

### COLLECT

O God,  
 who by the leading of a star  
 manifested your only Son to the peoples  
 of the earth:  
 mercifully grant that we,  
 who know you now by faith,  
 may at last behold your glory face to face;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

### PSALM Psalm 72:[1-9] 10-15

**R** *The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.*

Give the king your judgements, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king.

Then shall he judge your people righteously and your poor with justice. **R**

May the mountains bring forth peace, and the little hills righteousness for the people.

May he defend the poor among the people, deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor. **R**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,

like the showers that water the earth. In his time shall righteousness flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **R**

May his dominion extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

May his foes kneel before him and his enemies lick the dust. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper. He shall have pity on the weak and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. **R**

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight. Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba; may prayer be made for him continually and may they bless him all the day long. **R**

### SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.*

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly

places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

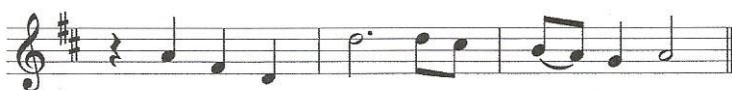
### GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord God,  
 the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
 may we who with the wise men  
 have been drawn by your light  
 discern the glory of your presence in  
 your Son,  
 the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.



The Lord is king; let the earth - re-joice.

### COLLECT

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by  
water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as  
your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-9

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

### PSALM Psalm 29

**R** *The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **R**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;  
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare;  
in his temple all cry, "Glory!" **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

### SECOND READING Acts 10:34-43

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We

are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

### GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-end

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

### POST COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



# Sunday 18 January 2026 Second Sunday of Epiphany

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the  
riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 49:1-7

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God." And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength. The LORD says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

## PSALM Psalm 40:1-12

**R** *Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.*

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He brought me out of the roaring pit,  
out of the mire and clay;  
he set my feet upon a rock and made my  
footing sure. **R**

He has put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God;  
many shall see and fear  
and put their trust in the Lord.  
Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
who does not turn to the proud that follow  
a lie. **R**

Great are the wonders you have done,  
O Lord my God.  
How great your designs for us!  
There is none that can be compared with  
you.  
If I were to proclaim them and tell of them  
they would be more than I am able to  
express. **R**

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire  
but my ears you have opened;  
Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you  
have not required,  
then said I: "Lo, I come. **R**

"In the scroll of the book it is written of  
me that I should do your will, O my God;  
I delight to do it: your law is within my  
heart."  
I have declared your righteousness in the  
great congregation;  
behold, I did not restrain my lips;  
and that, O Lord, you know. **R**

Your righteousness I have not hidden in  
my heart; I have spoken of your  
faithfulness and your salvation;  
I have not concealed your loving-kindness  
and truth from the great congregation.  
Do not withhold your compassion from  
me, O Lord;  
let your love and your faithfulness always  
preserve me. **R**

## SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

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

From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also

strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

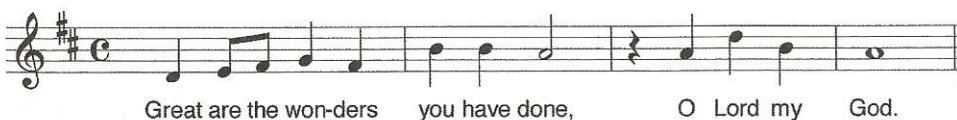
## GOSPEL John 1:29-42

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

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptising with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he 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 see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

## POST COMMUNION

God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ  
our Lord.



### COLLECT

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant  
Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful  
conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your  
truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING

Either **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

*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, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Or **Acts 9:1-22**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see

nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptised, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

### PSALM Psalm 67

**R** *Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.*

God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
That your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations. **R**

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth.  
Then shall the earth bring forth her  
increase,

and God, our own God, will bless us.  
God will bless us,  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear  
him. **R**

### SECOND READING Either **Acts 9:1-22**

Or **Galatians 1:11-16a**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.*

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being.

