just as Christ is head of the church,
he himself the savior of the body.
As the church is subordinate to Christ,
so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.

[ Husbands, love your wives,
even as Christ loved the church
and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,
cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
that he might present to himself the church in splendor
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.
So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.
He who loves his wife loves himself.
For no one hates his own flesh
but rather nourishes and cherishes it,
even as Christ does the church,
because we are members of his body.
For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.
This is a great mystery,
but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. ]

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (John 6:63c, 68c)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 6:60-69)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

MANY of Jesus’ disciples who were listening said,
“This saying is hard; who can accept it?”
Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this,
he said to them, “Does this shock you?
What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending
to where he was before?
It is the spirit that gives life,
while the flesh is of no avail.
The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.
But there are some of you who do not believe.”
Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe
and the one who would betray him.
And he said,
“For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me
unless it is granted him by my Father.”

As a result of this,
many of his disciples returned to their former way of life
and no longer accompanied him.
Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?”
Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
We have come to believe
and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING  (Is 66:18-21)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:
I know their works and their thoughts,
and I come to gather nations of every language;
they shall come and see my glory.
I will set a sign among them;
from them I will send fugitives to the nations:
to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan,
to the distant coastslands
that have never heard of my fame, or seen my glory;
and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations.
They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations
as an offering to the LORD,
on horses and in chariots, in carts, upon mules and dromedaries,
to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD,
just as the Israelites bring their offering
to the house of the LORD in clean vessels.
Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 117:1, 2)

R. (Mark 16:15) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.
or:
R. Alleluia.
Praise the Lord, all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples!—R.
For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.—R.

SECOND READING  (Heb 12:5-7, 11-13)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrew:

BROTHERS and sisters,
You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children:
"My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord
or lose heart when reproved by him;
for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines;
he scourges every son he acknowledges."
Endure your trials as "discipline":
God treats you as sons.
For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline?
At the time,
all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain,
yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness
to those who are trained by it.

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.
Make straight paths for your feet,
that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (John 14:6)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 13:22-30)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS passed through towns and villages,
teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem.
Someone asked him,
"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"
He answered them,
"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,
for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter
but will not be strong enough.
After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door,
than will you stand outside knocking and saying,
'Lord, open the door for us.'
He will say to you in reply,
'I do not know where you are from.'

And you will say,
'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.'
Then he will say to you,
'I do not know where you are from.
Depart from me, all you evildoers!'
And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth
when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
and all the prophets in the kingdom of God
and you yourselves cast out.
And people will come from the east and the west
and from the north and the south
and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.
For behold, some are last who will be first,
and some are first who will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Jer 20:7-9)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

YOU duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me.

Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day.

I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9)

R. (2b) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.—R.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.—R.

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.—R.

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rom 12:1-2)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

I URGE you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. Eph 1:17-18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mt 16:21-27)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.” He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Deut 4:1-2, 6-8)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

MOSES said to the people:  
"Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees  
which I am teaching you to observe,  
that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land  
which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.
In your observance of the commandments of the LORD, your God,  
which I enjoin upon you,  
you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it.  
Observe them carefully,  
for thus will you give evidence  
of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations,  
who will hear of all these statutes and say,  
'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.'  
For what great nation is there  
that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us  
whenever we call upon him?  
Or what great nation has statutes and decrees  
that are as just as this whole law  
which I am setting before you today?"

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5)

R. (1a) One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice;  
who thinks the truth in his heart  
and slanders not with his tongue.—R.

Who harms not his fellow man,  
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;  
by whom the reprobate is despised,  
while he honors those who fear the Lord.—R.

Who lends not his money at usury  
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.  
Whoever does these things  
shall never be disturbed.—R.

SECOND READING  (Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27)

A reading from the Letter of Saint James:

DEAREST brothers and sisters:  
All good giving and every perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of lights,  
with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change.  
He willed to give us birth by the word of truth  
that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you  
and is able to save your souls.
Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.
Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this:  
to care for orphans and widows in their affliction  
and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Jas 1:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth  
that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

WHEN the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem  
gathered around Jesus,  
they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals  
with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.  
—For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews,  
do not eat without carefully washing their hands,  
keeping the tradition of the elders.  
And on coming from the marketplace  
they do not eat without purifying themselves.  
And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed,  
the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.—
So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him,  
"Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders  
but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?"
He responded,  
"Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:  
This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching as doctrines human precepts.  
You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."
He summoned the crowd again and said to them,  
"Hear me, all of you, and understand.  
Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person;  
but the things that come out from within are what defile.
"From within people, from their hearts,  
come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder,  
adultery, greed, malice, deceit,  
lasciviousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly.  
All these evils come from within and they defile."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29)

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

MY child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God. What is too sublime for you, seek not, into things beyond your strength search not. The mind of a sage appreciates proverbs, and an attentive ear is the joy of the wise. Water quenches a flaming fire, and alms atone for sins.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11)

R. (cf. 11b) God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The just rejoice and exult before God; they are glad and rejoice. Sing to God, chant praise to his name; whose name is the Lord.—R.

The father of orphans and the defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling. God gives a home to the forsaken; he leads forth prisoners to prosperity.—R.

A bountiful rain you showered down, O God, upon your inheritance; you restored the land when it languished; your flock settled in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided it for the needy.—R.

SECOND READING (Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters:
You have not approached that which could be touched and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness and storm and a trumpet blast and a voice speaking words such that those who heard begged that no message be further addressed to them.

No, you have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect, and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Matthew 11:29ab)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (Lk 14:1, 7-14)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

ON a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully.

He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor.

A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place.

Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING   (Ez 33:7-9)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THUS says the LORD:
You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel;
when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me.
If I tell the wicked, “O wicked one, you shall surely die,”
and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way,
the wicked shall die for his guilt,
but I will hold you responsible for his death.
But if you warn the wicked,
trying to turn him from his way,
and he refuses to turn from his way,
he shall die for his guilt,
but you shall save yourself.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;
let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.—R.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the Lord who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.—R.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 13:8-10)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another;
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery;
you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,”
and whatever other commandment there may be,
are summed up in this saying, namely,
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
Love does no evil to the neighbor;
hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (2 Cor 5:19)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 18:15-20)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his disciples:
“If your brother sins against you, 
go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.
If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.
If he does not listen,
take one or two others along with you,
so that ‘every fact may be established
on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’
If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church.
If he refuses to listen even to the church,
then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.
Amen, I say to you,
whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Again, amen, I say to you,
if two of you agree on earth
about anything for which they are to pray,
it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.
For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—B

FIRST READING  (Is 35:4-7a)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD:

   Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
   Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God,
   he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
   he comes to save you.
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
   the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
   then the tongue of the mute will sing.
Streams will burst forth in the desert,
   and rivers in the steppe.
The burning sands will become pools,
   and the thirsty ground, springs of water.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10)

R. (1b) Praise the Lord, my soul!
or:
R. Alleluia.

The God of Jacob keeps faith forever,
sees justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets captives free.—R.

The Lord gives sight to the blind;
the Lord raises up those who were bowed down.
The Lord loves the just;
the Lord protects strangers.—R.

The fatherless and the widow the Lord sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.
The Lord shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.—R.

SECOND READING  (Jas 2:1-5)

A reading from the Letter of Saint James:

MY brothers and sisters, show no partiality
   as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.
For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes
   comes into your assembly,
and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in,
you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes
and say, “Sit here, please,”
while you say to the poor one, “Stand there,” or “Sit at my feet,”
you have not made distinctions among yourselves
and become judges with evil designs?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.
Did not God choose those who are poor in the world
   to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom
that he promised to those who love him?

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. Matthew 4:23)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom
   and cured every disease among the people.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 7:31-37)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

AGAIN Jesus left the district of Tyre
   and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee,
   into the district of the Decapolis.
And people brought to him a deaf man who had a
   speech impediment
and begged him to lay his hand on him.
He took him off by himself away from the crowd.
He put his finger into the man's ears
   and, spitting, touched his tongue;
then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him,
   “Ephphatha!” that is, “Be opened!”
And immediately the man's ears were opened,
his speech impediment was removed,
and he spoke plainly.
He ordered them not to tell anyone.
But the more he ordered them not to,
   the more they proclaimed it.
They were exceedingly astonished and they said,
   “He has done all things well.
He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING  (Wis 9:13-18b)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

WHO can know God's counsel,
or who can conceive what the LORD intends?
For the deliberations of mortals are timid,
and unsure are our plans.
For the corruptible body burdens the soul
and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has
many concerns.
And scarce do we guess the things on earth,
and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty;
but when things are in heaven, who can search them out?
Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from on high?
And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17)

R. (1) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn man back to dust,
saying, “Return, O children of men.”
For a thousand years in your sight
are as yesterday, now that it is past,
or as a watch of the night.—R.

You make an end of them in their sleep;
the next morning they are like the changing grass,
Which at dawn springs up anew,
but by evening wilts and fades.—R.

Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Return, O Lord! How long?
Have pity on your servants!—R.

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.
And may the gracious care of the Lord our God be ours;
prosper the work of our hands for us!
Prosper the work of our hands!—R.

SECOND READING  (Phlm 9-10, 12-17)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Philemon:

I, PAUL, an old man,
and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus,
urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus,
whose father I have become in my imprisonment;
I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.
I should have liked to retain him for myself,
so that he might serve me on your behalf
in my imprisonment for the gospel,
but I did not want to do anything without your consent,
so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary.
Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while,
that you might have him back forever,
no longer as a slave
but more than a slave, a brother,
beloved especially to me, but even more so to you,
as a man and in the Lord.
So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Psalm 119:135)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let your face shine upon your servant;
and teach me your laws.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 14:25-33)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

GREAT crowds were traveling with Jesus,
and he turned and addressed them,
"If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother,
wife and children, brothers and sisters,
and even his own life,
he cannot be my disciple.
Which of you wishing to construct a tower
does not first sit down and calculate the cost
to see if there is enough for its completion?
Otherwise, after laying the foundation
and finding himself unable to finish the work
the onlookers should laugh at him and say,
'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.'
Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down
and decide whether with ten thousand troops
he can successfully oppose another king
advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops?
But if not, while he is still far away,
he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms.
In the same way,
anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions
cannot be my disciple.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING (Sir 27:30-28:9)
A reading from the Book of Sirach:

WRATH and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.
The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail.
Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.
Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD?
Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins?
If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?
Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin!
Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12)
R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.—R.

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion.—R.

He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.—R.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.—R.

SECOND READING (Rom 14:7-9)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (John 13:34)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord; love one another as I have loved you.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 18:21-35)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

PETER approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?"
Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.
When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.
At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.
When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized one of his fellow servants and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.
Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.
His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?'
Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.
So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 50:5-9a)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear;  
and I have not rebelled,  
have not turned back.  
I gave my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;  
my face I did not shield  
from buffets and spitting.  
The Lord GOD is my help,  
therefore I am not disgraced;  
I have set my face like flint,  
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.  
He is near who upholds my right;  
if anyone wishes to oppose me,  
let us appear together.  
Who disputes my right?  
Let that man confront me.  
See, the Lord GOD is my help;  
who will prove me wrong?

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9)

R. (9) I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.  
or:  
R. Alleluia.

I love the Lord because he has heard  
my voice in supplication,  
Because he has inclined his ear to me  
the day I called.—R.

The cords of death encompassed me;  
the snares of the netherworld seized upon me;  
I fell into distress and sorrow,  
And I called upon the name of the Lord,  
"O Lord, save my life!"—R.

Gracious is the Lord and just;  
yes, our God is merciful.  
The Lord keeps the little ones;  
I was brought low, and he saved me.—R.

For he has freed my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.  
I shall walk before the Lord  
in the land of the living.—R.

SECOND READING   (Jas 2:14-18)

A reading from the Letter of Saint James:

WHAT good is it, my brothers and sisters,  
if someone says he has faith but does not have works?  
Can that faith save him?  
If a brother or sister has nothing to wear  
and has no food for the day,  
and one of you says to them,  
"Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,"  
but you do not give them the necessities of the body,  
what good is it?  
So also faith of itself,  
if it does not have works, is dead.  
Indeed someone might say,  
"You have faith and I have works."  
Demonstrate your faith to me without works,  
and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Galatians 6:14)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord  
through which the world has been crucified to me  
and I to the world.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 8:27-35)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS and his disciples set out  
for the villages of Caesarea Philippi.  
Along the way he asked his disciples,  
"Who do people say that I am?"

They said in reply,  
"John the Baptist, others Elijah,  
still others one of the prophets."

And he asked them,  
"But who do you say that I am?"

Peter said to him in reply,  
"You are the Christ."

Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He began to teach them  
that the Son of Man must suffer greatly  
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,  
and be killed, and rise after three days.

He spoke this openly.  
Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.  
At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples,  
rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan.  
You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,  
"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,  
take up his cross, and follow me.  
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,  
but whoever loses his life for my sake  
and that of the gospel will save it."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Ex 32:7-11, 13-14)
A reading from the Book of Exodus:

THE LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once to your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, for they have become depraved. They have soon turned aside from the way I pointed out to them, making for themselves a molten calf and worshiping it, sacrificing to it and crying out, ‘This is your God, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!’” I see how stiff-necked this people is,” continued the LORD to Moses. “Let me alone, then, that my wrath may blaze up against them to consume them. Then I will make of you a great nation.”

But Moses implored the LORD, his God, saying, “Why, O LORD, should your wrath blaze up against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with so strong a hand? Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and how you swore to them by your own self, saying, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; with such great power and with so strong a hand? I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.’”

So the LORD relented in the punishment he had threatened to inflict on his people.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19)

R. (Luke 15:18) I will rise and go to my father. Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; and your holy spirit take not from me.—R.

A clean heart create for me, O God, thorough wash me from my guilt; and a steadfast spirit renew within me. And of my sin cleanse me.—R.

For those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life. Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. And how you swore to them by your own self, saying, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; with such great power and with so strong a hand? I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.’”

So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.’” So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But his father ordered his servants, “Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.” Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, “Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.” He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, ‘Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns, who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf!’ He said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

Only shorter form of Gospel is given below.

FIRST READING   (Ex 32:7-11, 13-14)
A reading from the Book of Exodus:

THE LORD said to Moses,
"Go down at once to your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, for they have become depraved.
They have soon turned aside from the way I pointed out to them, making for themselves a molten calf and worshipping it, sacrificing to it and crying out, 'This is your God, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!
I see how stiff-necked this people is," continued the LORD to Moses. "Let me alone, then, that my wrath may blaze up against them to consume them.
Then I will make of you a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD, his God, saying, "Why, O LORD, should your wrath blaze up against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with so strong a hand? Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and how you swore to them by your own self, saying, "I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; and all this land that I promised, I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage."
So the LORD relented in the punishment he had threatened to inflict on his people.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19)

R. (Luke 15:18) I will rise and go to my father.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.—R.

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your holy spirit take not from me.—R.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Tim 1:12-17)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

BELOVED:
I am grateful to him who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry.

I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and arrogant, but I have been mercifully treated because I acted out of ignorance in my unbelief. Indeed, the grace of our Lord has been abundant, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost. But for that reason I was mercifully treated, so that in me, as the foremost, Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life. To the king of ages, incorruptible, invisible, the only God, honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (2 Corinthians 5:19)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.—R.

GOSPEL   (Shorter form: Lk 15:1-10)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

TAX collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So to them he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'

I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

"Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.'

In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING  (Is 55:6-9)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

SEEK the LORD while he may be found,  
call him while he is near.  
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,  
and the wicked his thoughts;  
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;  
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so high are my ways above your ways  
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18)

R. (18a) The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Every day will I bless you,  
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.—R.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The Lord is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.—R.

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and holy in all his works.
The Lord is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.—R.

SECOND READING  (Phil 1:20c-24, 27a)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

BROTHERS and sisters:  
Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.  
For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.  
If I go on living in the flesh,  
that means fruitful labor for me.  
And I do not know which I shall choose.  
I am caught between the two.  
I long to depart this life and be with Christ,  
for that is far better.  
Yet that I remain in the flesh  
is more necessary for your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. Acts 16:14b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
FIRST READING  (Wis 2:12, 17-20)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

THE wicked say:
Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us;
he sets himself against our doings,
reproaches us for transgressions of the law
and charges us with violations of our training.
Let us see whether his words be true;
let us find out what will happen to him.
For if the just one be the son of God, God will defend him
and deliver him from the hand of his foes.
With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test
that we may have proof of his gentleness
and try his patience.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death;
for according to his own words, God will take care of him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6-8)

R. (6b) The Lord upholds my life.

O God, by your name save me,
and by your might defend my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
hearken to the words of my mouth.—R.

For the haughty men have risen up against me,
the ruthless seek my life;
they set not God before their eyes.—R.

Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord sustains my life.
Freely will I offer you sacrifice;
I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.—R.

SECOND READING  (Jas 3:16-4:3)

A reading from the Letter of Saint James:

BELOVED:
Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,
there is disorder and every foul practice.
But the wisdom from above is first of all pure,
then peaceable, gentle, compliant,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without inconstancy or insincerity.
And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace
for those who cultivate peace.

Where do the wars
and where do the conflicts among you come from?
Is it not from your passions
that make war within your members?
You covet but do not possess.
You kill and envy but you cannot obtain;
you fight and wage war.
You do not possess because you do not ask.
You ask but do not receive,

because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:14)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God has called us through the Gospel
to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 9:30-37)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS and his disciples left from there and began a journey
through Galilee,
but he did not wish anyone to know about it.
He was teaching his disciples and telling them,
"The Son of Man is to be handed over to men
and they will kill him,
and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise."
But they did not understand the saying,
and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house,
he began to ask them,
"What were you arguing about on the way?"
But they remained silent.
They had been discussing among themselves on the way
who was the greatest.
Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them,
"If anyone wishes to be first,
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."
Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst,
and putting his arms around it, he said to them,
"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me;
and whoever receives me,
receives not me but the One who sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Am 8:4-7)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos:

HEAR this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land! "When will the new moon be over," you ask, "that we may sell our grain, and the sabbath, that we may display the wheat? We will diminish the ephah, add to the shekel, and fix our scales for cheating! We will buy the lowly for silver, and the poor for a pair of sandals; even the refuse of the wheat we will sell!"
The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they have done!
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8)
R. (cf. 1a, 7b) Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.
or:
R. Alleluia.
Praise, you servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord both now and forever.—R.

High above all nations is the Lord; above the heavens is his glory. Who is like the Lord, our God, who is enthroned on high and looks upon the heavens and the earth below?—R.

He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor to seat them with princes, with the princes of his own people.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Tim 2:1-8)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

BELoved:
First of all, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time. For this I was appointed preacher and apostle—I am speaking the truth, I am not lying—, teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:9)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ JESUS said to his disciples, ]
"A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.'
The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.'
He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.'
Then to another the steward said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.'
The steward said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.'
And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. [ The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones.
If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?
If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours?
No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Ez 18:25-28)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THUS says the LORD:
You say, "The LORD's way is not fair!"
Hear now, house of Israel:
Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?
When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies,
it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die.
But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed,
he does what is right and just,
his life is preserved;
since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed,
his life is surely preserved, he shall not die.

The Lord says:—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14)

R. (6a) Remember your mercies, O Lord.
Your ways, O Lord, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior.—R.

Remember that your compassion, O Lord,
your love is from of old;
The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not;
in your kindness remember me,because of your goodness, O Lord.—R.

Good and upright is the Lord;thus he shows sinners the way.He guides the humble to justice,and teaches the humble his way.—R.

SECOND READING   (Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ BROTHERS and sisters:
If there is any encouragement in Christ,
any solace in love,
your participation in the Spirit,
your compassion and mercy,
complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love,united in heart, thinking one thing.
Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory;
rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,
each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude
that is also in Christ Jesus,]

Who, though he was in the form of God,did not regard equality with God

something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,taking the form of a slave,coming in human likeness;and found human in appearance,he humbled himself,becoming obedient to the point of death,even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted himand bestowed on him the name which is above every name,that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 10:27)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;I know them, and they follow me.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 21:28-32)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to the chief priests and elders of the people:
"What is your opinion?A man had two sons.
He came to the first and said,'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'He said in reply, 'I will not,'but afterwards changed his mind and went.
The man came to the other son and gave the same order.
He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, but did not go.
Which of the two did his father's will?'
They answered, "The first."
Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutesare entering the kingdom of God before you.
When John came to you in the way of righteousness,you did not believe him;
but tax collectors and prostitutes did.
Yet even when you saw that,you did not later change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Nm 11:25-29)

A reading from the Book of Numbers:

THE LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses, the Lord bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied. Now two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had been left in the camp. They too had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent; yet the spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp. So, when a young man quickly told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp," Joshua, son of Nun, who from his youth had been Moses' aide, said, "Moses, my lord, stop them." But Moses answered him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!"

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14)

R. (9a) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.—R.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.—R.

Though your servant is careful of them, very diligent in keeping them, Yet who can detect failings? Cleanse me from my unknown faults!—R.

From wanton sin especially, restrain your servant; let it not rule over me. Then shall I be blameless and innocent of serious sin.—R.

SECOND READING   (Jas 5:1-6)

A reading from the Letter of Saint James:

COME now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (cf. John 17:17b, 17a)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

AT that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING   (Am 6:1a, 4-7)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos:

THUS says the Lord the God of hosts:
Woe to the complacent in Zion!
Lying upon beds of ivory,
stretched comfortably on their couches,
ethey eat lambs taken from the flock,
and calves from the stall!
Improvising to the music of the harp,
like David, they devise their own accompaniment.
They drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the best oils;
yet they are not made ill by the collapse of Joseph!
Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile,
and their wanton revelry shall be done away with.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10)
R. (1b) Praise the Lord, my soul!
or:
Alleluia.
Blessed he who keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets captives free.—R.
The LORD gives sight to the blind.
The LORD raises up those who were bowed down.
The LORD loves the just.
the LORD protects strangers.—R.
The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.
The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Tm 6:11-16)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

BUT you, man of God, pursue righteousness,
devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.
Compete well for the faith.
Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called
when you made the noble confession in the presence of
many witnesses.
I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession,
to keep the commandment without stain or reproach
until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ
that the blessed and only ruler
will make manifest at the proper time,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light,
and whom no human being has seen or can see.
To him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:9)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 16:19-31)
+A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS said to the Pharisees:
“There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen
dined sumptuously each day.
And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,
who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps
that fell from the rich man's table.
Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.
When the poor man died,
he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham.
The rich man also died and was buried,
and from the netherworld, where he was in torment,
he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off
and Lazarus at his side.
And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me.
Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue,
for I am suffering torment in these flames.'
Abraham replied,
‘My child, remember that you received
what was good during your lifetime
while Lazarus likewise received what was bad;
but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.
Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established
to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go
from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'
He said, 'Then I beg you, father,
send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers,
lest they too come to this place of torment.'
But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets.
Let them listen to them.'
He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham,
but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'
Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets,
neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING (Is 5:1-7)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

LET me now sing of my friend, my friend's song concerning his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside;
he spaded it, cleared it of stones,
and planted the choicest vines;
within it he built a watchtower, and hewed out a wine press.
Then he looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes.

Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard:
What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done?
Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?
Now, I will let you know what I mean to do with my vineyard:
take away its hedge, give it to grazing, break through its wall, let it be trampled!
Yes, I will make it a ruin: it shall not be pruned or hoed, but overgrown with thorns and briers;
I will command the clouds not to send rain upon it.
The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished plant;
he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! for justice, but hark, the outcry!
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20)
R. (Is 5:7a) The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

A vine from Egypt you transplanted; you drove away the nations and planted it.
It put forth its foliage to the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.—R.

Why have you broken down its walls, so that every passer-by plucks its fruit,
The boar from the forest lays it waste, and the beasts of the field feed upon it?—R.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.—R.

Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.
O LORD, God of hosts, restore us; if your face shine upon us, then we shall be saved.—R.

SECOND READING (Phil 4:6-9)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (cf. John 15:16)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will remain.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 21:33-43)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:
"Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'This is the heir. They will respect my son.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?' They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?"

Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Gn 2:18-24)

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

THE LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him."

So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6)

R. (cf. 5) May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Blessed are you who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.—R.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.—R.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.—R.

May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!—R.

SECOND READING (Heb 2:9-11)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters: He "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting that he,

for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin.

Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (1 John 4:12)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is brought to perfection in us.—R.

GOSPEL (Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ THE Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"
They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?"
They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her."
But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment.
But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate."
In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." ]

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING   (Heb 1:2-3; 2:2-4)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk:

HOW long, O LORD? I cry for help but you do not listen!
I cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not intervene.
Why do you let me see ruin;
why must I look at misery?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and clamorous discord.

Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets,
so that one can read it readily.
For the vision still has its time,
presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint;
if it delays, wait for it,
it will surely come, it will not be late.
The rash one has no integrity;
but the just one, because of his faith, shall live.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.—R.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.—R.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works."—R.

