

**JANUARY 3, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**THE PROPHET JEREMIAH 31:7-14**

For Yahweh says this: Shout with joy for Jacob! Hail the chief of nations! Proclaim! Praise! Shout, 'Yahweh has saved his people, the remnant of Israel!' Watch, I shall bring them back from the land of the north and gather them in from the far ends of the earth. With them, the blind and the lame, women with child, women in labor, all together: a mighty throng will return here! In tears they will return, in prayer I shall lead them. I shall guide them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble. For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born son.

Listen, nations, to the word of Yahweh. On the farthest coasts and islands proclaim it, say, 'He who scattered Israel is gathering him, will guard him as a shepherd guarding his flock.' For Yahweh has ransomed Jacob, rescued him from a hand stronger than his own. They will come, shouting for joy on the heights of Zion, thronging towards Yahweh's lavish gifts, for wheat, new wine and oil, sheep and cattle; they will be like a well-watered garden, they will sorrow no more.

The young girl will then take pleasure in the dance, and young men and old alike; I shall change their mourning into gladness, comfort them, give them joy after their troubles; I shall refresh my priests with rich food, and my people will gorge themselves on my lavish gifts, Yahweh declares. ❖

**JANUARY 3, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**EPHESIANS 1:3-6,15-19A**

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Thus he chose us in Christ before the world was made to be holy and faultless before him in love, marking us out for himself beforehand, to be adopted sons, through Jesus Christ. Such was his purpose and good pleasure, to the praise of the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That is why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and your love for all God's holy people, have never failed to thank God for you and to remember you in my prayers. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, how rich is the glory of the heritage he offers among his holy people, and how extraordinarily great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. ❖

*(There are three options for the Gospel reading on the Second Sunday of Christmas)*

**JANUARY 3, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**MATTHEW 2:13-15,19-23**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.” ❖

*(There are three options for the Gospel reading on the Second Sunday of Christmas)*

**JANUARY 3, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**LUKE 2:41-52**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. ❖

*(There are three options for the Gospel reading on the Second Sunday of Christmas)*

**JANUARY 3, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**MATTHEW 2:1-12**

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of King Herod, suddenly some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east asking, 'Where is the infant king of the Judeans? We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.'

When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Anointed was to be born. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Anointed was to be born. They told him, 'At Bethlehem in Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least among the leaders of Judah, for from you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem with the words, 'Go and find

out all about the child, and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.'

Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And suddenly the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were given a warning in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.



**JANUARY 3, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**LUKE 2:41-52**

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**JANUARY 10, 2010**

**THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**THE PROPHET ISAIAH 43:1-7**

And now, thus says Yahweh, who created you, Jacob, who formed you, Israel: Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine. Should you pass through the waters, I shall be with you; or through rivers, they will not swallow you up. Should you walk through fire, you will not suffer, and the flame will not burn you. For I am Yahweh, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I have given Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Since I regard you as precious, since you are honored and I love you, I therefore give people in exchange for you, and nations in return for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I shall bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. To the north I shall say, "Give them up!" and to the south, "Do not hold them back!" Bring back my sons from far away, and my daughters from the remotest part of the earth, everyone who bears my name, whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, whom I have made. ❖

**JANUARY 10, 2010**

**THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 8:14-17**

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there and prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet the Spirit had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ❖

**JANUARY 10, 2010**

**THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 3:15–17, 21–22**

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to wonder whether John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, “I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is more powerful than me, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.”

Now it happened that when all the people had been baptized and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in a physical form, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ❖

**JANUARY 17, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE PROPHET ISAIAH 62:1–5**

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I shall not rest until saving justice dawns for her like a bright light and her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will then see your saving justice, and all kings and queens your glory, and you will be called a new name which Yahweh's mouth will reveal. You will be a crown of splendor in Yahweh's hand, a princely diadem in the hand of your God. No more will you be known as 'Forsaken' or your country be known as 'Desolation'; instead, you will be called 'My Delight is in her' and your country 'The Wedded'; for Yahweh will take delight in you and your country will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, your rebuilder will wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you. ❖

**JANUARY 17, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 12:1–11**

About the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I want you to be quite certain. You remember that, when you were pagans, you were irresistibly drawn to inarticulate heathen gods. Because of that, I want to make it quite clear to you that no one who says “A curse on Jesus” can be speaking in the Spirit of God, and nobody is able to say, “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all. The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good. To one is given from the Spirit the gift of utterance expressing wisdom; to another the gift of utterance expressing knowledge, in accordance with the same Spirit; to another, faith, from the same Spirit; and to another, the gifts of healing, through this one Spirit; to another, the working of

miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, the power of distinguishing spirits; to one, the gift of different tongues and to another, the interpretation of tongues. But at work in all these is one and the same Spirit, distributing them at will to each individual. ❖

**JANUARY 17, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 2:1–11**

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. And they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the feast had all been used, and the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” Jesus said, “Woman, what do you want from me? My hour has not come yet.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the customary purification rituals: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water,” and they filled them to the brim. Then he said to them, “Draw some out now and take it to the president of the feast.” They did this; the president tasted the water, and it had turned into wine.

Having no idea where it came from — though the servants who had drawn the water knew — the president of the feast called the bridegroom and said, “Everyone serves good wine first and the worse wine when the guests are well wined; but you have kept the best wine till now.”

This was the first of Jesus' signs: it was at Cana in Galilee.  
He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. ❖

**JANUARY 24, 2010**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE PROPHET NEHEMIAH 8:1–3, 5-6, 8–10**

All the people gathered as one body in the square in front of the Water Gate, and asked the scribe Ezra to bring the Book of the Law of Moses which Yahweh had prescribed for Israel. Accordingly, on the first day of the seventh month, the priest Ezra brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women and all those old enough to understand. In the square in front of the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and of those old enough to understand, he read from the book from dawn till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. In full view of all the people — since he stood higher than them all — Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed Yahweh, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, “Amen! Amen!” then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before Yahweh. Ezra read from the book of the Law of God, translating and giving the sense; so the reading was understood.

