

The Holy Eucharist

First Reading from the Old Testament

Outside the Easter Season

1

A reading from the book of Genesis 14:18-20

He brought bread and wine.

Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He pronounced this blessing:

'Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth,
and blessed be God Most High for handing over your enemies you.'

And Abraham gave him a tithe of everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 109:1-4. Alt. Rv. 4

R A priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old,
Christ the Lord offered bread and wine.

or

R You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.

1. The Lord's revelation to my Master:
'Sit on my right:
I will put your foes beneath your feet. **R**
2. The Lord will send from Zion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes. **R**
3. A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains; **R**
from the womb before the daybreak I begot
you. **R**
4. The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
'You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.' **R**

2

A reading from the book of Exodus 12:21-27

*When the Lord sees the blood on the lintel
and on the two doorposts, he will pass over
the door.*

Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go and choose animals from the flock on behalf of your families, and kill the Passover victim. Then take a spray of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and with the blood from the basin touch the lintel and the two doorposts. Let none of you venture out of the house till morning. Then, when the Lord goes through Egypt to strike it, and sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, he will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to enter your homes and strike. You must keep these rules as an ordinance for all time for you and your children. When you enter the land that the Lord is giving you, as he promised, you must keep to this ritual. And when your children ask you, "What does this ritual mean?" you will tell them, "It is the sacrifice of the Passover in honour of the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt, and struck Egypt but spared our houses".' And the people bowed down and worshipped.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-11. R v.9

R Taste and see that the Lord is good.

or

R Alleluia!

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R**
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **R**

3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **R**

R Taste and see that the Lord is good.

or

R Alleluia!

4. The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **R**

5. Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. **R**

3

**A reading from the first book of Exodus
16:2-4.12-15**

*I will rain down bread for you from the
heavens.*

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.'

'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them. "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God." ' And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 77:3-4. 7. 23-25. 54. R v.24

R The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

1. The things we have heard and understood
the things our fathers have told us'
we will not hide from their children
but will tell them to the next generation.
They too should arise and tell their sons
that they too should set their hope in God. **R**
2. He commanded the clouds above
and opened the gates of heaven.
He rained down manna for their food
and gave them bread from heaven. **R**
3. Mere men ate the bread of angels.
He sent them abundance of food.
He brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain which his right hand had
won. **R**

4

**A reading from the book of Exodus
24:3-8**

*This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord
has made with you.*

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, 'We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed.' Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, 'We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey.' Then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people. 'This' he said 'is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 115:12-13. 15-18. R 1 Cor 10:16

R The blessing-cup that we bless
is a communion in the blood of Christ.

or

R Alleluia!

1. How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name. **R**
2. O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds. **R**
3. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people. **R**

5

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
8:2-3. 14-16

*He fed you with manna which neither you nor
your fathers had known.*

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart - whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through. This vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, Scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in the wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 144:10-11. 15-18. R cf. v.R

R You open wide your hand, Lord,
and grant our desires.

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **R**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **R**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **R**

6

A reading from the first book of Kings
19:4-8

*Strengthened by that food he walked until he
reached the mountain of God.*

Elijah went into the wilderness, a day's journey, and sitting under a furze bush wished he were dead. 'Lord,' he said 'I have had enough. Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down and went to sleep. But an angel touched him and said, 'Get up and eat.' He looked round, and there at his head was a scone baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. But the angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, 'Get up and eat, or the journey will be too long for you.' So he got up and ate and drank, and strengthened by that food he walked for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 77:3-4. 7. 23-25. 54. R v. 24

R The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

1. The things we have heard and understood,
the things our fathers have told us
we will not hide from their children
but will tell them to the next generation.
They too should arise and tell their sons
that they too should set their hope in God. **R**
2. He commanded the clouds above
and opened the gates of heaven.
He rained down manna for their food,
and gave them bread from heaven. **R**

3. Mere men ate the bread of angels.
He sent them abundance of food.
He brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain which his right hand had
won. **R**

7

A reading from the book of Proverbs

9:1-6

*Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have
prepared for you.*

Wisdom has built herself a house,
she has erected her seven pillars,
she has laid her table.
She has despatched her maidservants
and proclaimed from the city's heights:
'Who is ignorant? Let them step this way.'
To the fool she says,
'Come and eat my bread,
drink the wine I have prepared!
Leave your folly and you will live,
walk in the ways of perception.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 147:12-15.19-20. R Jn 6:58

R Anyone who eats this bread
will live for ever.

or

R Alleluia!