SECOND READING   (2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

BELOVED:
I remind you, to stir into flame
the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.
For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice
but rather of power and love and self-control.
So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord,
nor of me, a prisoner for his sake;
but bear your share of hardship for the gospel
with the strength that comes from God.

Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit
that dwells within us.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (1 Peter 1:25)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord remains for ever.
This is the word that has been proclaimed to you.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 17:5-10)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THE apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."
The Lord replied,
"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,
you would say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your servant
who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field,
'Come here immediately and take your place at table'?
Would he not rather say to him,
'Prepare something for me to eat.
Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink.
You may eat and drink when I am finished'?
Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?
So should it be with you.
When you have done all you have been commanded,
say, 'We are unprofitable servants;
we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING   (Is 25:6-10a)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

ON this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples
a feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
the web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from every face;
the reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6)
R. (6cd) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.—R.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage.—R.
You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.—R.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.—R.

SECOND READING   (Phil 4:12-14, 19-20)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
I know how to live in humble circumstances;
I know also how to live with abundance.
In every circumstance and in all things
I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry,
of living in abundance and of being in need.
I can do all things in him who strengthens me.
Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress.

My God will fully supply whatever you need,
in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (cf. Ephesians 1:17-18)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so
that we may know what is the hope
that belongs to our call.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ JESUS again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying,
"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king
who gave a wedding feast for his son.
He dispatched his servants
to summon the invited guests to the feast,
but they refused to come.
A second time he sent other servants, saying,
'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet,
my calves and fattened cattle are killed,
and everything is ready; come to the feast."]
Some ignored the invitation and went away,
one to his farm, another to his business.
The rest laid hold of his servants,
mistreated them, and killed them.
The king was enraged and sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready,
but those who were invited were not worthy to come.
Go out, therefore, into the main roads
and invite to the feast whomever you find.'
The servants went out into the streets
and gathered all they found, bad and good alike,
and the hall was filled with guests.
But when the king came in to meet the guests,
he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment.
The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it
that you came in here without a wedding garment?'
But he was reduced to silence.
Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet,
and cast him into the darkness outside,
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'
Many are invited, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Wis 7:7-11)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

I PRAYED, and prudence was given me; I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepter and throne, and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand, and before her, silver is to be accounted mire. Beyond health and comeliness I loved her, and I chose to have her rather than the light, because the splendor of her never yields to sleep. Yet all good things together came to me in her company, and countless riches at her hands.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17)

R. (14) Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy! Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!—R.

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. Make us glad, for the days when you afflicted us, for the years when we saw evil.—R.

Let your work be seen by your servants and your glory by their children; and may the gracious care of the Lord our God be ours; prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands!—R.

SECOND READING (Heb 4:12-13)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters: Indeed the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Matthew 5:3)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—R.

GOSPEL (Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

AS Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.” He replied and said to him, “Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.” ] Peter began to say to him, “We have given up everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.” The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (2 Kgs 5:14-17)

A reading from the second Book of Kings:

NAAMAN went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times at the word of Elisha, the man of God. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean of his leprosy.

Naaman returned with his whole retinue to the man of God. On his arrival he stood before Elisha and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel. Please accept a gift from your servant."

Elisha replied, "As the LORD lives whom I serve, I will not take it;" and despite Naaman's urging, he still refused. Naaman said: "If you will not accept, please let me, your servant, have two mule-loads of earth, for I will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any other god except to the LORD."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 4-4)

R. (cf. 2b) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.—R.

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.—R.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands: break into song; sing praise.—R.

SECOND READING   (2 Tm 2:8-13)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

BELOVED:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 17:11-19)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

AS Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!"

And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan.

Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Is 45:1, 4-6)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THUS says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,
whose right hand I grasp,
subduing nations before him,
and making kings run in his service,
opening doors before him
and leaving the gates unbarred:
For the sake of Jacob, my servant,
of Israel, my chosen one,
I have called you by your name,
giving you a title, though you knew me not.
I am the LORD and there is no other,
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you, though you know me not,
so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun
people may know that there is none besides me.
I am the LORD, there is no other.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10)

R. (7b) Give the Lord glory and honor.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.—R.

For great is the LORD and highly to be praised;
awesome is he, beyond all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are things of nought,
but the LORD made the heavens.—R.

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his name!
Bring gifts, and enter his courts.—R.

Worship the LORD, in holy attire;
tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations: The LORD is king,
he governs the peoples with equity.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Thes 1:1-5b)

The beginning of the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

PAUL, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers,
unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love
and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ,
before our God and Father,
knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God,
how you were chosen.
For our gospel did not come to you in word alone,
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—B

FIRST READING   (Is 53:10-11)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:
THE LORD was pleased
   to crush him in infirmity.
If he gives his life as an offering for sin,
   he shall see his descendants in a long life,
   and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.
Because of his affliction
   he shall see the light in fullness of days;
through his suffering, my servant shall justify many,
and their guilt he shall bear.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22)
R. (22) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.
Upright is the word of the LORD,
   and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
   of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.—R.
See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
   upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death
   and preserve them in spite of famine.—R.
Our soul waits for the LORD,
   who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us
   who have put our hope in you.—R.

SECOND READING   (Heb 4:14-16)
A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:
BROTHERS and sisters:
Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
   Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast to our confession.
For we do not have a high priest
   who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but one who has similarly been tested in every way,
yet without sin.
So let us confidently approach the throne of grace
   to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Mark 10:45)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.
The Son of Man came to serve
   and to give his life as a ransom for many.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:
   [ Shorter form in brackets. ]
JAMES and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him,
   "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."
He replied, "What do you wish me to do for you?"
They answered him, "Grant that in your glory
   we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."
Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking.
Can you drink the cup that I drink
   or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"
They said to him, "We can."
Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink,
   and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;
   but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give
but is for those for whom it has been prepared."
When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.
[ Jesus summoned them and said to them,
   "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles
   lord it over them,
   and their great ones make their authority over them felt.
But it shall not be so among you.
Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant;
   whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.
For the Son of Man did not come to be served
   but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." ]
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Ex 17:8-13)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

IN those days, Amalek came and waged war against Israel.
Moses, therefore, said to Joshua,
"Pick out certain men, and tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle.
I will be standing on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand."
So Joshua did as Moses told him:
he engaged Amalek in battle after Moses had climbed to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur.
As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight.
Moses' hands, however, grew tired; so they put a rock in place for him to sit on.
Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other, so that his hands remained steady till sunset.
And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8)

R. (cf. 2) Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes toward the mountains; whence shall help come to me?
My help is from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.—R.

May he not suffer your foot to slip; may he slumber not who guards you:
indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps, the guardian of Israel.—R.

The LORD is your guardian; the LORD is your shade; he is beside you at your right hand.
The sun shall not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.—R.

The LORD will guard you from all evil; he will guard your life.
The LORD will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Tm 3:14-4:2)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

BELOVED:
Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Hebrews 4:12)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of God is living and effective, discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 18:1-8)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.
He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being.
And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary,'
For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'"
The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Ex 22:20-26)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

THUS says the Lord:
"You shall not molest or oppress an alien,
for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.
You shall not wrong any widow or orphan.
If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me,
I will surely hear their cry.
My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword;
then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.
"If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people,
you shall not act like an extortioner toward him
by demanding interest from him.
If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge,
you shall return it to him before sunset;
for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body.
What else has he to sleep in?
If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51)

R. (2) I love you, Lord, my strength.
I love you, O LORD, my strength,
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.—R.

My God, my rock of refuge,
my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold!
Praised be the LORD, I exclaim,
and I am safe from my enemies.—R.

The LORD lives and blessed be my rock!
Exalted be God my savior.
You who gave great victories to your king
and showed kindness to your anointed.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Thes 1:5c-10)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
You know what sort of people we were among you for your sake.
And you became imitators of us and of the Lord,
receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from
the Holy Spirit,
so that you became a model for all the believers
in Macedonia and in Achaia.
For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth
not only in Macedonia and in Achaia,
but in every place your faith in God has gone forth,
so that we have no need to say anything.
For they themselves openly declare about us
what sort of reception we had among you,
and how you turned to God from idols
to serve the living and true God
and to await his Son from heaven,
whom he raised from the dead.

Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (John 14:23)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Whoever loves me, will keep my word,
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 22:34-40)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

WHEN the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees,
they gathered together, and one of them,
a scholar of the law tested him by asking,
"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"
He said to him,
"You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your mind.
This is the greatest and the first commandment.
The second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Jer 31:7-9)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

THUS says the LORD:
Shout with joy for Jacob,
exult at the head of the nations;
proclaim your praise and say:
The LORD has delivered his people,
the remnant of Israel.
Behold, I will bring them back
from the land of the north;
I will gather them from the ends of the world,
with the blind and the lame in their midst,
the mothers and those with child;
they shall return as an immense throng.
They departed in tears,
but I will console them and guide them;
I will lead them to brooks of water,
on a level road, so that none shall stumble.
For I am a father to Israel,
Ephraim is my first-born.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6)

R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming,
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with rejoicing.—R.

Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed.—R.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those that sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing.—R.

Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves.—R.

SECOND READING  (Heb 5:1-6)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Every high priest is taken from among men
and made their representative before God,
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring,
for he himself is beset by weakness
and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself
as well as for the people.
No one takes this honor upon himself

but only when called by God,
just as Aaron was.
In the same way,
it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest,
but rather the one who said to him:
You are my son:
this day I have begotten you;
just as he says in another place:
You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. 2 Timothy 1:10)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed death
and brought life to light through the Gospel.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 10:46-52)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

AS Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd,
Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus,
sat by the roadside begging.
On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth,
he began to cry out and say,
"Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."
And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.
But he kept calling out all the more,
"Son of David, have pity on me."
Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."
So they called the blind man, saying to him,
"Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you."
He threw aside his cloak, sprang up,
and came to Jesus.
Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?"
The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."
Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you."
Immediately he received his sight
and followed him on the way.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Sir 35:12-14, 16-18)

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

THE LORD is a God of justice, who knows no favorites. Though not unduly partial toward the weak, yet he hears the cry of the oppressed. The Lord is not deaf to the wail of the orphan, nor to the widow when she pours out her complaint. The one who serves God willingly is heard; his petition reaches the heavens. The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest till it reaches its goal, nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds, judges justly and affirms the right, and the Lord will not delay.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23)

R. (7a) The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad.—R.

The LORD confronts the evildoers, to destroy remembrance of them from the earth. When the just cry out, the Lord hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them.—R.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves. The LORD redeems the lives of his servants; no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

BELOVED:
I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

At my first defense no one appeared on my behalf, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.

To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL  (Lk 18:9-14)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.

"Two people went up to the temple area to pray: one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A

FIRST READING (Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi:

A GREAT King am I, says the LORD of hosts, 
and my name will be feared among the nations. 
And now, O priests, this commandment is for you: 
If you do not listen, 
if you do not lay it to heart, 
to give glory to my name, says the LORD of hosts, 
I will send a curse upon you 
and of your blessing I will make a curse. 
You have turned aside from the way, 
and have caused many to falter by your instruction; 
you have made void the covenant of Levi, 
says the LORD of hosts. 
I, therefore, have made you contemptible 
and base before all the people, 
since you do not keep my ways, 
but show partiality in your decisions. 
Have we not all the one father? 
Has not the one God created us? 
Why then do we break faith with one another, 
violating the covenant of our fathers?

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 131:1, 2, 3)

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O LORD, my heart is not proud, 
nor are my eyes haughty; 
I busy not myself with great things, 
nor with things too sublime for me.—R.

Nay rather, I have stilled and quieted 
my soul like a weaned child. 
Like a weaned child on its mother's lap, 
so is my soul within me.—R.

O Israel, hope in the LORD, 
both now and forever.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

BROTHERS and sisters: 
We were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children. 
With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you 
not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, 
so dearly beloved had you become to us. 
You recall, brothers and sisters, our toil and drudgery. 
Working night and day in order not to burden any of you, 
we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 
And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, 
that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, 
you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, 
which is now at work in you who believe.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Matthew 23:9b, 10b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You have but one Father in heaven 
and one master, the Christ.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 23:1-12)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, 
"The scribes and the Pharisees 
have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. 
Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, 
but do not follow their example. 
For they preach but they do not practice. 
They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry 
and lay them on people's shoulders, 
but they will not lift a finger to move them. 
All their works are performed to be seen. 
They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. 
They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, 
greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' 
As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' 
You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. 
Call no one on earth your father; 
you have but one Father in heaven. 
Do not be called 'Master'; 
you have but one master, the Christ. 
The greatest among you must be your servant. 
Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; 
but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Deut 6:2-6)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

MOSES spoke to the people, saying:

"Fear the LORD, your God,
and keep, throughout the days of your lives,
all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you,
and thus have long life.

Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them,
that you may grow and prosper the more,
in keeping with the promise of the LORD, the God of your fathers,
to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God,
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your strength.
Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today."

The word of the Lord.—R. thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51)

R. (2) I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, O LORD, my strength,
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.—R.

My God, my rock of refuge,
my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold!
Praised be the LORD, I exclaim,
and I am safe from my enemies.—R.

The LORD lives! And blessed be my rock!
Exulted be God my savior.
You who gave great victories to your king
and showed kindness to your anointed.—R.

SECOND READING   (Heb 7:23-28)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters:
The levitical priests were many
because they were prevented by death from remaining in office,
but Jesus, because he remains forever,
has a priesthood that does not pass away.
Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him,
since he lives forever to make intercession for them.

It was fitting that we should have such a high priest:
holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners,
higher than the heavens.
He has no need, as did the high priests,
to offer sacrifice day after day,
first for his own sins and then for those of the people;
he did that once for all when he offered himself.
For the law appoints men subject to weakness to be high priests,
but the word of the oath, which was taken after the law,
appoints a son,
who has been made perfect forever.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 14:23)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word,
says the Lord; and my Father will love him
and we will come to him.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 12:28b-34)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

ONE of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him,
"Which is the first of all the commandments?"
Jesus replied, "The first is this:
Hear, O Israel!
The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
The second is this:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these."
The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher.
You are right in saying,
'He is One and there is no other than he.'
And 'to love him with all your heart,
with all your understanding,
with all your strength,
and to love your neighbor as yourself'
is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."
And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding,
he said to him,
"You are not far from the kingdom of God."
And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Wis 11:22-12:2)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

BEFORE the LORD the whole universe is as a grain from a balance or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook people's sins that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O LORD and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things! Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O LORD!

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14)

R. (cf. 1) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. I will extol you, O my God and King, and I will bless your name forever and ever.—R.

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.—R.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD, and let your faithful ones bless you. Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might.—R.

The LORD is faithful in all his words and holy in all his works. The LORD lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.—R.

SECOND READING   (2 Thes 1:11-2:2)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

BROTHERS and sisters: We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask you, brothers and sisters, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling with him, not to be shaken out of your minds suddenly, or to be alarmed either by a “spirit,” or by an oral statement, or by a letter allegedly from us to the effect that the day of the Lord is at hand.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (John 3:16)

R. Alleluia, alleluia. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 19:1-10)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

AT that time, Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Wis 6:12-16)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

RESPLENDENT and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire; Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for she shall find her sitting by his gate.

For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care; because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8)

R. (2b) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.—R.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.—R.

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.—R.

I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night-watches I will meditate on you: You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Matthew 24:42a, 44)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 25:1-13)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS told his disciples this parable:

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (1 Kgs 17:10-16)

A reading from the first Book of Kings:

IN those days, Elijah the prophet went to Zarephath.
As he arrived at the entrance of the city,
a widow was gathering sticks there; he called out to her,
"Please bring me a small cupful of water to drink."
She left to get it, and he called out after her,
"Please bring along a bit of bread."
She answered, "As the LORD, your God, lives,
I have nothing baked; there is only a handful of flour in my jar
and a little oil in my jug.
Just now I was collecting a couple of sticks,
to go in and prepare something for myself and my son;
when we have eaten it, we shall die."
Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid.
Go and do as you propose.
But first make me a little cake and bring it to me.
Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son.
For the LORD, the God of Israel, says,
'The jar of flour shall not go empty,
nor the jug of oil run dry,
until the day when the LORD sends rain upon the earth.'"
She left and did as Elijah had said.
She was able to eat for a year, and he and her son as well;
the jar of flour did not go empty,
nor the jug of oil run dry,
as the LORD had foretold through Elijah.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10)

R. (1b) Praise the Lord, my soul!
or:
R. Alleluia.

The LORD keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets captives free.—R.
The LORD gives sight to the blind.
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down;
The LORD loves the just;
the LORD protects strangers.—R.
The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.
The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.—R.

SECOND READING   (Heb 9:24-28)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

CHRIST did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands,
a copy of the true one, but heaven itself,
that he might now appear before God on our behalf.
But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages
to take away sin by his sacrifice.
Just as it is appointed that human beings die once,
and after this the judgment, so also Christ,
offered once to take away the sins of many,
will appear a second time, not to take away sin
but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Matthew 5:3)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

IN the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds,
"Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes
and accept greetings in the marketplaces,
seats of honor in synagogues,
and places of honor at banquets.
They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext
recite lengthy prayers.
They will receive a very severe condemnation."

[ He sat down opposite the treasury
and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury.
Many rich people put in large sums.
A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.
Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them,
"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more
than all the other contributors to the treasury.
For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth,
but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had,
her whole livelihood." ]

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—C

FIRST READING   (2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14)
A reading from the second Book of Maccabees:

IT happened that seven brothers with their mother were arrested and tortured with whips and scourges by the king, to force them to eat pork in violation of God's law. One of the brothers, speaking for the others, said: "What do you expect to achieve by questioning us? We are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors."

At the point of death he said: "You accursed fiend, you are depriving us of this present life, but the King of the world will raise us up to live again forever. It is for his laws that we are dying."

After him the third suffered their cruel sport. He put out his tongue at once when told to do so, and bravely held out his hands, as he spoke these noble words: "It was from Heaven that I received these; for the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him I hope to receive them again."

Even the king and his attendants marveled at the young man's courage, because he regarded his sufferings as nothing.

After he had died, they tortured and maltreated the fourth brother in the same way. When he was near death, he said, "It is my choice to die at the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by him; but for you, there will be no resurrection to life."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15)

R. (15b) Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.

Hear, O LORD, a just suit; attend to my outcry; hearken to my prayer from lips without deceit.—R. My steps have been steadfast in your paths, my feet have not faltered. I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my word.—R.

Keep me as the apple of your eye, hide me in the shadow of your wings. But I in justice shall behold your face; on waking I shall be content in your presence.—R.

SECOND READING   (2 Thes 2:16-3:5)
A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word.

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified, as it did among you, and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked people, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

We are confident of you in the Lord that what we instruct you, you are doing and will continue to do. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Revelation 1:5a, 6b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ is the first born of the dead; to him be glory and power, forever and ever.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ SOME Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, came forward ] and put this question to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us, If someone's brother dies leaving a wife but no child, his brother must take the wife and raise up descendants for his brother.

Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman but died childless. Then the second and the third married her, and likewise all the seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. Now at the resurrection whose wife will that woman be? For all seven had been married to her."

[ Jesus said to them, "The children of this age marry and remarry; but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.

They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise. That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called out 'Lord,' the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive." ]

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31)

A reading from the Book of Proverbs:

WHEN one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and works with loving hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a reward for her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5)

R. (cf. 1a) Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Blessed are you who fear the LORD,
who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
blessed shall you be, and favored.—R.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
in the recesses of your home;
Your children like olive plants
around your table.—R.

Behold, thus is the man blessed
who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you from Zion:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Thes 5:1-6)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

CONCERNING times and seasons, brothers and sisters,
you have no need for anything to be written to you.
For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come
like a thief at night.
When people are saying, "Peace and security,"
then sudden disaster comes upon them,
like labor pains upon a pregnant woman,
and they will not escape.
But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness,
for that day to overtake you like a thief.
For all of you are children of the light
and children of the day.
We are not of the night or of darkness.
Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do,
but let us stay alert and sober.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (John 15:4a, 5b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

JESUS told his disciples this parable:
"A man going on a journey
called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them.
To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one-
to each according to his ability.

Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them,
and made another five.
Likewise, the one who received two made another five.
But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground
and buried his master's money.

Then the one who received two talents also came forward and said,
'Master, you gave me two talents.
See, I have made two more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Dn 12:1-3)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel:

IN those days, I Daniel,
heard this word of the Lord:
"At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince, 
guardian of your people;
it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;
some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
and those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11)

R. (1) You are my inheritance, O Lord!
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.
I set the LORD ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.—R.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.—R.

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.—R.

SECOND READING (Heb 10:11-14, 18)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Every priest stands daily at his ministry,
offering frequently those same sacrifices
that can never take away sins.
But this one offered one sacrifice for sins,
and took his seat forever at the right hand of God;
now he waits until his enemies are made his footstool.
For by one offering
he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated.

Where there is forgiveness of these,
there is no longer offering for sin.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Luke 21:36)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Be vigilant at all times
and pray that you have the strength to stand before
the Son of Man.—R.

GOSPEL (Mk 13:24-32)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS said to his disciples:
"In those days after that tribulation
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from the sky,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds'
with great power and glory,
and then he will send out the angels
and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree.
When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves,
you know that summer is near.
In the same way, when you see these things happening,
know that he is near, at the gates.
Amen, I say to you,
this generation will not pass away
until all these things have taken place.
Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.

"But of that day or hour, no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Mal 3:19-20a)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi:

LO, the day is coming, blazing like an oven,
when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble,
and the day that is coming will set them on fire,
leaving them neither root nor branch,
says the LORD of hosts.
But for you who fear my name, there will arise
the sun of justice with its healing rays.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9)

R. (cf. 9) The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.—R.

Let the sea and what fills it resound,
the world and those who dwell in it;
let the rivers clap their hands,
the mountains shout with them for joy.—R.

Before the LORD, for he comes,
for he comes to rule the earth,
He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with equity.—R.

SECOND READING (2 Thes 3:7-12)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
You know how one must imitate us.
For we did not act in a disorderly way among you,
nor did we eat food received free from anyone.
On the contrary, in toil and drudgery, night and day
we worked, so as not to burden any of you.
Not that we do not have the right.
Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you,
so that you might imitate us.
In fact, when we were with you,
we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work,
neither should that one eat.
We hear that some are conducting themselves among you in a disorderly way,
by not keeping busy but minding the business of others.
Such people we instruct and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly
and to eat their own food.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Luke 21:28)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Stand erect and raise your heads

because your redemption is at hand.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 21:5-19)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

WHILE some people were speaking about
how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings,
Jesus said, “All that you see here—
the days will come when there will not be left
a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

Then they asked him,
“Teacher, when will this happen?
And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?”
He answered,
“See that you not be deceived,
for many will come in my name, saying,
‘I am he,’ and ‘The time has come.’
Do not follow them!
When you hear of wars and insurrections,
do not be terrified; for such things must happen first,
but it will not immediately be the end.”

Then he said to them,
“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues
from place to place;
and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

"Before all this happens, however,
they will seize and persecute you,
they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons,
and they will have you led before kings and governors
because of my name.
It will lead to your giving testimony.
Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand,
for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking
that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.
You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives,
and friends,
and they will put some of you to death.
You will be hated by all because of my name,
but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.
By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Ez 34:11-12, 15-17)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THUS says the Lord GOD:
I myself will look after and tend my sheep.
As a shepherd tends his flock
when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,
so will I tend my sheep.
I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered
when it was cloudy and dark.
I myself will pasture my sheep;
I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD.
The lost I will seek out,
the strayed I will bring back,
the injured I will bind up,
the sick I will heal,
but the sleek and the strong I will destroy,
shepherding them rightly.

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD,
I will judge between one sheep and another,
between rams and goats.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6)

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose.—R.

Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.—R.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.—R.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Cor 15:20-26, 28)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
then comes the end,
when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father,
when he has destroyed every sovereignty
and every authority and power.
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
When everything is subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected
to the one who subjected everything to him,
so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Mark 11:9, 10)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 25:31-46)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his disciples:
"When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him,
he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.
And he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
Then the king will say to those on his right,
'Come, you who are blessed by 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,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
il and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.'
Then the righteous will answer him and say,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you drink?
When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,
or naked and clothe you?
When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'
And the king will say to them in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did
for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.'
Then he will say to those on his left,
'Depart from me, you accursed,
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
For I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you gave me no welcome,
naked and you gave me no clothing,
il and in prison, and you did not care for me.'
Then they will answer and say,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison,
and not minister to your needs?'
He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you,
what you did not do for one of these least ones,
you did not do for me.'
And these will go off to eternal punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Dn 7:13-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel:

AS the visions during the night continued, I saw one like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven; when he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, the one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 93:1, 1-2, 5)

R. (1a) The LORD is king; he is robed in majesty.

The LORD is king, in splendor robed; robed is the LORD and girt about with strength.—R.

And he has made the world firm, not to be moved.
Your throne stands firm from of old; from everlasting you are, O Lord.—R.

Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits your house, O Lord, for length of days.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rev 1:5-8)

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

JESUS Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. All the peoples of the earth will lament him.