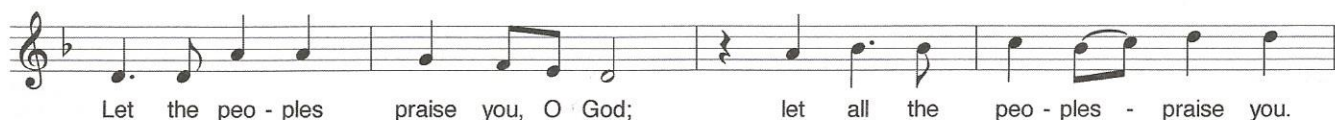
### GOSPEL **Matthew 19:27-end**

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

Peter said to Jesus: "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

### POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues  
of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to  
preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit  
strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your  
love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



### COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son  
was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

*A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.*

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

### PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

**R** *The Lord of hosts: he is the king of glory.*

[The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,  
the compass of the world and all who  
dwell therein.  
For he has founded it upon the seas  
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

**R**

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,  
or who can rise up in his holy place?"  
"Those who have clean hands and a pure  
heart,

who have not lifted up their soul to an  
idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie; **R**

"They shall receive a blessing from the  
Lord,  
a just reward from the God of their  
salvation."  
Such is the company of those who seek  
him,  
of those who seek your face, O God of  
Jacob. **R]**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
"Who is the King of glory?"  
"The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
"Who is this King of glory?"  
"The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory." **R**

### SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

Since the children share flesh and blood,  
Jesus himself likewise shared the same  
things, so that through death he might  
destroy the one who has the power of  
death, that is, the devil, and free those  
who all their lives were held in slavery  
by the fear of death. For it is clear that  
he did not come to help angels, but  
the descendants of Abraham. Therefore  
he had to become like his brothers and  
sisters in every respect, so that he might  
be a merciful and faithful high priest in  
the service of God, to make a sacrifice  
of atonement for the sins of the people.  
Because he himself was tested by what he  
suffered, he is able to help those who are  
being tested.

### GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

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

When the time came for their purification  
according to the law of Moses, Mary and  
Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem  
to present him to the Lord (as it is written  
in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn  
male shall be designated as holy to  
the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice  
according to what is stated in the law of

the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two  
young pigeons." Now there was a man in  
Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this  
man was righteous and devout, looking  
forward to the consolation of Israel, and  
the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been  
revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he  
would not see death before he had seen  
the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit,  
Simeon came into the temple; and when  
the parents brought in the child Jesus,  
to do for him what was customary under  
the law, Simeon took him in his arms and  
praised God, saying, "Master, now you  
are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word; for my eyes  
have seen your salvation, which you have  
prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and  
for glory to your people Israel." And the  
child's father and mother were amazed  
at what was being said about him. Then  
Simeon blessed them and said to his  
mother Mary, "This child is destined for  
the falling and the rising of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be opposed so  
that the inner thoughts of many will be  
revealed – and a sword will pierce your  
own soul too." There was also a prophet,  
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe  
of Asher. She was of a great age, having  
lived with her husband seven years after  
her marriage, then as a widow to the age  
of eighty-four. She never left the temple  
but worshipped there with fasting and  
prayer night and day. At that moment  
she came, and began to praise God and  
to speak about the child to all who were  
looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.  
When they had finished everything  
required by 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 favour  
of God was upon him.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and  
Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts  
beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus  
when he comes to bring us to eternal  
life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever.



The Lord of hosts: he is the king of glory.

# Sunday 8 February 2026 Second Sunday before Lent

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns  
supreme over all things,  
now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind."

And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

## PSALM Psalm 136:1-9. 23-end

*R For his mercy endures for ever.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, **R**  
Give thanks to the God of gods, **R**  
Give thanks to the Lord of lords, **R**  
Who alone does great wonders, **R**  
Who by wisdom made the heavens, **R**  
Who laid out the earth upon the waters, **R**  
Who made the great lights, **R**  
The sun to rule the day, **R**  
The moon and the stars to govern the night, **R**  
Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, **R**  
And brought out Israel from among them, **R**  
With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, **R**  
Who divided the Red Sea in two, **R**  
And made Israel to pass through the midst  
of it, **R**  
But Pharaoh and his host he overthrew in the  
Red Sea, **R**  
Who led his people through the wilderness, **R**  
Who smote great kings, **R**  
And slew mighty kings, **R**  
Sihon, king of the Amorites, **R**  
And Og, the king of Bashan, **R**  
And gave away their land for a heritage, **R**  
A heritage for Israel his servant, **R**  
Who remembered us when we were in  
trouble, **R**  
And delivered us from our enemies, **R**