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you. **R**
2. He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command. **R**
3. He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his law and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees. **R**

First Reading from the New Testament

In the Easter Season

1

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:42-47

*They remained faithful to the brotherhood
and to the breaking of bread.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common: they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22. R v.1

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

or

R Alleluia!

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R**
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R**

2

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34.37-43

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his
resurrection.*

Peter said: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea' about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R vv.8. 9

R Here I am, Lord!
I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **R**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **R**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **R**

4. Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **R**

3

**A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
1:5-8**

*He loves us and has washed away our sins
with his blood.*

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm
Ps 115:12-13. 15-18. R Cor 10:16**

R The blessing-cup that we bless
is a communion with the blood of Christ.

or

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2. O precious in the eyes of the Lord
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Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds. **R**
3. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people. **R**

4

**A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
7:9-14**

*They have washed their robes white in the
blood of the Lamb.*

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language;

they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm
Ps 144:10-11. 15-18. R cf. v.16**

R You open wide your hand, O Lord,
and grant our desires.

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **R**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **R**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **R**

Second Reading from the New Testament

1

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

10:16-17

That there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body.

The blessing cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

This is the word of the Lord.

2

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

11:23-26

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death.

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

This is the word of the Lord.

3

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

9:11-15

The blood of Christ can purify our inner self from dead actions.

Now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, which is better than one made by men's hands because it is not of this created order; and he has entered the sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption for us. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement and they restore the holiness of their

outward lives; how much more effectively the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our inner self from dead actions so that we do our service to the living God.

He brings a new covenant, as the mediator, only so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance may actually receive what was promised: his death took place to cancel the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.

This is the word of the Lord.

4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

12:18-19.22-24

You have come to a blood for purification which pleads more insistently than Abel's.

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son; and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant and a blood for purification which pleads more insistently than Abel's.

This is the word of the Lord.

5

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

1:17-21

The ransom that was paid to free you was paid in the precious blood of a lamb without stain, namely Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was

made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

This is the word of the Lord.

6

A reading from the first letter of St John

5:4-8

*There are three witnesses: the Spirit the water
and the blood.*

Anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world;
this is the victory over the world –
our faith.

Who can overcome the world?
Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of
God.
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,
not with water only,
but with water and blood;
with the Spirit as another witness –
since the Spirit is the truth –
so that there are three witnesses,
the Spirit, the water and the blood,
and all three of them agree.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL

1

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 6:56**

Alleluia, alleluia!
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me and I live in him, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to **Mark** **14:12-16 22-26**

This is my body. This is my blood

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent a man his disciples saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet the carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.'

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

2

Gospel Acclamation **cf. Apoc 1:5**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the First-born from the dead,
loves us and has washed away our sins with his
blood.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to **Mark** **15:16-20**

*They dressed him up in purple, twisted some
thorns into a crown and put it on him.*

The soldiers led Jesus away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes. Then they led him out to crucify him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

3

Gospel Acclamation **Jn6:51**

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread which has come down
from heaven,
says the Lord.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to **Luke** **9:11-17**

They all ate as much as they wanted.

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves. But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
cf. Apoc 1:5

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the First-born from the dead,
loves us and has washed away our sins with his
blood.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke
22:39-44

His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

Jesus made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, with the disciples following. When he reached the place he said to them, 'Pray not to be put to the test.' Then he withdrew from them, about a stone's throwaway, and knelt down and prayed. 'Father,' he said 'if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.' Then an angel appeared to him coming from heaven to give him strength. In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly, and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
Jn 6:56

Alleluia, alleluia!
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me and I live in him, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke
24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth,' they answered, 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the

sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he Was alive. Some of our friends went 'to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening,' they said, 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Shorter form

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke
24:13-16.28-35

They recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening,' they said, 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was

with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, It is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

6

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6:57

Alleluia, alleluia!
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father
so whoever eats me will draw life from me says
the Lord
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:1-15

*Jesus gave out as much as was wanted to all
who were sitting ready.*

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five

barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

7

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6:51

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread which has come down
from heaven,
says the Lord.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:24-35

*He who comes to me will never be hungry; he
who believes in me will never thirst.*