Then His Excellency Nehemiah and the priest-scribe Ezra and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all

the people, “Today is sacred to Yahweh your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.” For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, “You may go; eat what is rich, drink what is sweet and send a helping to the one who has nothing prepared. For today is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of Yahweh is your stronghold.” ❖

**JANUARY 24, 2010**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 12:12—31A**

For as with the human body, which is a unity, although it has many parts — all the parts of the body, though many, still making up one single body — so it is with Christ. We were baptized into one body in a single Spirit, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as free men, and we were all given the same Spirit to drink. And indeed the body consists not of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, “I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body,” it does not belong to the body any the less for that. Or if the ear were to say, “I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,” that would not stop its belonging to the body. If the whole body were just an eye, how would there be any hearing? If the whole body were hearing, how would there be any smelling?

As it is, God has put all the separate parts into the body as he chose. If they were all the same part, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” and nor can the head say to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones. It is the parts of the body which we consider least dignified that we surround with the greatest dignity; and our less presentable parts are given greater respect, which our presentable parts do not need. God has composed the body so that greater dignity is given to the parts which were without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body but each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all the parts share its pain. And if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

Now Christ's body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole. And those whom God has appointed in the Church are, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers; after them, miraculous powers, then gifts of healing, helpful acts, guidance, various kinds of tongues. Are all of them apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle-workers? Do all have the gifts of healing? Do all of them speak in tongues and all interpret them? Set your mind on the higher gifts. ❖

**JANUARY 24, 2010**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 4:14–21**

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone glorified him.

He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: “The spirit of the Lord is on me, and has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. The spirit of the Lord has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord.”

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, “This text is being fulfilled today even while you are listening.” ❖

**JANUARY 31, 2010**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE PROPHET JEREMIAH 1:4–10**

The word of Yahweh came to me, saying: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; you came to birth I consecrated you; I appointed you as prophet to the nations.” I then said, “Ah, ah, ah, Lord Yahweh; you see, I do not know how to speak: I am only a child!” But Yahweh replied, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child,’ for you must go to all to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of confronting them, for I am with you to rescue you, Yahweh declares.” Then Yahweh stretched out his hand and touched my mouth, and Yahweh said to me: “There! I have put my words into your mouth. Look, today I have set you over the nations and kingdoms, to uproot and to knock down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” ❖

**JANUARY 31, 2010**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 13:1–13**

Though I command languages both human and angelic — if I speak without love, I am no more than a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. And though I have the power of prophecy, to penetrate all mysteries and knowledge, and though I have all the faith necessary to move mountains — if I am without love, I am nothing. Though I should give away to the poor all that I possess, and even give up my body to be burned — if I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.

Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophecies, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will fall silent; and if knowledge, it will be done away with. For we know only imperfectly, and we prophesy imperfectly; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will be done away with. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and see

things as a child does, and think like a child; but now that I have become an adult, I have finished with all childish ways. Now we see only reflections in a mirror, mere riddles, but then we shall be seeing face to face. Now I can know only imperfectly; but then I shall know just as fully as I am myself known.

As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love. ❖

**JANUARY 31, 2010**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 4:21–30**

Then Jesus began to speak to them, “This text is being fulfilled today even while you are listening.” And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, “This is Joseph’s son, surely?” But he replied, “No doubt you will quote me the saying, ‘Physician, heal yourself,’ and tell me, ‘We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own country.’” And he went on, “In truth I tell you, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country. There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah’s day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a town in Sidonia. And in the prophet Elisha’s time there were many suffering from virulent skin-diseases in Israel, but none of these was cured — only Naaman the Syrian.”

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him off the cliff, but he passed straight through the crowd and walked away. ❖

**FEBRUARY 7, 2010**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE PROPHET ISAIAH 6:1–8**

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; his train filled the sanctuary. Above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings: two to cover its face, two to cover its feet and two for flying; and they were shouting these words to each other: "Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh Sabaoth."

The doorposts shook at the sound of their shouting, and the Temple was full of smoke.

Then I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the Lord, Yahweh Sabaoth."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in its hand a live coal which it had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this it touched my mouth and said: "Look, this has touched your lips, your guilt has been removed and your sin forgiven."

I then heard the voice of the Lord saying: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I, send me." ❖

**FEBRUARY 7, 2010**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 15:1–11**

I want to make quite clear to you, brothers and sisters, what the message of the gospel that I preached to you is; you accepted it and took your stand on it, and you are saved by it, if you keep to the message I preached to you; otherwise your coming to believe was in vain. The tradition I handed on to you in the first place, a tradition which I had myself received, was that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried; and that on the third day, he was raised to life, in accordance with the scriptures; and that he appeared to Cephas; and later to the Twelve; and next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still with us, though some have fallen asleep; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles. Last of all he appeared to me too, as though I was a child born abnormally.

For I am the least of the apostles and am not really fit to be called an apostle, because I had been persecuting the Church of God; but what I am now, I am through the grace of God, and the grace which was given to me has not been wasted. Indeed, I have worked harder than all the others — not I, but

the grace of God which is with me. Anyway, whether it was they or I, this is what we preach and what you believed. ❖

**FEBRUARY 7, 2010**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 5:1–11**

Now it happened that Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats at the water's edge. The fishermen had got out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats — it was Simon's — and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets." And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signaled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled both boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man." For he and all his companions were completely awestruck at the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee,

who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will be catching." Then, bringing their boats back to land they left everything and followed him. ❖

**FEBRUARY 14, 2010**

**THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**EXODUS 34:29–35**

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, as he was coming down the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face was radiant because he had been talking to Yahweh. And when Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin on his face was so radiant that they were afraid to go near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the community rejoined him, and Moses talked to them, after which all the Israelites came closer, and he passed on to them all the orders that Yahweh had given to him on Mount Sinai. Once Moses had finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. Whenever Moses went into Yahweh's presence to speak with Yahweh, he took the veil off until he came out. And when he came out, he would tell the Israelites what orders he had been given, and the Israelites would see Moses' face radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak to Yahweh next time.