Who gives food to all creatures, **R**  
Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his mercy endures for ever. **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 8:18-25

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## GOSPEL Matthew 6:25-end

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

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will 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 of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

## POST COMMUNION

God our creator, by your gift  
the tree of life was set at the heart of the  
earthly paradise,  
and the bread of life at the heart of your  
Church:  
may we who have been nourished at your  
table on earth  
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's  
cross  
and enjoy the delights of eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



For his mer-cy en - dures for ev-er.

**COLLECT**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with  
him  
and be changed into his likeness, from  
glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Exodus 24:12-end**

*A reading from the book of Exodus.*  
The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

**PSALM Either Psalm 2**

**R** *The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.*

Why are the nations in tumult,  
and why do the peoples devise a vain plot?  
The kings of the earth rise up,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and against his anointed:  
"Let us break their bonds asunder  
and cast away their cords from us." **R**

He who dwells in heaven shall laugh them  
to scorn;  
the Lord shall have them in derision.  
Then shall he speak to them in his wrath  
and terrify them in his fury:  
"Yet have I set my king  
upon my holy hill of Zion." **R**

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord;  
he said to me: "You are my Son; this day  
have I begotten you.

"Ask of me and I will give you the nations  
for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your  
possession.

"You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's  
vessel." **R**

Now therefore be wise, O kings;  
be prudent, you judges of the earth.  
Serve the Lord with fear, and with  
trembling kiss his feet,  
lest he be angry and you perish from the  
way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Happy are all they  
who take refuge in him. **R**

Or **Psalm 99**

**R** *He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud.*

The Lord is king; let the people tremble;  
he is enthroned above the cherubim; let  
the earth shake.

The Lord is great in Zion  
and high above all peoples.  
Let them praise your name, which is great  
and awesome;  
he is the Holy One. **R**

Mighty King, who loves justice,  
you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and  
righteousness in Jacob.  
Lord our God Exalt  
bow down before his footstool, for he is  
holy. **R**

Moses and Aaron among his priests  
and Samuel among those who call upon  
his name,  
they called upon the Lord and he  
answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of  
cloud;  
they kept his testimonies and the law that  
he gave them. **R**

You answered them, O Lord our God;  
you were a God who forgave them  
and pardoned them for their offences.  
Exalt the Lord our God and worship him  
upon his holy hill;  
for the Lord our God is the holy. **R**

**SECOND READING 2 Peter 1:16-end**

*A reading from the second letter of Peter.*  
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 honour and glory from  
God the Father when that voice was

conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory,  
saying, "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.  
So we have the prophetic message more  
fully confirmed. You will do well to be  
attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a  
dark place, until the day dawns and the  
morning star rises in your hearts. First  
of all you must understand this, that no  
prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's  
own interpretation, because no prophecy  
ever came by human will, but men and  
women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke  
from God.

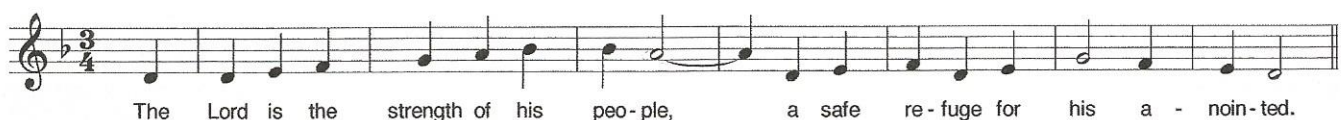
**GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9**

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

**POST COMMUNION**

Holy God,  
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who are partakers at his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know  
his power to change and save.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.