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly,
you are not looking for me
because you have seen the signs
but because you had all the bread you wanted
to eat.
Do not work for food that cannot last,
but work for food that endures to eternal life,
the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you,
for on him the Father, God himself, has set his
seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the work that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'this is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as Scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly,
it was not Moses who gave you bread from
heaven,
it is my Father who gives you the bread from
heaven,
the true bread;

for the bread of God
is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered:

'I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me will never be hungry;
he who believes in me will never thirst.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

8

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6:51

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread which has come down
from heaven,
says the Lord,
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:41-51

*I am the living bread which has come down
from heaven.*

The Jews were complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' 'Surely this is Jesus son of Joseph' they said. 'We know his father and mother. How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven?"' Jesus said in reply, 'Stop complaining to each other.

'No one can come to me
unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me,
and I will raise him up at the last day. It is
written in the prophets:
They will all be taught by God,
and to hear the teaching of the Father,
and learn from it,
is to come to me.
Not that anybody has seen the Father,
except the one who comes from God:
he has seen the Father.
I tell you most solemnly,
everybody who believes has eternal life.
I am the bread of life.
Your fathers ate the manna in the desert
and they are dead;
but this is the bread that comes down from
heaven,
so that a man may eat it and not die.
I am the living bread which has come down
from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; .
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

9

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6:56

Alleluia, alleluia!
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me and I live in him, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:51-58

*My flesh is real food and my blood is real
drink.*

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come down
from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another:
'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they
said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my
blood
has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.
For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.
This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:
they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for
ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

10

Gospel Acclamation

Apoc 5:9

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are worthy, Lord,
to take the scroll and break the seals of it
because you were sacrificed,
and with your blood you bought us for God.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

19:31-37

One of the soldiers pierced his side and immediately there came out blood and water.

It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath – since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity – the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead and so, instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. This is the evidence of one who saw it – trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth – and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture:

Not one bone of his will be broken;

and again, in another place scripture says:

They will look on the one whom they have pierced.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

11

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6:57

Alleluia, alleluia!
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me, says
the Lord.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

21:1-14

Jesus took the bread and gave it to them.

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this:

Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No,' he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Third Stage: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation

DURING THE EASTER VIGIL

Readings are taken from those given for the Easter Vigil. In addition to Exodus (reading 3), Isaiah 55 (reading 5) and Ezekiel (reading 7) may be chosen.

APART FROM THE EASTER VIGIL

Readings are presented in pairings. These are suggestions only. Any other suitable pairing may be used.

First Reading from the Old Testament

Outside the Easter Season

1

A reading from the book of Genesis 15:1-6. 18

Such will be your descendants. To them I give this land.

It happened that the word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless. See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:3-4.16-17.21-22.25.27. R v.2

R I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

1. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant.' **R**

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,

who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R**

3. 'I have found David my servant and with my holy oil anointed him. My hand shall always be with him and my arm shall make him strong. **R**

4. 'My truth and my love shall be with him; by my name his might shall be exalted. He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me".' **R**

2

A reading from the book of Genesis 17:1-8

I will establish my Covenant between myself and you, and your descendants after you, generation after generation, a Covenant in perpetuity.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to him and said, 'I am El Shaddai. Bear yourself blameless in my presence, and I will make a Covenant between myself and you, and increase your numbers greatly.'

Abram bowed to the ground and God said this to him, 'Here now is my covenant with you: you shall become the father of a multitude of nations. You shall no longer be called Abram; your name shall be Abraham, for I make you father of a multitude of nations. I will make you most fruitful. I will make you into nations, and your issue shall be kings. I will establish my Covenant between myself and you, and your descendants after you, generation after generation, a Covenant in perpetuity, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. I will give to you and to

your descendants after you the land you are living in, the whole land of Canaan, to own in perpetuity, and I will be your God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22. R v.1. Alt. R 1 Peter 2:25

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

or

R You had gone astray like sheep,
but now you have come back
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R**
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R**

3

A reading from the book of Genesis

35:1-4.6-7

Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you.

God said to Jacob, 'Move on now and go to Bethel and settle there. Make an altar there for the God who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.'

Jacob said to his family and to all who were with him, 'Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you; wash, and change your clothes. We must move on and go to Bethel. There I will make an altar for the God who heard me when I was in distress, and gave me his help on the journey I made.' They gave Jacob all the foreign gods in their possession, and the ear rings that they were wearing. Jacob buried them under the oak tree near Shechem.