Yes. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Mark 11:9, 10)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 18:33b-37)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

PILATE said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"
Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?"
Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"
Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here."
So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"
Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (2 Sam 5:1-3)

A reading from the second Book of Samuel:

IN those days, all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said:
"Here we are, your bone and your flesh.
In days past, when Saul was our king,
it was you who led the Israelites out and brought them back.
And the LORD said to you,
'You shall shepherd my people Israel
and shall be commander of Israel.'"
When all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron,
King David made an agreement with them there before the LORD,
and they anointed him king of Israel.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5)

R. (cf. 1) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,
"We will go up to the house of the LORD."
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem.—R.

Jerusalem, built as a city
with compact unity.
To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD.—R.

According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David.—R.

SECOND READING (Col 1:12-20)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Let us give thanks to the Father,
who has made you fit to share
in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.
He delivered us from the power of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers;
all things were created through him and for him.
He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in all things he himself might be preeminent.
For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile all things for him,
making peace by the blood of his cross
through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Nm 6:22-27)

A reading from the Book of Numbers:

THE LORD said to Moses:

"Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them:
This is how you shall bless the Israelites.
Say to them:
The LORD bless you and keep you!
The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!
The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!
So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8)

R. (2a) May God bless us in his mercy.
May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.
So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.—R.

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.—R.

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear him!—R.

SECOND READING  (Gal 4:4-7)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law,
to ransom those under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.
As proof that you are sons,
God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying out, “Abba, Father!”
So you are no longer a slave but a son,
and if a son then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Hebrews 1:1-2)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 2:16-21)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THE shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph,
and the infant lying in the manger.
When they saw this,
they made known the message
that had been told them about this child.
All who heard it were amazed
by what had been told them by the shepherds.
And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart.
Then the shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen,
just as it had been told to them.
When eight days were completed for his circumcision,
he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel
before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Mal 3:1-4)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi:

THUS says the Lord God:
Lo, I am sending my messenger
to prepare the way before me;
And suddenly there will come to the temple
the LORD whom you seek,
And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire.
Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
But who will endure the day of his coming?
And who can stand when he appears?
For he is like the refiner's fire,
or like the fuller's lye.
He will sit refining and purifying silver,
and he will purify the sons of Levi,
Refining them like gold or like silver
that they may offer due sacrifice to the LORD.
Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem
will please the LORD,
as in the days of old, as in years gone by.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10)

R. (8) Who is this king of glory?  It is the Lord!

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;
reach up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may come in!—R.

Who is this king of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle.—R.

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;
reach up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may come in!—R.

Who is this king of glory?
The LORD of hosts; he is the king of glory.—R.

SECOND READING   (Heb 2:14-18)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

SINCE the children share in blood and flesh,
Jesus likewise shared in them,
that through death he might destroy the one
who has the power of death, that is, the Devil,
and free those who through fear of death
had been subject to slavery all their life.
Surely he did not help angels
but rather the descendants of Abraham;
therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters
in every way,
that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God
to expiate the sins of the people.
Because he himself was tested through what he suffered,
his is able to help those who are being tested.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   Luke 2:32

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A light of revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

[ Shorter form in brackets. ]

[ WHEN the days were completed for their purification
according to the law of Moses,
Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem
to present him to the Lord,
just as it is written in the law of the Lord,
Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,
and to offer the sacrifice of
a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,
in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.
This man was righteous and devout,
awaiting the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit was upon him.
It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he should not see death
before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.
He came in the Spirit into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus
to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,
took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go
in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.” ]

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;
and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,
Behold, this child is destined
for the fall and rise of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be contradicted
—and you yourself a sword will pierce—
so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna,
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was advanced in years,
having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,
and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.
She never left the temple,
but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.
And coming forward at that very time,
she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child
to all who were awaiting the redemption 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, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him.
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16)
A reading from the second Book of Samuel:

THE LORD spoke to Nathan and said:
"Go, tell my servant David,
'then your time comes and you rest with your ancestors,
I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins,
and I will make his kingdom firm.
It is he who shall build a house for my name.
And I will make his royal throne firm forever.
I will be a father to him,
and he shall be a son to me.
Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me;
your throne shall stand firm forever.'"

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29)
R. (37) The son of David will live for ever.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness,
For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”;
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.—R.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations.”—R.

“He shall say of me, ‘You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my savior.’
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm.”—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
It was not through the law
that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants
that he would inherit the world,
but through the righteousness that comes from faith.
For this reason, it depends on faith,
so that it may be a gift,
and the promise may be guaranteed to all his descendants,
not to those who only adhere to the law
but to those who follow the faith of Abraham,
who is the father of all of us, as it is written,
I have made you father of many nations.

He is our father in the sight of God,
in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead
and calls into being what does not exist.
He believed, hoping against hope,
that he would become the "father of many nations",
according to what was said, "Thus shall your descendants be."
That is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA or VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL   (Psalm 84:5)

GOSPEL

A (Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JACOB was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."

When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

OR

B (Lk 2:41-51a)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

EACH year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,
and when he was twelve years old,
they went up according to festival custom.
After they had completed its days, as they were returning,
the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem,
but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan,
they journeyed for a day
and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances,
but not finding him,
they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.
After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions,
and all who heard him were astounded
at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him,
they were astonished,
and his mother said to him,
"Son, why have you done this to us?
Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

And he said to them,
"Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?"
But they did not understand what he said to them.
He went down with them and came to Nazareth,
and was obedient to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD—ABC (March 25)

FIRST READING   (Is 7:10-14; 8:10)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

THE LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying:
Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;
let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky!
But Ahaz answered,
“I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!”
Then Isaiah said:
Listen, O house of David!
Is it not enough for you to weary people,
must you also weary my God?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel,
which means “God is with us!”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11)
R. (8a and 9a) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice or oblation you wished not,
but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
then said I, “Behold I come.”—R.

“In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,
To do your will, O my God, is my delight,
and your law is within my heart!”—R.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly;
I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.—R.

Your justice I kept not hid within my heart;
your faithfulness and your salvation I have spoken of;
I have made no secret of your kindness and your truth
in the vast assembly.—R.

SECOND READING   (Heb 10:4-10)
A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters:
It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats
take away sins.
For this reason, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight.
Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll,
behold, I come to do your will, O God.’”

First he says, “Sacrifices and offerings,
holocausts and sin offerings,
you neither desired nor delighted in.”
These are offered according to the law.
Then he says, “Behold, I come to do your will.”
He takes away the first to establish the second.

By this “will,” we have been consecrated
through the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ once for all.
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA or VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL   (John 1:14ab)
[ R. Alleluia, alleluia. ]
The Word of God became flesh and made his dwelling among us;
and we saw his glory. [ —R. Alleluia, alleluia. ]

GOSPEL   (Lk 1:26-38)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THE angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David,
and the virgin’s name was Mary.
And coming to her, he said,
“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”
But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
Then the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his Kingdom there will be no end.”
But Mary said to the angel,
“How can this be,
since I have no relations with a man?”
And the angel said to her in reply,
“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 holy, the Son of God.
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,
has also conceived a son in her old age,
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;
for nothing will be impossible for God.”
Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.”
Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

EARLY in the morning Moses went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him, taking along the two stone tablets.

Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with Moses there and proclaimed his name, "LORD."

Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out, "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity."

Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship. Then he said, "If I find favor with you, O Lord, do come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56)

R. (52b) Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever; And blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.—R.

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.—R.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.—R.

Blessed are you who look into the depths from your throne upon the cherubim, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Cor 13:11-13)

A reading from second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (cf. Rev 1:8)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
HOLY TRINITY—B (Sunday after Pentecost)

FIRST READING   (Deut 4:32-34, 39-40)
A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

MOSES said to the people:
"Ask now of the days of old, before your time,
ever since God created man upon the earth;
ask from one end of the sky to the other:
Did anything so great ever happen before?
Was it ever heard of?
Did a people ever hear the voice of God
speaking from the midst of fire, as you did, and live?
Or did any god venture to go and take a nation for himself
from the midst of another nation,
by testings, by signs and wonders, by war,
with strong hand and outstretched arm, and by great terrors,
all of which the LORD, your God,
did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?
This is why you must now know,
and fix in your heart, that the LORD is God
in the heavens above and on earth below,
and that there is no other.
You must keep his statutes and commandments that I enjoin on you today,
that you and your children after you may prosper,
and that you may have long life on the land
which the LORD, your God, is giving you forever."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22)
R. (12b) Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the Lord the earth is full.—R.
By the word of the Lord the heavens were made;
by the breath of his mouth all their host.
For he spoke, and it was made;
he commanded, and it stood forth.—R.
See, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine.—R.
Our soul waits for the Lord,
who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 8:14-17)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you received a Spirit of adoption,
through whom we cry, "Abba, Father!"

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Rev 1:8)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 28:16-20)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

THE eleven disciples went to Galilee,
to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.
When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.
Then Jesus approached and said to them,
"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Prv 8:22-31)

A reading from the Book of Proverbs:

THUS says the wisdom of God:
"The LORD possessed me, the beginning of his ways, 
the forerunner of his prodigies of long ago; 
from of old I was poured forth, 
at the first, before the earth. 
When there were no depths I was brought forth, 
when there were no fountains or springs of water; 
before the mountains were settled into place, 
before the hills, I was brought forth; 
while as yet the earth and fields were not made, 
nor the first clods of the world. 

“When the Lord established the heavens I was there, 
when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; 
when he made firm the skies above, 
when he fixed fast the foundations of the earth; 
when he set for the sea its limit, 
so that the waters should not transgress his command; 
then was I beside him as his craftsman, 
and I was his delight day by day, 
playing before him all the while, 
playing on the surface of his earth; 
and I found delight in the human race.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (2a) O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, 
the moon and the stars which you set in place— 
What is man that you should be mindful of him, 
or the son of man that you should care for him?—R.

You have made him little less than the angels, 
and crowned him with glory and honor. 
You have given him rule over the works of your hands, 
putting all things under his feet:—R.

All sheep and oxen, 
yes, and the beasts of the field, 
The birds of the air, the fishes of the sea, 
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.—R.

SECOND READING  (Rom 5:1-5)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters: 
Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, 
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 
through whom we have gained access by faith 
to this grace in which we stand, 
we boast in hope of the glory of God. 
Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, 
knowing that affliction produces endurance, 
and endurance, proven character,
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST—A

FIRST READING  (Deut 8:2-3, 14b-16a)
A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

MOSES said to the people:
"Remember how for forty years now the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD."

"Do not forget the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery; who guided you through the vast and terrible desert with its saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your fathers."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20)
R. (12) Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.
or:
R. Alleluia.
Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you.—R.

He has granted peace in your borders; with the best of wheat he fills you.
He sends forth his command to the earth; swiftly runs his word!—R.

He has proclaimed his word to Jacob, his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.
He has not done thus for any other nation; his ordinances he has not made known to them. Alleluia.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 10:16-17)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE  Lauda Sion
[ The sequence Laud may be sung optionally before the Alleluia. The shorter form is indicated in brackets below. ]

Laud, O Zion, your salvation,
Laud with hymns of exultation,
Christ, your king and shepherd true:
Bring him all the praise you know,
He is more than you bestow.
Never can you reach his due.

Special theme for glad thanksgiving
Is the quick'ning and the living
Bread today before you set:
From his hands of old partaken,
As we know, by faith unshaken,
Where the Twelve at supper met.

Full and clear ring out your chanting,
Joy nor sweetest grace be wanting,
From your heart let praises burst:
For today the feast is holden,
When the institution olden
Of that supper was rehearsed.

Here the new law's new oblation,
By the new king's revelation,
Ends the form of ancient rite:
What he did at supper seated,
Christ ordained to be repeated,
His memorial ne'er to cease:
This the truth each Christian learns,
Bread into his flesh he turns,
To his precious blood the wine:
Sight has fail'd, nor thought conceives,
But a dauntless faith believes,
Resting on a pow'r divine.

Here beneath these signs are hidden
Priceless things to sense forbidden;
Sign, not things are all we see:
Blood is poured and flesh is broken,
Yet in either wondrous token
Christ entire we know to be.

Whoso of this food partakes,
Does not rend the Lord nor breaks;
Christ is whole to all that tastes:

Thousands are, as one, receivers,
One, as thousands of believers,
Eats of him who cannot waste.

Bad and good the feast are sharing,
Of what divers dooms preparing,
Endless death, or endless life.

Life to these, to those damnation,
See how like participation
Is with unlike issues rife.

When the sacrament is broken,
Doubt not, but believe 'tis spoken,
That each sever'd outward token
doth the very whole contain.