**FEBRUARY 14, 2010**

**THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 3:(12 -16)17—4:2**

(Optional – ask preacher whether to include)

*With a hope like this, we can speak with complete fearlessness; not like Moses who put a veil over his face so that the Israelites should not watch the end of what was transitory. But their minds were closed; indeed, until this very day, the same veil remains over the reading of the Old Testament: it is not lifted, for only in Christ is it done away with. As it is, to this day, whenever Moses is read, their hearts are covered with a veil, and this veil will not be taken away till they turn to the Lord.)*

Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with our unveiled faces like mirrors reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the image that we reflect in brighter and brighter glory; this is the working of the Lord who is the Spirit.

Such by God's mercy is our ministry, and therefore we do not waver but have renounced all shameful secrecy. It is not our way to be devious, or to falsify the word of God; instead, in God's sight we commend ourselves to every human being with a conscience by showing the truth openly. ❖

**FEBRUARY 14, 2010**

**THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 9:28–36, (37–43)**

Now about eight days after this had been said, Jesus took with him Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. And it happened that, as he was praying, the aspect his face was changed and his clothing became sparkling white. And suddenly there were two men talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing that he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they woke up and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He did not know what he was saying.

As he was saying this, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, “This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.” And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen. ❖

(Optional – ask the preacher whether to include)

*Now it happened that on the following day when they were coming down from the mountain a large crowd came to meet him. And suddenly a man in the crowd cried out. “Master,” he said, “I implore you to look at my son: he is my only child. A spirit will suddenly take hold of him, and all at once it gives a sudden cry and throws the boy into convulsions with foaming at the mouth; it is slow to leave him, but when it does, it leaves the boy worn out. I begged your disciples to drive it out, and they could not.”*

*In reply Jesus said, “Faithless and perverse generation! How much longer must I be among you and put up with you? Bring your son. Even while the boy was coming, the devil threw him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and cured the boy and gave him back to his father, and everyone was awestruck by the greatness of God. ❖*

**FEBRUARY 21, 2010**  
**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**DEUTERONOMY 26:1–11**

When you have entered the country which the LORD your God is giving you as heritage, when you have taken possession of it and are living in it, you must set aside the first-fruits of all the produce of the soil raised by you in your country, given you by the LORD your God. You must put these in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to give his name a home. You will go to the priest then in office and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD my God that I have reached the country which the LORD swore to our ancestors that he would give us.”

The priest will then take the basket from your hand and lay it before the altar of the LORD your God. In the presence of the LORD your God, you will then pronounce these words: “My father was a wandering Aramaean, who went down to Egypt with a small group of men, and stayed there, until he there became a great, powerful and numerous nation. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they oppressed us and inflicted harsh slavery on us.

But we called on the LORD, God of our ancestors. the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our

oppression; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. the LORD brought us here and has given us this country, a country flowing with milk and honey. Hence, I now bring the first-fruits of the soil that you, the LORD, have given me.”

You will then lay them before the LORD your God, and prostrate yourself in the presence of the LORD your God. You must then rejoice in all the good things that the LORD your God has bestowed on you and your family — you, the Levite and the foreigner living with you. ❖

**FEBRUARY 21, 2010**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 10:8B-13**

The word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith, the faith which we preach, that if you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and if you believe with your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. It is by believing with the heart that you are justified, and by making the declaration with your lips that you are saved. When scripture says: No one who relies on this will be brought to disgrace, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: the same Lord is the Lord of all, and his generosity is offered to all who appeal to him, for all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.



**FEBRUARY 21, 2010**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 4:1–13**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert, for forty days being put to the test by the devil. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, “If you are Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.” But Jesus replied, “Scripture says: People live not on bread alone.”

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, “I will give you all this power and their splendor, for it has been handed over to me, for me to give it to anyone I choose. Do homage, then, to me, and it shall all be yours.” But Jesus answered him, “Scripture says: You must do homage to the Lord your God, him alone you must serve.”

Then he led him to Jerusalem and set him on the parapet of the Temple. “If you are Son of God,” he said to him, “throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He has given his angels orders about you, to guard you, and again: They will carry you in their arms in case you trip over a stone.”

But Jesus answered him, “Scripture says: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” Having exhausted every way of putting him to the test, the devil left him, until the opportune moment. ❖

**FEBRUARY 28, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**GENESIS 15:1–12, 17–18**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these

and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ❖

**FEBRUARY 28, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1**

Brothers and sisters, be united in imitating me. Keep your eyes fixed on those who act according to the example you have from me. For there are so many people of whom I have often warned you, and now I warn you again with tears in my eyes, who behave like the enemies of Christ's cross. They are destined to be lost; their god is the stomach; they glory in what they should think shameful, since their minds are set on earthly things. But our homeland is in heaven and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transfigure the wretched body of ours into the mould of his glorious body, through the working of the power which he has, even to bring all things under his mastery.

So then, my brothers and sisters, my dear friends whom I miss so much, my joy and my crown, hold firm in the Lord, dear friends. ❖

**FEBRUARY 28, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 13:31–35**

Just at this time some Pharisees came up. “Go away,” they said. “Leave this place, because Herod means to kill you.” Jesus replied, “You may go and give that fox this message: ‘Look! Today and tomorrow I drive out devils and heal, and on the third day I attain my end. But for today and tomorrow and the next day I must go on, since it would not be right for a prophet to die outside Jerusalem.’”