When Jacob arrived at Luz in the land of Canaan – Bethel, in other words – and all the

people with him, he built an altar there, giving the place the name Bethel.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R v.3

R What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **R**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **R**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **R**

4

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

30:15-20

Choose life, so that you and your descendants may live.

Moses said to the people:

'See today I set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I enjoin on you today, if you love the Lord your God and follow his ways, if you keep his commandments, his laws, his customs, you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to make your own. But if your heart strays, if you refuse to listen, if you let yourself be drawn into worshipping other gods and serving them, I tell you today, you will most certainly perish; you will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, in the love of the Lord your God, obeying his voice, clinging to him; for in this your life consists, and on this depends your long stay in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob he would give them.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 8:4-9. R v.2. Alt R Eph 5:14

R How great is your name, O Lord our God,
through all the earth!

or

R Wake up from your sleep
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

1. When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars which you arranged,
what is man that you should keep him in mind,
mortal man that you care for him? **R**
2. You have made him little less than a god;
with glory and honour you crowned him,
gave him power over the works of your hand,
put all things under his feet. **R**
3. You put all things under his feet;
all of them, sheep and cattle,
yes, even the savage beasts,
birds of the air, and fish
that make their way through the waters. **R**

5

A reading from the book of Joshua

24:1-2. 15-25

We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people:

'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other Gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.' Then Joshua said to the people, 'You cannot serve the Lord, because he is a holy God, he is a jealous God who will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you desert the Lord to follow alien gods he in turn will afflict and destroy you after the goodness he has shown you.' The people answered Joshua, 'No; it is the Lord we wish to serve.'

Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.' They answered, 'We are witnesses.' 'Then cast away the alien gods among you and give your hearts to the Lord the God of Israel!' The people answered Joshua, 'It is the Lord our God we choose to serve; it is his voice that we will obey.'

That day, Joshua made a covenant for the people.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Pss 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R Ps 41:3

R My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life.

1. Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God. **R**
 2. My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God? **R**
- R** My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life.
3. O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain
to the place where you dwell. **R**
 4. I will come to the altar of God,
the God of my joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,
O God, my God. **R**

6

A reading from the second book of the Kings 5:9-15

*Naaman went down and immersed himself
seven times in the Jordan, and his flesh
became clean once more.*

Naaman, the commander of the King of Syria's army, came with his team and chariot and drew up at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent him a messenger to say, 'Go and bathe seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will become clean once more.' But Naaman was indignant and went off, saying, 'Here was I thinking he would be sure to come out to me and stand there, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over

the spot and cure the leprous part. Surely Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, are better than any water in Israel? Could I not bathe in them and become clean?' And he turned round and went off in a rage. But his servants approached him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had asked you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? All the more reason, then, when he says to you, "Bathe, and you will become clean."' So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 8-9. 12-14. 17. R v.12. Alt. R Ez 36:26

R A pure heart create for me, O God.

or

R I shall give you a new heart,
and put a new spirit in you.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**
2. Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow. **R**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R**
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R**

7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

44:1-3

I will pour my spirit on your descendants.

Listen, Jacob my servant,
Israel whom I have chosen.
Thus says the Lord who made you,
who formed you from the womb, who is your help:
Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.
For I will pour out water on the thirsty soil,
streams on the dry ground.
I will pour my spirit on your descendants,
my blessing on your children.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R v.2

R For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord, my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R**
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R**
4. You have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you. **R**

8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

31:31-34

I will write my Law on their hearts.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts.

Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 31:1-2.5. 11. If V.I. Alt. If v.11

R Happy the man whose offence is forgiven.

or

R Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **R**
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **R**
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **R**

9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

36:24-28

*I shall pour clean water over you, and you
will be cleansed of all your defilement.*

The Lord says this: 'I am going to take you from among the nations and gather you together from all the foreign countries, and bring you home to your own land. I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols, I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you, and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances. You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors. You shall be my people and I will be your God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4.8-9.12-14.17. R v.12. Alt. R Ez 36:26

R A pure heart create for me, a God.

or

R If I shall give you a new heart,
and put a new spirit in you.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**
2. Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow. **R**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R**
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R**

*Other texts may be chosen from the Old Testament
readings provided for the Easter Vigil.*

First Reading from the New Testament

In the Easter Season

1

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14.36-42

Every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ.