# Sunday 22 February 2026 First Sunday of Lent

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in  
the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without  
sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in  
obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

## PSALM Psalm 32

**R** *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord.*

Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
and whose sin is covered.  
Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes  
no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile. **R**

For I held my tongue;  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all the day long.  
Your hand was heavy upon me day and  
night;  
my moisture was dried up like the drought  
in summer.  
Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and my iniquity I did not hide. **R**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to  
the Lord,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.  
Therefore let all the faithful make their  
prayers to you in time of  
trouble; in the great water flood, it shall  
not reach them.  
You are a place for me to hide in;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with songs  
of deliverance. **R**

"I will instruct you and teach you  
in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.  
Be not like horse and mule which have no  
understanding;  
whose mouths must be held with bit and  
bridle, or else they will not stay near  
you." **R**

Great tribulations remain for the wicked,  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the  
Lord.  
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the  
Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

Just as sin came into the world through  
one man, and death came through sin,  
and so death spread to all because all  
have sinned – sin was indeed in the world  
before the law, but sin is not reckoned  
when there is no law. Yet death exercised  
dominion from Adam to Moses, even  
over those whose sins were not like the  
transgression of Adam, who is a type  
of the one who was to come. But the  
free gift is not like the trespass. For if  
the many died through the one man's  
trespass, much more surely have the grace  
of God and the free gift in the grace of  
the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded  
for the many. And the free gift is not like  
the effect of the one man's sin. For the  
judgement following one trespass brought  
condemnation but the free gift following  
many trespasses brings justification.  
If, because of the one man's trespass,

death exercised dominion through that  
one, much more surely will those who  
receive the abundance of grace and  
the free gift of righteousness exercise  
dominion in life through the one man,  
Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's  
trespass led to condemnation for all, so  
the act of righteousness of one leads to  
justification and life for all. For just as  
by the one person's disobedience the  
many were made sinners, so by the one  
man's obedience the many will be made  
righteous.

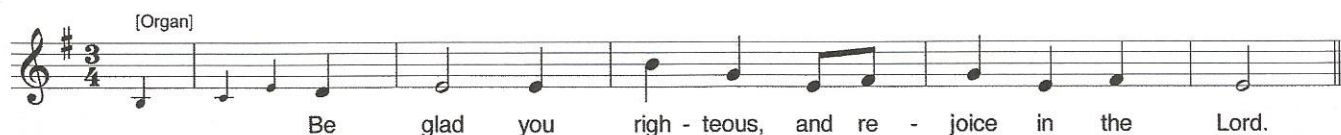
## GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living bread  
from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him  
who is the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



# Sunday 1 March 2026 Second Sunday of Lent

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the  
light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of  
righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted into  
the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things that  
are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are  
agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

## PSALM Psalm 121

**R** *The Lord shall keep you from all evil.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth. **R**

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;  
he who watches over you will not sleep.  
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep. **R**

The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right  
hand,  
So that the sun shall not strike you by  
day,  
neither the moon by night. **R**

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep your soul

The Lord shall keep watch over your  
going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 4:1-5. 13-17**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

## GOSPEL John 3:1-17

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of

God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever 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 may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

## POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of  
ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all  
adversities which may happen to  
the body,  
and from all evil thoughts  
which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but  
first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was  
crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of  
the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and  
peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Exodus 17:1-7

*A reading from the book of Exodus.*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

## PSALM Psalm 95

**R** Come, let us worship and bow down.

O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving  
and be glad in him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God  
and a great king above all gods. **R**

In his hand are the depths of the earth  
and the heights of the mountains are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have moulded the dry land. **R**

Come, let us worship and bow down  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God;  
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep  
of his hand. **R**

O that today you would listen to his voice:  
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,  
"When your forebears tested me, and put me  
to the proof,  
though they had seen my works. **R**

"Forty years long I detested that generation  
and said,  
'This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways.'  
"So I swore in my wrath,  
'They shall not enter into my rest.'" **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 5:1-11

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## GOSPEL John 4:5-42

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

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that 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 have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never 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 him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no 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 see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these 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 Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour." Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

## POST COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the  
temptations of the world, the flesh and the  
devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,  
the only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



### COLLECT

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human  
family to himself:  
strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING

Either **Exodus 2:1-10**

*A reading from the book of Exodus.*

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Or **1 Samuel 1:20-end**

*A reading from the first book of Samuel.*

Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.' The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only – may the LORD establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour,

and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.' She left him there for the LORD.