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you refused! Look! Your house will be left to you. Yes, I promise you, you shall not see me till the time comes when you are saying: Blessed is he who is coming in the name of the Lord!” ❖

**MARCH 7, 2010**

**THE FEAST OF ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA (TRANSFERRED)**

**EXODUS 33:12-17**

Moses said to the Lord, “You are telling me to lead this people on; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘You are my intimate friend,’ and also, ‘You have found favor with me.’ Now, if I have found favor with you, do let me know what you are up to, so that I may continue to find favor with you. After all, this nation is your own people.”

The Lord answered, “I myself will go along, and will set your heart at rest.”

Moses replied, “If you are not coming yourself, do not make us move on from here. For how can it be known that we, your people and I, have found favor with you, except by your coming with us? This way we, your people and I, will be marked out from every other people on earth.”

The Lord said to Moses, “Again I will do what you have asked, because you have found favor with me and you are my intimate friend.” ❖

**MARCH 7, 2010**

**THE FEAST OF ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA (TRANSFERRED)**

**PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS 3:10-15**

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us, then, who are mature, be of the same mind. ❖

**MARCH 7, 2010**

**THE FEAST OF ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA (TRANSFERRED)**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 15:7-17**

I have loved you just as the Father has loved me: 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 may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. You can have no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

I shall no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what the master is up to; I call you friends, because I shared with you everything I have learned from my Father.



**MARCH 7, 2010**

**THE FEAST OF ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA (TRANSFERRED)**

**A READING FROM ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA THE LIFE OF MOSES**

I have briefly traced out the life of the great Moses like a pattern of beauty, so that each one of us might copy the beauty shown here by imitating his way of life. What surer testimony to Moses' perfection could we find, than God's own voice saying to him, "You are my most intimate friend."?

Now it is time for you, noble friend, to look to Moses' example, and by transferring its deeper meaning to your own life, to be known by God and to become God's friend. This is true perfection: not to shun wickedness for fear of punishment, like slaves, nor to do good because we hope for rewards, as if cashing in on a deal. On the contrary, setting aside all the prizes we hope for – and have been promised – we regard falling from God's friendship as the only thing dreadful, and we consider becoming God's friend the only thing truly worthwhile. This I said, is the perfection of life.

As God lifts your understanding to what is magnificent and divine, whatever you find – and I know you will find plenty – will surely serve the common good in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Here Gregory of Nyssa ended his writings, and died in the  
Year of Grace three hundred ninety-five. ❖

**MARCH 14, 2010**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**JOSHUA 5:9–12**

The LORD then said to Joshua, “Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.” Hence, the place has been called Gilgal ever since.

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening, in the plain of Jericho. On the very next day after the Passover, they ate what the land produced, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn. The manna stopped the day after they had eaten the produce of the land. The Israelites from that year onwards ate the produce of Canaan and had no more manna. ❖

**MARCH 14, 2010**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 5:16–21**

From now onwards, then, we will not consider anyone by human standards: even if we were once familiar with Christ according to human standards, we do not know him in that way any longer. So for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old order is gone and a new being is there to see. It is all God's work; we were reconciled to God through Christ and God gave us the ministry of reconciliation. I mean, God was in Christ reconciling the world to God, not holding anyone's faults against them, but entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God was urging you through us, and in the name of Christ we appeal to you to be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one a victim for sin, so that in him we might become the uprightness of God. ❖

**MARCH 14, 2010**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 15:1–3, 11B–32**

The tax collectors and sinners, however, were all crowding round to listen to Jesus, and the Pharisees and scribes complained saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, let me have the share of the estate that will come to me.’ So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

“When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch; so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled himself with the husks the pigs were eating but no one would let him have them. Then he came to his senses and said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have all the food they want and more, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be

called your son; treat me as one of your hired men.’ So he left the place and went back to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him. Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we will celebrate by having a feast, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. The servant told him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the calf we had been fattening because he has got him back safe and sound.’ He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out and began to urge him to come in; but he retorted to his father, ‘All these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed any orders of yours, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when

he comes back after swallowing up your property — he and his loose women — you kill the calf we had been fattening.’

“The father said, ‘my son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.’” ❖

**MARCH 21, 2010**  
**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**THE PROPHET ISAIAH 43:16–21**

Thus says the LORD, who made a way through the sea, a path in the raging waters, who led out chariot and horse together with an army of picked troops: they lay down never to rise again, they were snuffed out, put out like a wick. No need to remember past events, no need to think about what was done before.

Look, I am doing something new, now it emerges; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the desert and rivers in wastelands. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for bestowing water in the desert and rivers on the wastelands for my people, my chosen one, to drink. The people I have shaped for myself will broadcast my praises.



**MARCH 21, 2010**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14**

If anyone does claim to rely on them, my claim is better. Circumcised on the eighth day of my life, I was born of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrew parents. In the matter of the Law, I was a Pharisee; as for religious fervor, I was a persecutor of the Church; as for the uprightness embodied in the Law, I was faultless. But what were once my assets I now through Christ Jesus count as losses. Yes, I will go further: because of the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, I count everything else as loss. For him I have accepted the loss of all other things, and look on them all as filth if only I can gain Christ and be given a place in him, with the uprightness I have gained not from the Law, but through faith in Christ, an uprightness from God, based on faith, that I may come to know him and the power of his resurrection, and partake of his sufferings by being molded to the pattern of his death, striving towards the goal of resurrection from the dead. Not that I have secured it already, nor yet reached my goal, but I am still pursuing it in the attempt to take hold of the prize for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters,

I do not reckon myself as having taken hold of it; I can only say that forgetting all that lies behind me, and straining forward to what lies in front, I am racing towards the finishing-point to win the prize of God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus. ❖