On Pentecost day Peter stood up with the Eleven and said in a loud voice:

'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered, 'and everyone of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments. They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33: 2-3. 6-9. 14-19. R v.6

R Look towards the Lord and be radiant.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R**
2. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **R**
3. The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **R**
4. Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace. **R**

5. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. **R**

6. They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted'
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R**

2

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8:26-38

Look, there is some water here; is there anything to stop me being baptised?

The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, 'Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza, the desert road.' So he set off on his journey. Now it happened that an Ethiopian had been on pilgrimage to Jerusalem; he was a eunuch and an officer at the court of the kandake, or queen, of Ethiopia, and was in fact her chief treasurer. He was now on his way home; and as he sat in his chariot he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and meet that chariot.' When Philip ran up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' 'How can I,' he replied, 'unless I have someone to guide me?' So he invited Philip to get in and sit by his side. Now the passage of scripture he was reading was this:

Like a sheep that is led to the slaughter-house,
like a lamb that is dumb in front of its shearers,
like these he never opens his mouth.

He has been humiliated and has no one to defend him.

Who will ever talk about his descendants,
since his life on earth has been cut short!

The eunuch turned to Philip and said, 'Tell me, is the prophet referring to himself or someone else?' Starting, therefore, with this text of scripture Philip proceeded to explain the Good News of Jesus to him.

Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look, there is some water here; is there anything to stop me being baptised?' And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he replied, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' He ordered the chariot to stop, then Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water and Philip baptised him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 4. 8-9. 13-14. R v. 1 Alt R Eph 5:14

R The Lord is my light and my help.

or

R Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead
and Christ will shine on you.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **R**
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R**
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help **R**
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **R**

3

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

19:1. 5-9

*Happy are those who are invited to the
wedding feast of the Lamb.*

I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing, 'Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God!'

Then I, John, heard a voice which came from the throne; it said, 'Praise our God, you servants of his and all who, great or small, revere him'. And I seemed to hear the voices of a huge crowd, like the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder, answering, 'Alleluia! The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun; let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints.' The angel said, 'Write this: Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb'.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-3. 5-6.8-9. 16-17. R v.1

R Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!' **R**
2. Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.
He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod. **R**
3. O peoples, bless our God,
let the voice of his praise resound,
of the God who gave life to our souls
and kept our feet from stumbling. **R**
4. Come and hear, all who fear God,
I will tell what he did for my soul:
to him I cried aloud,
with high praise ready on my tongue. **R**

SECOND READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3-11

When we were baptised we went into the tomb with him: let us live a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Shorter form

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

When we were baptised we went into the tomb with him: let us live a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory we too might live a new life.

We believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:28-32. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

After saying this, what can we add? 'With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come: not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:12-13

In the one Spirit we were all baptised.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

This the word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

3:26-28

All baptised in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ.

You are, all of you, sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. All baptised in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, and there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

1:3-10. 13-14

He determined that we should become his adopted sons through Jesus.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.

Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ,

to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence,

determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ

for his own kind purposes,

to make us praise the glory of his grace,

his free gift to us in the Beloved,

in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

Such is the richness of the grace

which he has showered on us

in all wisdom and insight.

He has let us know the mystery of his purpose,

the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ

from the beginning to act upon when the times

had run their course to the end: that he would

bring everything together under Christ, as head,

everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

Now you too, in him,

have heard the message of the truth and the good

news of your salvation,

and have believed it;

and you too have been stamped with the seal of

the Holy Spirit of the Promise,

the pledge of our inheritance

which brings freedom for those whom God has

taken for his own, to make his glory praised.

This is the word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

4:1-6

One Lord, one faith, one baptism.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

This is the word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

3:9-17

You have put on a new self, as God's chosen race.

You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
3:4-7**

*He saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth,
renewing us with the Holy Spirit.*

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

9

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
10:22-25**

*Our minds sprinkled and free from any trace of bad
conscience, our bodies washed with pure water.*

Let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our minds sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful. Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works. Do not stay away from the meetings of the community, as some do, but encourage each other to go; the more so as you see the Day drawing near.

This is the word of the Lord.

10

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter
2:4-5.9-10**

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

Jesus Christ is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which he has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people at all and now you are the People of God; once you were outside the mercy and now you have been given mercy.