**PSALM** Either **Psalm 127:1-4**

**R** *The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in.*

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labour in vain.  
Unless the Lord keeps the city,  
the guard keeps watch in vain. **R**

It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early  
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of  
toil,

for he gives his beloved sleep.  
Children are a heritage from the Lord  
and the fruit of the womb is his gift. **R**

Or **Psalm 34:11-20**

**R** *O taste and see that the Lord is gracious.*

Come, my children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Who is there who delights in life  
and longs for days to enjoy good things? **R**

Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from lying words.  
Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it. **R**

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous  
and his ears are open to their cry.  
The face of the Lord is against those who  
do evil,  
to root out the remembrance of them from  
the earth. **R**

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.  
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and will save those who are crushed in spirit. **R**

Many are the troubles of the righteous;  
from them all will the Lord deliver them.  
He keeps all their bones,  
so that not one of them is broken. **R**

**SECOND READING**

Either **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation;

if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Or **Colossians 3:12-17**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**GOSPEL**

Either **Luke 2:33-35**

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

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Or **John 19:25b-27**

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

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

**POST COMMUNION**

Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us in this sacrament with the food  
and drink of eternal life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of  
faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## COLLECT

Most merciful God,  
 who by the death and resurrection of your Son  
 Jesus Christ  
 delivered and saved the world:  
 grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
 we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

*A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.*

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

## PSALM Psalm 130

**R** *My soul waits for the Lord.*

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;  
 Lord, hear my voice;  
 let your ears consider well the voice of my  
 supplication.  
 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,  
 O Lord, who could stand?  
 But there is forgiveness with you,  
 so that you shall be feared. **R**



I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;  
 in his word is my hope.  
 My soul waits for the Lord,  
 more than the night watch for the morning,  
 more than the night watch for the morning. **R**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
 for with the Lord there is mercy;  
 With him is plenteous redemption  
 and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 8:6-11

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## GOSPEL John 11:1-45

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

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about

their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt 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 came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,  
 you have taught us  
 that what we do for the least of our brothers and  
 sisters  
 we do also for you:  
 give us the will to be the servant of others  
 as you were the servant of all,  
 and gave up your life and died for us,  
 but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

### COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the  
human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of  
his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his  
resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### LITURGY OF THE PALMS

#### GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

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

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

### PSALM

#### Psalm 118:1-2. 19-end (or 118:19-24)

**R** *This is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.  
Let Israel now proclaim,  
"His mercy endures for ever." **R**

Open to me the gates of righteousness;  
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it. **R**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
and have become my salvation.  
The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone. **R**

This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.  
This is the day that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

Come, O Lord, and save us as we pray.  
Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord;  
we bless you from the house of the Lord. **R**


The Lord is God; he has given us light;  
link the pilgrims with cords  
right to the horns of the altar.  
You are my God and I will thank you;  
you are my God and I will exalt you.  
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever. **R**

### LITURGY OF THE PASSION

#### FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

The servant of the LORD said: The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

**PSALM Psalm 31:9-16 (or 31:9-18)**   
**R** *Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O God of  
truth.*

Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in  
trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
my soul and my body also.  
For my life is wasted with grief,  
and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of my  
affliction, and my bones are consumed. **R**

I have become a reproach to all my  
enemies and even to my neighbours,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street they flee  
from me. **R**

I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of  
mind;  
I have become like a broken vessel.  
For I have heard the whispering of the  
crowd; fear is on every side;  
they scheme together against me,  
and plot to take my life. **R**

But my trust is in you, O Lord.  
I have said, "You are my God.  
My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.  
Make your face to shine upon your  
servant,  
and save me for your mercy's sake." **R**

### SECOND READING Philippians 2:5-11

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.*

Let the same mind be in you that was  
in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in  
the form of God, did not regard equality  
with God as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself, taking the form of a  
slave, being born in human likeness. And  
being found in human form, he humbled  
himself and became obedient to the  
point of death – even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him and  
gave him the name that is above every  
name, so that at the name of Jesus every  
knee should bend, in heaven and on earth  
and under the earth, and every tongue  
should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to  
the glory of God the Father.

### PASSION

Either **Matthew 26:14 – end of 27**

Or **Matthew 27:11-54**

### POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of  
a servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for  
our salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father.