**MARCH 21, 2010**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 12:1–8**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom he had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there; Martha waited on them and Lazarus was among those at table. Mary brought in a pound of very costly ointment, pure nard, and with it anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair; the house was filled with the scent of the ointment. Then Judas Iscariot — one of his disciples, the man who was to betray him — said, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he was in charge of the common fund and used to help himself to the contents. So Jesus said, “Leave her alone; let her keep it for the day of my burial. You have the poor with you always, you will not always have me.” ❖

**MARCH 28, 2010**

## **PALM SUNDAY**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 19:28-40**

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.” ❖

**MARCH 28, 2010**

## **PALM SUNDAY**

### **THE PROPHET ISAIAH 50:4-9**

Lord Yahweh has given me a disciple's tongue, for me to know how to give a word of comfort to the weary. Morning by morning he makes my ear alert to listen like a disciple. Lord Yahweh has opened my ear and I have not resisted, I have not turned away. I have offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; I have not turned my face away from insult and spitting. Lord Yahweh comes to my help, this is why insult has not touched me, this is why I have set my face like flint and know that I shall not be put to shame. The One who grants me saving justice is near! Who will bring a case against me? Let us appear in court together! Who has a case against me? Let him approach me! Look, Lord Yahweh is coming to my help! Who dares condemn me? Look at them, all falling apart like moth-eaten clothes! ❖

**MARCH 28, 2010**

**PALM SUNDAY**

**PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

Make your own the mind of Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, did not count equality with God something to be grasped. But he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are; and being in every way like a human being, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. And for this God raised him high, and gave him the name which is above all other names; so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God. ❖

**MARCH 28, 2010**

**PALM SUNDAY**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

Jesus said, ‘the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘this voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, ‘we have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?’ Jesus said to them, ‘the light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the

darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them. ❖

**APRIL 3, 2010**

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**

**READING 1: PROVERBS 8:22-36**

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

‘And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord; but those who miss me injure themselves.’ ❖

**APRIL 3, 2010**

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**

**READING 2: EXODUS 3: 1-15**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey. I have also seen how the

Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.’

But Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am.’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I am has sent me to you. The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”’: This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations. ❖

**APRIL 3, 2010**

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**

**READING 3: EXODUS 14:10–15:1**

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and saw them— Egyptians! Coming at them! They were totally afraid. They cried out in terror to God. They told Moses, "Weren't the cemeteries big enough in Egypt? So why'd you bring us out here in the desert to die? What have you done to us, taking us out of Egypt? We told you this would happen! Didn't we say, 'Leave us alone here in Egypt—we're better off as slaves in Egypt than as corpses in the desert.'"

Moses said: "Don't be afraid. Stand firm. See what the LORD can do. Take a good look at the Egyptians today because you'll never see them again. God will take care of them once and for all. So, quit complaining!"

God said to Moses: "Tell the people to get moving. Hold your staff high and stretch your hand out over the water. The people will walk across on dry ground. I'll take care of the Egyptians. They'll be just as stubborn as ever, but it won't turn out the way they think. The army, the chariots,

the horsemen – I’ll use the whole war-machine to show my Glory. Then the warriors will know that I am God.”

Moses stretched out his hand over the water and God blew a terrific east wind all night long. And the water split in two. God made the sea dry ground.

The people walked through the sea on dry ground with the waters piled up on the right and on the left. The Egyptians drove their war machine after them; every horse and chariot and driver of Pharaoh racing into the middle of the sea. They panicked. The wheels of their chariots were stuck in the mud. The Egyptians said, “Run for your lives! God is on Israel’s side!”

God said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea and the waters will come back over the war machine, over the chariots, over the horsemen.”

The Egyptians were running. The sea flooded over them, drowning the chariots and riders of Pharaoh's army that had chased after Israel. Not one of them survived.

God delivered Israel that day from their slave masters. And Israel looked at the spectacle and realized the power that God brought in freeing them. The people were in awe before the LORD and trusted God and his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to God: ❖

**APRIL 3, 2010**

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**

**READING 4: ISAIAH 54:8-15**

With everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer. This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I am about to set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of jewels, and all your wall of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the prosperity of your children. In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you. ❖

**APRIL 3, 2010**

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**

**READING 5: EZEKIEL 47:1-12 (SELECTIONS)**

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple towards the east; and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. It was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, ‘Mortal, have you seen this?’

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other. He said to me, ‘this water flows towards the eastern region; and when it enters the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.’ ❖

**APRIL 3, 2010**

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**

**READING 6: GENESIS 1:1-2:2**

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see,  
all you don't see.

Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an  
inky blackness.

God's Spirit brooded above the watery abyss.

God spoke: "Light!"

And light appeared.

God saw that light was good  
and separated light from dark.

God named the light Day,  
she named the dark Night.

It was evening, it was morning—  
Day One.

God spoke: "Sky! Separate water from water."

God made sky.

She separated the waters under  
from the waters above.

She named sky the Heavens;  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Two.

God spoke: "Dry-land! Gather into one place;  
God named the land Earth.  
She named the pooled water Ocean.  
God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Earth, green up!  
Grow all seed-bearing plants,  
Every fruit-bearing tree."  
She named them flower, fruit and vine.  
God saw that it was good.  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Three.

God spoke: "Lights!  
Shine in Heaven's sky!  
Separate Day from Night.  
Mark seasons and days and years,  
Give light to Earth."

God made two big lights, the larger  
to take charge of Day,  
The smaller to be in charge of Night;  
and she made the stars.  
God placed them in the heavenly sky  
to light up Earth  
God saw that it was good.  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Four.

God spoke: "Swarm Ocean with fish!  
Birds, fly through the Sky over Earth!"  
God created the huge whales,  
The little minnows in the waters,  
And every kind of flying bird.  
God saw that it was good.  
God blessed them: "Fill the Ocean; fill the Sky!"  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Five.