Nought the precious gift divides,
Breaking but the sign betides
Jesus still the same abides,
still unbroken does remain.

[ The shorter form of the sequence begins here: ]

[ Lo! the angel's food is given
To the pilgrim who has striven;
see the children's bread from heaven,
which on dogs may not be spent.

Truth the ancient types fulfilling,
Isaac bound, a victim willing,
Paschal lamb, its lifeblood spilling,
manna to the fathers sent.

Very bread, good shepherd, tend us,
Jesu, of your love befriend us,
You refresh us, you defend us,
Your eternal goodness send us
In the land of life to see.

You who all things can and know,
Who on earth such food bestow,
Grant us with your saints, though lowest,
Where the heav'nly feast you show,
Fellow heirs and guests to be. Amen. Alleluia. ]

ALLELUIA (John 6:51)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live forever.—R.

GOSPEL (Jo 6:51-58)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to the Jewish crowds:
"I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
FIRST READING (Ex 24:3-8)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

WHEN Moses came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the LORD, they all answered with one voice, “We will do everything that the LORD has told us.” Moses then wrote down all the words of the LORD and, rising early the next day, he erected at the foot of the mountain an altar and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then, having sent certain young men of the Israelites to offer holocausts and sacrifice young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD, Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar. Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, “All that the LORD has said, we will heed and do.” Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words of his.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18)

R. (13) I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord. or: R. Alleluia.

How shall I make a return to the LORD for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.—R.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds.—R.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD. My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people.—R.

SECOND READING (Heb 9:11-15)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

BROTHERS and sisters:

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer’s ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.

For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE Lauda Sion

[The sequence Laud may be sung optionally before the Alleluia. The shorter form is indicated in brackets below.]

Laud, O Zion, your salvation, Laud with hymns of exultation, Christ, your king and shepherd true:

Bring him all the praise you know, He is more than you bestow. Never can you reach his due.

Special theme for glad thanksgiving Is the quick’ning and the living Bread today before you set:

From his hands of old partaken, As we know, by faith unshaken, Where the Twelve at supper met.

Full and clear ring out your chanting, Joy nor sweetest grace be wanting, From your heart let praises burst:

For today the feast is holden, When the institution olden Of that supper was rehearsed.

Here the new law’s new oblation, By the new king’s revelation, Ends the form of ancient rite:

Now the new the old effaces, Truth away the shadow chases, Light dispels the gloom of night.

What he did at supper seated, Christ ordained to be repeated, His memorial ne’er to cease:

And his rule for guidance taking, Bread and wine we hallow, making Thus our sacrifice of peace.

This the truth each Christian learns, Bread into his flesh he turns, To his precious blood the wine:
Sight has fail'd, nor thought conceives,
But a dauntless faith believes,
Resting on a pow'r divine.

Here beneath these signs are hidden
Priceless things to sense forbidden;
sign, not things are all we see:

Blood is poured and flesh is broken,
Yet in either wondrous token
Christ entire we know to be.

Whoso of this food partakes,
Does not rend the Lord nor breaks;
Christ is whole to all that tastes:

Thousands are, as one, receivers,
One, as thousands of believers,
Eats of him who cannot waste.

Bad and good the feast are sharing,
Of what divers dooms preparing,
Endless death, or endless life.

Life to these, to those damnation,
See how like participation
Is with unlike issues rife.

When the sacrament is broken,
Doubt not, but believe 'tis spoken,
That each sever'd outward token
doth the very whole contain.

Nought the precious gift divides,
Breaking but the sign betides
Jesus still the same abides,
still unbroken does remain.

[ The shorter form of the sequence begins here: ]

[ Lo! the angel's food is given
To the pilgrim who has striven;
see the children's bread from heaven,
which on dogs may not be spent.

Truth the ancient types fulfilling,
Isaac bound, a victim willing,
Paschal lamb, its lifeblood spilling,
manna to the fathers sent.

Very bread, good shepherd, tend us,
Jesu, of your love befriend us,
You refresh us, you defend us,
Your eternal goodness send us
In the land of life to see.

You who all things can and know,
Who on earth such food bestow,
Grant us with your saints, though lowest,
Where the heav'nly feast you show,
Fellow heirs and guests to be. Amen. Alleluia. ]

ALLELUIA (John 6:51)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven,
says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever.—R.

GOSPEL (Mk 14:12-16, 22-26)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

ON the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,
when they sacrificed the Passover lamb,
Jesus' disciples said to him,
"Where do you want us to go
and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"
He sent two of his disciples and said to them,
"Go into the city and a man will meet you,
carrying a jar of water.
Follow him,
Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house,
'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room
where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"
Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready.
Make the preparations for us there."
The disciples then went off, entered the city,
and found it just as he had told them;
and they prepared the Passover.

While they were eating,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, gave it to them, and said,
"Take it; this is my body."
Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them,
and they all drank from it.
He said to them,
"This is my blood of the covenant,
which will be shed for many.
Amen, I say to you,
I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine
until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."
Then, after singing a hymn,
they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Gn 14:18-20)

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

IN those days, Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine, and being a priest of God Most High, he blessed Abram with these words:

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand."

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 110:1, 2, 3, 4)

R. (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The LORD said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool."—R.

The scepter of your power the LORD will stretch forth from Zion:

"Rule in the midst of your enemies."—R.

"Yours is princely power in the day of your birth, in holy splendor; before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you."—R.

The LORD has sworn, and he will not repent:

"You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Cor 11:23-26)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE   Lauda Sion

[ The sequence Laud may be sung optionally before the Alleluia. The shorter form is indicated in brackets below. ]

Laud, O Zion, your salvation, Laud with hymns of exultation, Christ, your king and shepherd true:

Bring him all the praise you know.
See how like participation
Is with unlike issues rife.
When the sacrament is broken,
Doubt not, but believe 'tis spoken,
That each sever'd outward token
doth the very whole contain.

Nought the precious gift divides,
Breaking but the sign betides
Jesus still the same abides,
still unbroken does remain.

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Truth the ancient types fulfilling,
Isaac bound, a victim willing,
Paschal lamb, its lifeblood spilling,
manna to the fathers sent.

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Jesu, of your love befriend us,
You refresh us, you defend us,
Your eternal goodness send us
In the land of life to see.

You who all things can and know,
Who on earth such food bestow,
Grant us with your saints, though lowest,
Where the heav'nly feast you show,
Fellow heirs and guests to be. Amen. Alleluia. ]

ALLELUIA (John 6:51)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the living bread that came down from heaven,
says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 9:11b-17)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS spoke to the crowds about the kingdom of God,
and he healed those who needed to be cured.
As the day was drawing to a close,
the Twelve approached him and said,
"Dismiss the crowd
so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms
and find lodging and provisions;
for we are in a deserted place here."
He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves."
They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have,
unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people."
Now the men there numbered about five thousand.
Then he said to his disciples,
"Have them sit down in groups of about fifty."
They did so and made them all sit down.
Then taking the five loaves and the two fish,
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
SACRED HEART OF JESUS—A (Friday after Corpus Christi)

FIRST READING   (Deut 7:6-11)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

MOSES said to the people:
"You are a people sacred to the LORD, your God;
he has chosen you from all the nations on the face of the earth
to be a people peculiarly his own.
It was not because you are the largest of all nations
that the LORD set his heart on you and chose you,
for you are really the smallest of all nations.
It was because the LORD loved you
and because of his fidelity to the oath he had sworn
your fathers,
that he brought you out with his strong hand
from the place of slavery,
and ransomed you from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.
Understand, then, that the LORD, your God, is God indeed,
the faithful God who keeps his merciful covenant
down to the thousandth generation
 toward those who love him and keep his commandments,
but who repays with destruction a person who hates him;
he does not dally with such a one,
but makes them personally pay for it.
You shall therefore carefully observe the commandments,
the statutes and the decrees that I enjoin on you today."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10)

R. (cf. 17) The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and forget not all his benefits.—R.

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.—R.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Jn 4:7-16)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

BELOVED, let us love one another,
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.
In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.
In this is love:
not that we have loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also must love one another.
No one has ever seen God.
Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us,
that he has given us of his Spirit.
Moreover, we have seen and testify
that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world.
Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,
God remains in him and he in God.
We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and whoever remains in love
remains in God and God in him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Matthew 11:29ab)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord;
and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 11:25-30)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

AT that time Jesus exclaimed:
"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to little ones.
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Hosea:

THUS says the LORD:
When Israel was a child I loved him, out of Egypt I called my son.
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, who took them in my arms;
I drew them with human cords, with bands of love;
I fostered them like one who raises an infant to his cheeks;
Yet, though I stooped to feed my child, they did not know that I was their healer.

My heart is overwhelmed, my pity is stirred.
I will not give vent to my blazing anger, I will not destroy Ephraim again;
For I am God and not a man, the Holy One present among you;
I will not let the flames consume you.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6)

R. (3) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior;
I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.—R.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.—R.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!—R.

SECOND READING (Eph 3:8-12, 14-19)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for all what is the plan of the mystery hidden from ages past in God who created all things, so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the principalities and authorities in the heavens.

This was according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness of speech and confidence of access through faith in him.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

A (Matthew 11:29ab)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord; and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.—R.

OR

B (1 Jn 4:10b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God first loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 19:31-37)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

SINCE it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken.

And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Ez 34:11-16)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THUS says the Lord GOD:
I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock
when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,
so will I tend my sheep.

I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered
when it was cloudy and dark.

I will lead them out from among the peoples
and gather them from the foreign lands;
I will bring them back to their own country
and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel
in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places.

In good pastures will I pasture them,
and on the mountain heights of Israel
shall be their grazing ground.

There they shall lie down on good grazing ground,
and in rich pastures shall they be pastured
on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will pasture my sheep;
I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD.

The lost I will seek out,
the strayed I will bring back,
the injured I will bind up,
the sick I will heal,
but the sleek and the strong I will destroy,
shepherding them rightly.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6)

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.—R.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage.—R.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.—R.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.—R.

SECOND READING   (Rom 5:5b-11)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
The love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.

Not only that,
but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

A (Matthew 11:29ab)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.—R.

OR

B (John 10:14)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord,
I know my sheep, and mine know me.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 15:3-7)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS addressed this parable to the Pharisees and scribes:
"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing
one of them
would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert
and go after the lost one until he finds it?

And when he does find it,
he sets it on his shoulders with great joy
and, upon his arrival home,
he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them,
'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'

I tell you, in just the same way
there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents
than over ninety-nine righteous people
who have no need of repentance."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Jer 1:4-10)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

IN the days of King Josiah, the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

“Ah, Lord GOD!” I said, “I know not how to speak; I am too young.” But the LORD answered me, Say not, “I am too young.” To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying,

See, I place my words in your mouth! This day I set you over nations and over kingdoms, to root up and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17)

R. (6) Since my mother’s womb, you have been my strength.

In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue me, and deliver me; incline your ear to me, and save me.—R.

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety, for you are my rock and my fortress.

O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.—R.

For you are my hope, O LORD; my trust, O LORD, from my youth. On you I depend from birth; from my mother’s womb you are my strength.—R.

My mouth shall declare your justice, day by day your salvation.

O God, you have taught me from my youth, and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.—R.

SECOND READING (1 Pt 1:8-12)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter:

BELOVED:
Although you have not seen Jesus Christ you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and investigated it, investigating the time and circumstances that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when he testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the glories to follow them.

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you with regard to the things that have now been announced to you by those who preached the Good News to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels longed to look.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (See John 1:7; Luke 1:17)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

He came to testify to the light, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.—R.

GOSPEL (Lk 1:5-17)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

IN the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest in his division’s turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense.

Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense.

Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. John will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn their hearts toward their children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Is 49:1-6)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

HEAR me, O coastlands,  
listen, O distant peoples.  
The LORD called me from birth,  
from my mother's womb he gave me my name.  
He made of me a sharp-edged sword  
and concealed me in the shadow of his arm.  
He made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me.  
You are my servant, he said to me,  
Israel, through whom I show my glory.  
Though I thought I had toiled in vain,  
and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength,  
yet my reward is with the LORD,  
my recompense is with my God.  
For now the LORD has spoken  
who formed me as his servant from the womb,  
that Jacob may be brought back to him  
and Israel gathered to him;  
and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God is now my strength!  
It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant,  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob,  
and restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will make you a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.  
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15)

R. (14) I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.  
O LORD, you have probed me, you know me:  
you know when I sit and when I stand;  
you understand my thoughts from afar.  
My journeys and my rest you scrutinize,  
with all my ways you are familiar.—R.