This is the word of the Lord.

1

**Gospel Acclamation
Col 3:1**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Since you have been brought back
to true life with Christ,
you must look for the things that are in heaven,
where Christ is,
sitting at God's right hand.
Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew
16:24-27**

*If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let
him renounce himself*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

2

**Gospel Acclamation
Eph 4:5-6**

Alleluia, alleluia!
There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
and one God who is Father of all.
Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 28:18-20**

*Make disciples of all the nations; baptise them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.*

Jesus came up and spoke to the eleven disciples. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
Jn 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
God loved the world so much,
that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark
1:9-11

He was baptised in the Jordan by John.

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord,
no one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark 10:13-16

Anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of heaven like a little child will never enter it.

People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
Mk 16:15

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go out to the whole world,
says the Lord,
proclaim the Good News
to all creation.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark

16:15-16. 19-20

He who believes and is baptised will be saved.

Jesus showed himself to the eleven. And he said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He- who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
cf. Col 2:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have been buried with Christ
when we were baptised;
by baptism too,
we have been raised up with him.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke
24:44-53

It was fitting that in his name repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be preached to all the nations.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled'. He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations,

beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.'

Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

7

Gospel Acclamation
Jn 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John 1: 1-5.9-14.16-18

*He gave power to become children of God to
all who believe in his name.*

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.
The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us,
received
yes, grace in return for grace,

since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's
heart,
who has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

8

Gospel Acclamation
cf. 2 Tim 1:10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Our Saviour, Christ Jesus, abolished death,
and he has proclaimed life through the Good
News.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John
1:29-34

*Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes
away the sin of the world.*

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look,
there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin
of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said:
A man is coming after me who ranks before me
because he existed before me. I did not know him
myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that
I came baptising with water.' John also declared,
'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven
like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him
myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water
had said to me, "The man on whom you see the
Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going
to baptise with the Holy Spirit". Yes I have seen and
I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

9

Gospel Acclamation
1 Peter 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood,
a consecrated nation;
sing the praises of God who called you out of
the darkness
into his wonderful light.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

3:1-6

Unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

There was one of the Pharisees called Nicodemus, a leading Jew, who came to Jesus by night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who comes from God; for no one could perform the signs that you do unless God were with him'. Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly,
unless a man is born from above,
he cannot see the kingdom of God.'

Nicodemus said, 'How can a grown man be born? Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born again?' Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,
unless a man is born through water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God:
what is born of the flesh is flesh;
what is born of the Spirit is spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

10

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

3:16-21

So that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

'God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

11

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

12:44-50

I, the light, have come into the world.

Jesus declared publicly:

'Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me, sees the one who sent me.
I, the light, have come into the world, so that whoever believes in me need not stay in the dark any more.
If anyone hears my words and does not keep them faithfully,
It is not I who shall condemn him, since I have come not to condemn the world but to save the world:
he who rejects me and refuses my words has his judge already:
the word itself that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day.
For what I have spoken does not come from myself;
no, what I was to say, what I had to speak, was commanded by the Father who sent me, and I know that his commands mean eternal life.
And therefore what the Father has told me is what I speak.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation**Jn 14:6**

Alleluia, alleluia!
 I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the
 Lord,
 no one can come to the Father except through
 me.
 Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
 John****15:1-11**

*Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears
 fruit in plenty.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,
 and my Father is the vinedresser.
 Every branch in me that bears no fruit
 he cuts away,
 and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes
 to make it bear even more.
 You are pruned already,
 by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
 Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
 As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
 but must remain part of the vine,
 neither can you unless you remain in me.
 I am the vine,
 you are the branches.
 Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
 bears fruit in plenty;
 for cut off from me you can do nothing.
 Anyone who does not remain in me
 is like a branch that has been thrown away
 – he withers;
 these branches are collected and thrown on the
 fire,
 and they are burnt.
 If you remain in me
 and my words remain in you,
 you may ask what you will
 and you shall get it.
 It is to the glory of my Father that you should
 bear much fruit,
 and then you will be my disciples.
 As the Father has loved me,
 so I have loved you.
 Remain in my love.
 If you keep my commandments
 you will remain in my love,
 just as I have kept my Father's commandments
 and remain in his love.
 I have told you this
 so that my own joy may be in you
 and your joy be complete.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.