God spoke: "Earth, make every kind of life!  
cattle and reptiles and bugs and beasts—all kinds."  
God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image,  
reflecting our nature  
So they can care for the fish in the sea,  
the birds in the air, the cattle,  
and every animal that moves on the face of Earth;  
And, yes, Earth itself."  
God created human beings;  
she created them godlike,  
Reflecting God's nature.  
She created them male and female.  
God blessed them:  
"Be fruitful! Fill the Earth! Take charge!  
Love the fish in the sea and birds in the air,  
and every living thing that moves."

Then God said, "I've given you  
every sort of seed-bearing plant  
And every kind of fruit-bearing tree,  
given them to you for food.  
To all animals and all birds,  
everything that moves and breathes,  
I give whatever grows out of the ground for food."

God looked over everything she had made;  
it was so good, so very good!  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Six.

By the seventh day  
God had finished her work.  
On the seventh day  
she rested.  
God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.  
Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail.  
This is the story of how it all started,  
of Heaven and Earth when they were created. ❖

APRIL 3, 2010

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

READING 7: ROMANS 6: 3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old way of life was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be at sins beck and call. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ❖

APRIL 4, 2010

THE GREAT PASCHAL VESPERS

ISAIAH 25:6-9

On this mountain, for all peoples, Yahweh Sabaoth is preparing a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of succulent food, of well-strained wines. On this mountain, he has destroyed the veil which used to veil all peoples, the pall enveloping all nations; he has destroyed death for ever. Lord Yahweh has wiped away the tears from every cheek; he has taken his people's shame away everywhere on earth, for Yahweh has spoken. And on that day, it will be said, 'Look, this is our God, in him we put our hope that he should save us, this is Yahweh, we put our hope in him. Let us exult and rejoice since he has saved us.' ❖

APRIL 4, 2010

THE GREAT PASCHAL VESPERS

1 CORINTHIANS 5:6B-8

Do you not realize that only a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Throw out the old yeast so that you can be the fresh dough, unleavened as you are. For our Passover has been sacrificed, that is, Christ; let us keep the feast, then, with none of the old yeast and no leavening of evil and wickedness, but only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. ❖

**APRIL 4, 2010**

**THE GREAT PASCHAL VESPERS**

**LUKE 24:13-49**

Now that very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. And it happened that as they were talking together and discussing it, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He said to them, 'What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?' They stopped, 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.' He asked, 'What things?' They answered, 'All about Jesus of Nazareth, who showed himself a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and 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 now 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 could 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 all that the prophets have said! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer before entering 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 saying, 'It is nearly evening, 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 recognized 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. ❖

**APRIL 11, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 5:27–32**

When they had brought the apostles in to face the Sanhedrin, the high priest demanded an explanation. “We gave you a strong warning,” he said, “not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt for this man’s death on us.” In reply Peter and the apostles said, “Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, whom you executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and Saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” ❖

**APRIL 11, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE REVELATION OF JOHN 1:4–8**

John, to the seven churches of Asia: grace and peace to you from the one who is, who was, and who is to come, from the seven spirits who are before God's throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the highest of earthly kings. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a Kingdom of Priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. Look, he 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. Indeed this shall be so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. ❖

**APRIL 11, 2010**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 20:19–31**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the religious authorities. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, “Peace be with you,” and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, and he said to them again, “Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so am I sending you.”

After saying this he breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord,” but he answered, “Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.” Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. Then he spoke to

Thomas, “Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving any more but believe.” Thomas replied, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him: “You believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

There were many other signs that Jesus worked in the sight of the disciples, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. ❖

**APRIL 18, 2010**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 9:1–6, (7–20)**

Meanwhile Saul was still breathing threats to slaughter the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked for letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorize him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way, men or women, that he might find.

It happened that while he was traveling to Damascus and approaching the city, suddenly a light from heaven shone all round him. He fell to the ground, and then he heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you, Lord?" he asked, and the answer came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

(Optional – ask preacher whether to include)

*Those traveling with Saul stood there speechless, for though they heard the voice they could see no one. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing at all, and they had to lead him into Damascus by*

*the hand. For three days he was without his sight and took neither food nor drink.*

*There was a disciple in Damascus called Ananias, and he had a vision in which the Lord said to him, "Ananias!" When he replied, "Here I am, Lord," the Lord said, "Get up and go to Straight Street and ask at the house of Judas for someone called Saul, who comes from Tarsus. At this moment he is praying, and has seen a man called Ananias coming in and laying hands on him to give him back his sight."*

*But in response, Ananias said, "Lord, I have heard from many people about this man and all the harm he has been doing to your holy people in Jerusalem. He has come here with a warrant from the chief priests to arrest everybody who invokes your name." The Lord replied, "Go, for this man is my chosen instrument 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 my name." Then Ananias went. He entered the house, and laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, I have been sent by the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, so that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." It was as though scales fell away from his eyes and immediately he was able to see again. So he got up and was*

*baptised, and after taking some food he regained his strength.*

*After he had spent only a few days with the disciples in Damascus, he began preaching in the synagogues, “Jesus is the Son of God.” ❖*

APRIL 18, 2010

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE REVELATION OF JOHN 5:11–14

In my vision, I heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the living creatures and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, loudly chanting: “Worthy is the Lamb that was sacrificed to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing.”

Then I heard all the living things in creation — everything that lives in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and in the sea, crying: “To the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honor, glory and power, for ever and ever.”

And the four living creatures said, “Amen”; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship. ❖

**APRIL 18, 2010**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 21:1–19**

Later on, Jesus revealed 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.” The disciples replied, “We’ll come with you.” They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

When it was already light, there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, “Haven’t you caught anything, friends?” And when they answered, “No,” he said, “Throw the net out to starboard and you’ll find some thing.” So they threw the net out and could not haul it in because of the quantity of fish. The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” At these words, “It is the Lord,” Simon Peter tied his outer garment round him (for he had nothing on) and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net with 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 ashore, 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 revealed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Look after my sheep." Then he said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that he asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" and said, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

“In all truth I tell you, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.”