Truly you have formed my inmost being;  
you knit me in my mother's womb.  
I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made;  
wonderful are your works.—R.

My soul also you knew full well;  
nor was my frame unknown to you  
When I was made in secret,  
when I was fashioned in the depths of the earth.—R.

SECOND READING   (Acts 13:22-26)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

IN those days, Paul said:  
“God raised up David as king;  
of him God testified,  
I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart;  
he will carry out my every wish.

From this man's descendants God, according to his promise,  
has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus.  
John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
to all the people of Israel;  
and as John was completing his course, he would say,  
'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he.  
Behold, one is coming after me;  
I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.'

"My brothers, sons of the family of Abraham,  
and those others among you who are God-fearing,  
to us this word of salvation has been sent."

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (See Luke 1:76)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
You, child, will be called prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 1:57-66, 80)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

WHEN the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child  
she gave birth to a son.  
Her neighbors and relatives heard  
that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her,  
and they rejoiced with her.  
When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child,  
they were going to call him Zechariah after his father,  
but his mother said in reply,  
“No. He will be called John.”

But they answered her,  
“There is no one among your relatives who has this name.”
So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called.  
He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,”  
and all were amazed.  
Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed,  
and he spoke blessing God.  
Then fear came upon all their neighbors,  
and all these matters were discussed  
throughout the hill country of Judea.  
All who heard these things took them to heart, saying,  
“What, then, will this child be?”
For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit,  
and he was in the desert until the day  
of his manifestation to Israel.  

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Acts 3:1-10)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

PETER and John were going up to the temple area for the three o'clock hour of prayer. And a man crippled from birth was carried and placed at the gate of the temple called “the Beautiful Gate” every day to beg for alms from the people who entered the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. But Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.” Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. When all the people saw the man walking and praising God, they recognized him as the one who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with amazement and astonishment at what had happened to him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5)

R. (5) Their message goes out through all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day pours out the word to day; and night to night imparts knowledge.—R.

Not a word nor a discourse whose voice is not heard; through all the earth their voice resounds, and to the ends of the world, their message.—R.

SECOND READING (Gal 1:11-20)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians:

I WANT you to know, brothers and sisters, that the Gospel preached by me is not of human origin. For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it, and progressed in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my race, since I was even more a zealot for my ancestral traditions. But when God, who from my mother’s womb had set me apart and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles,

I did not immediately consult flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me; rather, I went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas and remained with him for fifteen days. But I did not see any other of the Apostles, only James the brother of the Lord.

—As to what I am writing to you, behold, before God, I am not lying.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (John 21:17)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, you know everything: you know that I love you.—R.

GOSPEL (Jn 21:15-19)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS had revealed himself to his disciples and, when they had finished breakfast, said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to Simon Peter a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING (Acts 12:1-11)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

IN those days, King Herod laid hands upon some members of the Church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also. —It was the feast of Unleavened Bread.—

He had him taken into custody and put in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. He intended to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter thus was being kept in prison, but prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on his behalf.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, secured by double chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while outside the door guards kept watch on the prison. Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, “Get up quickly.” The chains fell from his wrists. The angel said to him, “Put on your belt and your sandals.” He did so. Then he said to him, “Put on your cloak and follow me.” So he followed him out, not realizing that what was happening through the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard, then the second, and came to the iron gate leading out to the city, which opened for them by itself. They emerged and made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel left him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

R. (5) The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad.—R.

Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.—R.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the poor one called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him.—R.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Taste and see how good the LORD is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him.—R.

SECOND READING (2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

I, PAUL, am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Matthew 16:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.—R.

GOSPEL (Mt 16:13-19)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

WHEN Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Dn 7:9-10, 13-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

AS I watched:

Thrones were set up
and the Ancient One took his throne.
His clothing was bright as snow,
and the hair on his head as white as wool;
his throne was flames of fire,
with wheels of burning fire.
A surging stream of fire
flowed out from where he sat;
thousands upon thousands were ministering to him,
and myriads upon myriads attended him.
The court was convened and the books were opened.

As the visions during the night continued, I saw:

One like a Son of man coming,
on the clouds of heaven;
When he reached the Ancient One
and was presented before him,
The one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship;
all peoples, nations, and languages serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not be taken away,
his kingship shall not be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9)

R. (1a and 9a) The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.—R.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the LORD of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.—R.

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.—R.

SECOND READING   (2 Pt 1:16-19)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Peter:

BELIEVED:
We did not follow cleverly devised myths
when we made known to you
the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.
For he received honor and glory from God the Father
when that unique declaration came to him from the majestick glory,
“This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”
We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven

while we were with him on the holy mountain.
Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable.
You will do well to be attentive to it,
as to a lamp shining in a dark place,
until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Matthew 17:5c)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 17:1-9)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS took Peter, James, and his brother, John,
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them;
his face shone like the sun
and his clothes became white as light.
And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them,
conversing with him.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
“Lord, it is good that we are here.
If you wish, I will make three tents here,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

While he was still speaking, behold,
a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,
then from the cloud came a voice that said,
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.”

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate
and were very much afraid.
But Jesus came and touched them, saying,
“Rise, and do not be afraid.”
And when the disciples raised their eyes,
they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain,
Jesus charged them,
“Do not tell the vision to anyone
until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Dn 7:9-10, 13-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

AS I watched:

Thrones were set up
and the Ancient One took his throne.
His clothing was bright as snow,
and the hair on his head as white as wool;
his throne was flames of fire,
with wheels of burning fire.
A surging stream of fire
flowed out from where he sat;
thousands upon thousands were ministering to him,
and myriads upon myriads attended him.
The court was convened and the books were opened.

As the visions during the night continued, I saw:

One like a Son of man coming,
on the clouds of heaven;
When he reached the Ancient One
and was presented before him,
The one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship;
all peoples, nations, and languages serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not be taken away,
his kingship shall not be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9)

R. (1a and 9a) The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.
The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
j ustice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.—R.
The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the LORD of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.—R.
Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.—R.

SECOND READING  (2 Pt 1:16-19)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Peter:

BELOVED:
We did not follow cleverly devised myths
when we made known to you
the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.
For he received honor and glory from God the Father
when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory,
“This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”
We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven
while we were with him on the holy mountain.
Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable.
You will do well to be attentive to it,
as to a lamp shining in a dark place,
until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (Matthew 17:5c)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.—R.

GOSPEL  (Mk 9:2-10)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

JESUS took Peter, James, and his brother John,
and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.
Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses,
and they were conversing with Jesus.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
“Rabbi, it is good that we are here!
Let us make three tents:
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.
Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”
Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone
but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain,
he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone,
except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
So they kept the matter to themselves,
questioning what rising from the dead meant.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD—C (August 6)

FIRST READING (Dn 7:9-10, 13-14)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

AS I watched:

Thrones were set up
and the Ancient One took his throne.
His clothing was bright as snow,
and the hair on his head as white as wool;
his throne was flames of fire,
with wheels of burning fire.
A surging stream of fire
flowed out from where he sat;
thousands upon thousands were ministering to him,
and myriads upon myriads attended him.
The court was convened and the books were opened.

As the visions during the night continued, I saw:

One like a Son of man coming,
on the clouds of heaven;
When he reached the Ancient One
and was presented before him,
The one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship;
all peoples, nations, and languages serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not be taken away,
his kingship shall not be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9)
R. (1a and 9a) The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.
The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
j ustice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.—R.
The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the LORD of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.—R.
Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.—R.

SECOND READING (2 Pt 1:16-19)
A reading from the second Letter of Saint Peter:

BELIEVED:
We did not follow cleverly devised myths
when we made known to you
the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.
For he received honor and glory from God the Father
when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory,
“This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”
We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven

while we were with him on the holy mountain.
Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable.
You will do well to be attentive to it,
as to a lamp shining in a dark place,
until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.
FIRST READING  (1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2)
A reading from the first Book of Chronicles:

DAVID assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring the ark of the LORD
to the place which he had prepared for it.
David also called together the sons of Aaron and the Levites.
The Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders with poles,
as Moses had ordained according to the word of the LORD.

David commanded the chiefs of the Levites
  to appoint their kinsmen as chanters,
to play on musical instruments, harps, lyres, and cymbals,
to make a loud sound of rejoicing.

They brought in the ark of God and set it within the tent
  which David had pitched for it.
Then they offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings to God.
When David had finished offering up the burnt offerings
  and peace offerings,
  he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14)

R. (8) Lord, go up to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your holiness.

Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah;
we found it in the fields of Jaar.
Let us enter his dwelling,
  let us worship at his footstool.—R.

May your priests be clothed with justice;
  let your faithful ones shout merrily for joy.
For the sake of David your servant,
  reject not the plea of your anointed.—R.

For the LORD has chosen Zion;
  he prefers her for her dwelling.
“Zion is my resting place forever;
in her will I dwell, for I prefer her.”—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 15:54b-57)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
When that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
  then the word that is written shall come about:

  Death is swallowed up in victory.
  Where, O death, is your victory?
  Where, O death, is your sting?

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

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL  (Lk 11:27-28)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

WHILE Jesus was speaking,
a woman from the crowd called out and said to him,
  “Blessed is the womb that carried you
  and the breasts at which you nursed.”
He replied,
  “Rather, blessed are those
  who hear the word of God and observe it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ALLELUIA  (Luke 11:28)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they who hear the word of God and observe it.—R.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (DAY) —ABC (August 15)

FIRST READING  (Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab)
A reading from the Book of Revelation:

GOD’S temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.
She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth.
Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth.
She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod.
Her child was caught up to God and his throne.
The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
“Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed One.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16)
R. (10bc) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.
The queen takes her place at your right hand in gold of Ophir.—R.
Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear, forget your people and your father’s house.—R.
They are borne in with gladness and joy; for he is your lord.—R.

SECOND READING   (1 Cor 15:20-27)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

BROTHERS and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for “he subjected everything under his feet.”
The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Mary is taken up to heaven; a chorus of angels exults.—R.

GOSPEL  (Lk 1:39-56)
+A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

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

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

And Mary said:
“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.”

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.
The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING   (Nm 21:4b-9)

A reading from the Book of Numbers:

WITH their patience worn out by the journey, 
the people complained against God and Moses, 
"Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, 
where there is no food or water? 
We are disgusted with this wretched food!"

In punishment the LORD sent among the people saraph serpents, 
which bit the people so that many of them died. 
Then the people came to Moses and said, 
"We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. 
Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us." 
So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses, 
"Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, 
and if any who have been bitten look at it, they will live." 
Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, 
and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent 
looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. 

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38)

R. (see 7b) Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Hearken, my people, to my teaching; 
incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 
I will open my mouth in a parable, 
I will utter mysteries from of old.—R.

While he slew them they sought him 
and inquired after God again, 
Remembering that God was their rock 
and the Most High God, their redeemer.—R.

But they flattered him with their mouths 
and lied to him with their tongues, 
Though their hearts were not steadfast toward him, 
or were they faithful to his covenant.—R.

But he, being merciful, forgave their sin 
and destroyed them not; 
Often he turned back his anger 
and let none of his wrath be roused.—R.

SECOND READING   (Phil 2:6-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

BROTHERS and sisters: 
Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, 
did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. 
Rather, he emptied himself, 
taking the form of a slave, 
coming in human likeness; 
and found human in appearance, 
he humbled himself, 
becoming obedient to death, 
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him 
and bestowed on him the name 
that is above every name, 
that at the name of Jesus 
every knee should bend, 
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 
and every tongue confess that 
Jesus Christ is Lord, 
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, 
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.—R.

GOSPEL   (Jn 3:13-17)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to Nicodemus: 
“No one has gone up to heaven 
except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. 
And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, 
so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, 
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish 
but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, 
but that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
ALL SAINTS—ABC (November 1)

FIRST READING   (Rev 7:2-4, 9-14)
A reading from the Book of Revelation:
I, JOHN, saw another angel come up from the East,  
holding the seal of the living God.  
He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels  
who were given power to damage the land and the sea,  
“Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees  
until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”
I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal,  
one hundred and forty-four thousand marked  
from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude,  
which no one could count,  
from every nation, race, people, and tongue.  
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,  
wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.  
They cried out in a loud voice:
“Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne,  
and from the Lamb.”
All the angels stood around the throne  
and around the elders and the four living creatures.  
They prostrated themselves before the throne,  
worshiped God, and exclaimed:
“Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving,  
honor, power, and might  
be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me,  
“Who are these wearing white robes,  
and where did they come from?”
I said to him, “My lord, you are the one who knows.”
He said to me,  
“These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress;  
they have washed their robes  
and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6)
R. (see 6) Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.
The LORD’s are the earth and its fullness;  
the world and those who dwell in it.  
For he founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.—R.
Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?  
or who may stand in his holy place?  
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,  
who desires not what is vain.—R.
He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,  
a reward from God his savior.  
Such is the race that seeks him,  
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.—R.