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, “Follow me.”



**APRIL 25, 2010**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 9:36–43**

At Jaffa there was a disciple called Tabitha, or in Greek, Dorcas, who never tired of doing good or giving to those in need. But it happened that at this time she became ill and died, and they washed her and laid her out in an upper room. Lydda is not far from Jaffa, so when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to urge him, “Come to us without delay.”

Peter went back with them immediately, and on his arrival they took him to the upper room, where all the widows stood round him in tears, showing him tunics and other clothes Dorcas had made when she was with them. Peter sent everyone out of the room and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to the dead woman and said, “Tabitha, stand up.” She opened her eyes, looked at Peter and sat up. Peter helped her to her feet, then he called in the members of the congregation and widows and showed them she was alive. The whole of Jaffa heard about it and many believed in the Lord.

Peter stayed on some time in Jaffa, lodging with a leather-tanner called Simon. ❖

**APRIL 25, 2010**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**THE REVELATION OF JOHN 7:9–17**

After that I saw that there was a huge number, impossible for anyone 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 in a loud voice, “Salvation 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 living creatures, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words: “Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.”

One of the elders then spoke and asked me, “Who are these people, dressed in white robes, and where have they come from?” I answered him, “You can tell me, sir.” Then he said, “These are the people who have been through the great trial; they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the

Lamb. That is why they are standing in front of God's throne and serving God day and night in God's sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread a tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; sun and scorching wind will never plague them, because the Lamb who is at the heart of the throne will be their shepherd and will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes." ❖

**APRIL 25, 2010**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 10:22–30**

It was the time of the feast of Dedication in Jerusalem.

It was winter, and Jesus was in the Temple walking up and down in the Portico of Solomon. The people gathered round him and said, “How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us openly.” Jesus replied: I have told you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name are my witness; but you do not believe, because you are no sheep of mine. The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from my hand. The Father, for what he has given me, is greater than anyone, and no one can steal anything from the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.” ❖

**MAY 2, 2010**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 11:1–18**

The apostles and the brothers and sisters in Judea heard that gentiles too had accepted the word of God, and when Peter came up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers protested to him and said, “So you have been visiting the uncircumcised and eating with them!” Peter in reply gave them the details point by point, “One day, when I was in the town of Jaffa,” he began, “I fell into a trance as I was praying and had a vision of something like a big sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners. This sheet came right down beside me. I looked carefully into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of heaven. Then I heard a voice that said to me, ‘Now, Peter, kill and eat!’ But I answered, ‘Certainly not, Lord; nothing profane or unclean has ever crossed my lips.’ And a second time the voice spoke from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you have no right to call profane.’ This was repeated three times, before the whole of it was drawn up to heaven again.

“Just at that moment, three visitors stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to

fetch me, and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going back with them. The six brothers here came with me as well, and we entered the man's house. He told us he had seen an angel standing in his house who said, 'Send to Jaffa and fetch Simon known as Peter; he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household.'

"I had scarcely begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way as it came on us at the beginning, and I remembered that the Lord had said, 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' I realised then that God was giving them the identical gift he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ; and who was I to stand in God's way?"

This account satisfied them, and they gave glory to God, saying, "God has clearly granted to the gentiles too the repentance that leads to life." ❖

**MAY 2, 2010**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE REVELATION OF JOHN 21:1–6**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, “Look, here God lives among human beings. He will make his home among them; they will be his people, and he will be their God, God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness or pain. The world of the past has gone.”

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke. “Look, I am making the whole of creation new. Write this, ‘What I am saying is trust worthy and will come true.’”

Then the One said to me, “It has already happened. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give water from the well of life free to anybody who is thirsty.”



**MAY 2, 2010**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 13:31–35**

When Judas had gone, Jesus said: “Now has the Son of man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in herself, and will glorify him very soon. Little children, I shall be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and, as I told the Jews, where I am going, you cannot come. I give you a new commandment: love one another; you must love one another just as I have loved you. It is by your love for one another, that everyone will recognize you as my disciples.” ❖

**MAY 9, 2010**

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 16:9–15**

One night Paul had a vision: a Macedonian appeared and kept urging him in these words, “Come across to Macedonia and help us.” Once he had seen this vision we lost no time in arranging a passage to Macedonia, convinced that God had called us to bring them the good news.

Sailing from Troas we made a straight run for Samothrace; the next day for Neapolis, and from there for Philippi, a Roman colony and the principal city of that district of Macedonia. After a few days in this city we went outside the gates beside a river as it was the Sabbath and this was a customary place for prayer. We sat down and preached to the women who had come to the meeting. One of these women was called Lydia, a woman from the town of Thyatira who was in the purple-dye trade, and who revered God. She listened to us, and the Lord opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying. After she and her household had been baptized she kept urging us, “If you judge me a true believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay with us.” And she would take no refusal. ❖

**MAY 9, 2010**

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## THE REVELATION OF JOHN 21:10, 22–22:5

In the spirit, the angel carried me to the top of a very high mountain, and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God. I could not see any temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God, and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it. The nations will come to its light and the kings of the earth will bring it their treasures. Its gates will never be closed by day — and there will be no night there — and the nations will come, bringing their treasure and their wealth. Nothing unclean may come into it: no one who does what is loathsome or false, but only those who are listed in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of life, rising from the throne of God and of the Lamb and flowing crystal-clear.