SECOND READING   (Jn 3:1-3)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:
BELOVED:
See what love the Father has bestowed on us  
that we may be called the children of God.  
Yet so we are.  
The reason the world does not know us  
is that it did not know him.  
Beloved, we are God’s children now;  
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.  
We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,  
for we shall see him as he is.  
Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure,  
as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (Matthew 11:28)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.—R.

GOSPEL   (Mt 5:1-12a)
+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:
WHEN Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,  
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.  
He began to teach them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.  
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
CATHOLIC SUNDAY READINGS
COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
(ALSOULS)—ABC (November 2)

Any of the following readings may be used.

FIRST READING

1. (Wis 3:1-9)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

THE souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
they shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

2. (Wis 4:7-14)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

THE just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported—
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.
Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
because his soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
neither did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

3. (Is 25:6, 7-9)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

ON this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

1. (Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6)

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
or:
R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil,
for you are with me.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.—R.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage.—R.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.—R.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.—R.

2. (Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21)

R. (1) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
or:
R. (3a) No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever be put to shame.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.—R.

Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins.—R.

Preserve my life, and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
because I wait for you, O LORD.—R.

3. (Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14)
R. (1) The Lord is my light and my salvation.
or:
R. (13) I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord
in the land of the living.
The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?—R.

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple.—R.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me and answer me.
Your presence, O LORD, I seek.
Hide not your face from me.—R.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD!—R.

SECOND READING

1. (Rom 5:5-11)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
thought perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.
Indeed, if, while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.
Not only that,
but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

2. (Rom 5:17-21)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
If, by the transgression of the one,
death came to reign through that one,
how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace
and of the gift of justification
come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.
In conclusion, just as through one transgression
condemnation came upon all,
so, through one righteous act,
aquittal and life came to all.
For just as through the disobedience of the one man
the many were made sinners,
so through the obedience of one
the many will be made righteous.
The law entered in so that transgression might increase
but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that,
as sin reigned in death,
Grace also might reign through justification for eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

3. (Rom 6:3-9)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.
For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

4. (Rom 8:14-23)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"
The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,  
and if children, then heirs,  
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,  
if only we suffer with him  
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.  
For creation awaits with eager expectation  
the revelation of the children of God;  
for creation was made subject to futility,  
ot of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,  
in hope that creation itself  
would be set free from slavery to corruption  
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.  
We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;  
and not only that, but we ourselves,  
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,  
we also groan within ourselves  
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

5. (Rom 8:31b-35, 37-39)  
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:  
If God is for us, who can be against us?  
He who did not spare his own Son  
but handed him over for us all,  
will he not also give us everything else along with him?  
Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?  
It is God who acquits us.  
Who will condemn?  
It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,  
who also is at the right hand of God,  
who indeed intercedes for us.  
What will separate us from the love of Christ?  
Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.  
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor present things, nor future things,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

6. (Rom 14:7-9, 10c-12)  
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

BROTHERS and sisters:  
None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.  
For if we live, we live for the Lord,  
and if we die, we die for the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.  
For this is why Christ died and came to life,  
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother?  
Or you, why do you look down on your brother?  
For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;  
for it is written:  
As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.

So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

7. (1 Cor 15:20-28)  
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:  
Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since death came through a human being,  
the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.  
For just as in Adam all die,  
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,  
but each one in proper order:  
Christ the firstfruits;  
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;  
then comes the end,  
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.  
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,  
for "he subjected everything under his feet."  
But when it says that everything has been subjected,  
it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.  
When everything is subjected to him,  
than the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him,  
so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

8. (1 Cor 15:51-57)  
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:  
Behold, I tell you a mystery.  
We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,  
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.  
For the trumpet will sound,  
the dead will be raised incorruptible,  
and we shall be changed.  
For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility,  
and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.  
And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,  
than the word that is written shall come about:

Death is swallowed up in victory.  
Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?

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

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

9. (2 Cor 4:14–5:1)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence.
Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.
Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.
For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

10. (2 Cor 5:1, 6-10)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.
Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.
Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away.
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

11. (Phil 3:20-21)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

12. (1 Thes 4:13-18)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

WE do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.
For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

13. (2 Tm 2:8-13)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

BELOVED:
Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.
But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.
This saying is trustworthy:
If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him.
But if we deny him he will deny us.
If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE and VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

[ R. Alleluia, alleluia. ]
1. (Matthew 25:34)

Come, you who are blessed by my Father; 
inherit the kingdom prepared for you 
from the foundation of the world.
[ —R. Alleluia, alleluia. ]

2. (See John 3:16)

God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son, 
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him 
may have eternal life. [ —R. Alleluia, alleluia. ]

3. (See John 6:40)

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, 
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him 
may have eternal life. [ —R. Alleluia, alleluia. ]

4. (John 6:51)

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, 
says the Lord; 
whoever eats this bread will live forever. 
[ —R. Alleluia, alleluia. ]

5. (John 11:25a, 26)

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; 
whoever believes in me will never die. 
[ —R. Alleluia, alleluia. ]

GOSPEL

1. (Mt 5:1-12a)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

WHEN Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, 
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. 
He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, 
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. 
Blessed are they who mourn, 
for they will be comforted. 
Blessed are the meek, 
for they will inherit the land. 
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, 
for they will be satisfied. 
Blessed are the merciful, 
for they will be shown mercy. 
Blessed are the clean of heart, 
for they will see God. 
Blessed are the peacemakers, 
for they will be called children of God. 
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of 
righteousness, 
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. 
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you 
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. 
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

2. (Mt 11:25-30)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

AT that time Jesus exclaimed:
"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, 
for although you have hidden these things 
from the wise and the learned 
you have revealed them to little ones. 
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. 
All things have been handed over to me by my Father. 
No one knows the Son except the Father, 
and no one knows the Father except the Son 
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. 
"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, 
and I will give you rest. 
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, 
for I am meek and humble of heart; 
and you will find rest for yourselves. 
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." 

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

3. (Mt 25:31-46)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

JESUS said to his disciples:
"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, 
and all the angels with him, 
he will sit upon his glorious throne, 
and all the nations will be assembled before him. 
And he will separate them one from another, 
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 
He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 
Then the king will say to those on his right, 
‘Come, you who are blessed by 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, 
a stranger and you welcomed me, 
naked and you clothed me, 
illy and you cared for me, 
in prison and you visited me.’ 
Then the righteous will answer him and say, 
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, 
or thirsty and give you drink? 
When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, 
or naked and clothe you? 
When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’
And the king will say to them in reply, 
‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did 
for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

"Then he will say to those on his left, 
‘Depart from me, you accursed, 
into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. 
For I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you gave me no welcome,
naked and you gave me no clothing,
ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison,
and not minister to your needs?’

He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you,
what you did not do for one of the least of these,
you did not do for me.’

And these will go off to eternal punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. (Lk 7:11-17)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

JESUS journeyed to a city called Nain,
and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.
As he drew near to the gate of the city,
a man who had died was being carried out,
the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.
A large crowd from the city was with her.
When the Lord saw her,
he was moved with pity for her and said to her,
"Do not weep."
He stepped forward and touched the coffin;
at this the bearers halted,
and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!"
The dead man sat up and began to speak,
and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming,
"A great prophet has arisen in our midst,"
and "God has visited his people."
This report about him spread through the whole of Judea
and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

5. (Lk 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

IT was about noon and darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon
because of an eclipse of the sun.
Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.
Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit";
and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who,
though he was a member of the council,
got Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus.
After he had taken the Body down,
he wrapped it in a linen cloth
and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb
in which no one had yet been buried.

At daybreak on the first day of the week
they took the spices they had prepared
and went to the tomb.
They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;
but when they entered,
they did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus.
While they were puzzling over this, behold,
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.
They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.
They said to them,
"Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

6. (Lk 24:13-16, 28-35)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THAT very day, the first day of the week,
two of Jesus' disciples were going
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.
As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, "Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."
So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broken it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.
Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures
to us?"
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the Eleven and those with them who were saying,
"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"
Then the two recounted to them
what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

7. (Jn 5:24-29)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS answered the Jews and said to them:
"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word
and believes in the one who sent me
has eternal life and will not come to condemnation,
but has passed from death to life.
Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and those who hear will live.
For just as the Father has life in himself,
so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself.
And he gave him power to exercise judgment,
because he is the Son of Man.
Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

8. (Jn 6:37-40)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to the crowds:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day, For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

9. (Jn 6:51-58)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to the crowds:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you. He who eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my Flesh is true food, and my Blood is true drink. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also whoever feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

10. (Jn 11:17-27)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

WHEN Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

11. (Jn 11:32-45)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

WHEN Mary, the sister of Lazarus, came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone.
And Jesus raised his eyes and said,
"Father, I thank you for hearing me. I
know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me."

And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"
The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.

So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

12. (Jn 14:1-6)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

JESUS said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12)
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

THE angel brought me
back to the entrance of the temple,
and I saw water flowing out
from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east,
for the façade of the temple was toward the east;
the water flowed down from the southern side of the temple,
south of the altar.
He led me outside by the north gate,
and around to the outer gate facing the east,
where I saw water trickling from the southern side.
He said to me,
“This water flows into the eastern district down upon the Arabah,
and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh.
Wherever the river flows,
every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live,
and there shall be abundant fish,
for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh.
Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow;
their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail.
Every month they shall bear fresh fruit,
for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary.
Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine.”

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  (Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9)
R. (5) The waters of the river gladden the city of God,
the holy dwelling of the Most High!

God is our refuge and our strength,
an ever-present help in distress.
Therefore, we fear not, though the earth be shaken
and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea.—R.

There is a stream whose runlets gladden the city of God,
the holy dwelling of the Most High.
God is in its midst; it shall not be disturbed;
God will help it at the break of dawn.—R.

The LORD of hosts is with us;
our stronghold is the God of Jacob.
Come! behold the deeds of the LORD,
the astounding things he has wrought on earth.—R.

SECOND READING  (1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17)
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
You are God’s building.
According to the grace of God given to me,
like a wise master builder I laid a foundation,
and another is building upon it.
But each one must be careful how he builds upon it,
for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there,
namely, Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
If anyone destroys God’s temple,
God will destroy that person;
for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA  (2 Chronicles 7:16)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord,
that my name may be there forever.—R.

GOSPEL  (Jn 2:13-22)
+A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

SINCE the Passover of the Jews was near,
Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,
as well as the money-changers seated there.
He made a whip out of cords
and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen,
and spilled the coins of the money-changers
and overturned their tables,
and to those who sold doves he said,
“Take these out of here,
and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”
His disciples recalled the words of Scripture,
Zeal for your house will consume me.
At this the Jews answered and said to him,
“What sign can you show us for doing this?”
Jesus answered and said to them,
“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”
The Jews said,
“This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,
and you will raise it up in three days?”
But he was speaking about the temple of his Body.
Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they came to believe the Scripture
and the word Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
FIRST READING  (Gn 3:9-15, 20)

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

AFTER the man, Adam, had eaten of the tree,
the LORD God called to the man and asked him, “Where are you?”
He answered, “I heard you in the garden;
but I was afraid, because I was naked,
so I hid myself.”

Then he asked, “Who told you that you were naked?
You have eaten, then,
from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!”
The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—
she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it.”

The LORD God then asked the woman,
“Why did you do such a thing?”
The woman answered, “The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it.”

Then the LORD God said to the serpent:
“Because you have done this, you shall be banned
from all the animals
and from all the wild creatures;
on your belly shall you crawl,
and dirt shall you eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike at your head,
while you strike at his heel.”

The man called his wife Eve,
because she became the mother of all the living.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM   (Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4)
R. (1) Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds;
and sing to our God, for he is exceedingly glorious.
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm.—R.

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel.—R.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise.—R.

SECOND READING   (Eph 1:3-6, 11-12)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

BROTHERS and sisters:
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and without blemish before him.
In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ,
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace
that he granted us in the beloved.

In him we were also chosen,
destined in accord with the purpose of the One
who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will,
so that we might exist for the praise of his glory,
we who first hoped in Christ.

The word of the Lord.—R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA   (See Luke 1:28)
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women.—R.

GOSPEL   (Lk 1:26-38)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

THE angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David,
and the virgin’s name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said,
“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”
But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his Kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel,
“How can this be,
since I have no relations with a man?”
And the angel said to her in reply,
“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 holy, the Son of God.
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,
has also conceived a son in her old age,
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;
for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.”

Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.—R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.