Down the middle of the city street, on either bank of the river were the trees of life, which bear twelve crops of fruit in a year, one in each month, and the leaves of which are the cure for the nations. The curse of destruction will be

abolished. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city; his servants will worship him, they will see him face to face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. And night will be abolished; they will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will be shining on them. They will reign forever and ever. ❖

**MAY 9, 2010**

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 14:23–29**

Jesus replied: Anyone who loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we shall come to them and make a home in them. Anyone who does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not my own: it is the word of the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away and shall return. If you loved me you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now, before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe. ❖

*(There is an alternate Gospel reading on the Sixth Sunday of Easter)*

*(This is the alternate Gospel reading on the Sixth Sunday of Easter)*

**MAY 9, 2010**

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 5:1-9**

After this there was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem next to the Sheep Pool there is a pool called Bethesda in Hebrew, which has five porticos; and under these were crowds of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed. One man there had an illness which had lasted thirty-eight years, and when Jesus saw him lying there and knew he had been in that condition for a long time, he said, "Do you want to be well again?" "Sir," replied the sick man, "I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is disturbed; and while I am still on the way, someone else gets down there before me." Jesus said, "Get up, pick up your sleeping-mat and walk around." The man was cured at once, and he picked up his mat and started to walk around. ❖

**MAY 16, 2010**

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 16:16–34**

It happened one day that as we were going to prayer, we were met by a slave-girl who was a soothsayer and made a lot of money for her masters by foretelling the future. This girl started following Paul and the rest of us and shouting, “Here are the servants of the Most High God; they have come to tell you how to be saved!” She did this day after day until Paul was exasperated and turned round and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to leave that woman.” The spirit went out of her then and there.

When her masters saw that there was no hope of making any more money out of her, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities. Taking them before the magistrates they said, “These people are causing a disturbance in our city. They are Jews and are advocating practices which it is unlawful for us as Romans to accept or follow.” The crowd joined in and showed its hostility to them, so the magistrates had them stripped and ordered them to be flogged. They were given many lashes and then thrown into prison, and the jailer was told to keep a

close watch on them. So, following such instructions, he threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

In the middle of the night Paul and Silas were praying and singing God's praises, while the other prisoners listened. Suddenly there was an earthquake that shook the prison to its foundations. All the doors flew open and the chains fell from all the prisoners. When the jailer woke and saw the doors wide open he drew his sword and was about to commit suicide, presuming that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted at the top of his voice, "Do yourself no harm; we are all here."

He called for lights, then rushed in, threw himself trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas, and escorted them out, saying, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They told him, "Become a believer in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, and your household too." Then they preached the word of the Lord to him and to all his household. Late as it was, he took them to wash their wounds, and was baptized then and there with all his household. Afterwards he took them into his house and gave them a meal, and the whole household celebrated their conversion to belief in God. ❖

**MAY 16, 2010**

## THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### THE REVELATION OF JOHN 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21

Look, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me, to repay everyone as their deeds deserve. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who will have washed their robes clean, so that they have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the gates into the city.

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to attest these things to you for the sake of the churches. I am the sprig from the root of David and the bright star of the morning.

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!” Let everyone who listens answer, “Come!” Then let all who are thirsty come: all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free.

The one who attests these things says: I am indeed coming soon. Amen; come, Lord Jesus.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen. ❖

MAY 16, 2010

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 17:20–26

I pray not only for these but also for those who through their teaching will come to believe in me. May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so perfected in unity that the world will recognize that it was you who sent me and that you have loved them as you have loved me.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Upright One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them. ❖

**MAY 23, 2010**

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:1-21**

When Pentecost day came round, the disciples had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.

Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, and each one was bewildered to hear these speaking their own language. They were amazed and astonished. “Surely,” they said, “all these speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in their own native language? Parthian, Medes and Bedlamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; residents of Rome—Jews and proselytes alike—Cretans and Arabs, we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.”

Everyone was amazed and perplexed; they asked one another what it all meant.

Some, however, laughed it off. “They have been drinking too much new wine,” they said. Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed them in a loud voice: “People of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, make no mistake about this, but listen carefully to what I say. These are not drunk, as you imagine; why, it is only the third hour of the day. On the contrary, this is what the prophet was saying: ‘In the last days, the Lord declares, I shall pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, your old people dream dreams. Even on the slaves, men and women, shall I pour out my Spirit. I will show portents in the sky above and signs on the earth below.

The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the day of the Lord comes, that great and terrible Day. And all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” ❖

**MAY 23, 2010**

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

**PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 8:14-17**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ❖

**MAY 23, 2010**

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 20:19-23**

In the evening of the same day that Mary Magdalene saw Jesus at the tomb, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the people.

Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, “Peace be with you,” and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, and he said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.”

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.”



**MAY 30, 2010**

**TRINITY SUNDAY**

**THE BOOK OF PROVERBS 8:1-4, 22-31**

Is not Wisdom calling? Is not Understanding raising her voice? On the heights overlooking the road, at the crossways, she takes her stand; by the gates, at the entrance to the city, on the roads, she cries out, “I am calling to you, all people, my words are addressed to all humanity.”

“Yahweh created me, first-fruits of his fashioning, before the oldest of his works. From everlasting, I was firmly set, from the beginning, before the earth came into being. The deep was not, when I was born, nor were the springs with their abounding waters. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I came to birth; before God had made the earth, the countryside, and the first elements of the world. When God fixed the heavens firm, I was there, when God drew a circle on the surface of the deep, when God thickened the clouds above, when the sources of the deep began to swell, when God assigned the sea its boundaries — and the waters will not encroach on the shore — when God traced the foundations of the earth, I was beside the master builder, delighting God day after day, ever at play in God’s presence, at play everywhere on God’s earth, delighting to be with the children of humanity. ❖

**MAY 30, 2010**

**TRINITY SUNDAY**

**PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 5:1-5**

So then, now that we have been justified by faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; it is through him, by faith, that we have been admitted into God's favor in which we are living, and look forward exultantly to God's glory. Not only that; let us exult, too, in our hardships, understanding that hardship develops perseverance, and perseverance develops a tested character, something that gives us hope, and a hope which will not let us down, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. ❖

MAY 30, 2010

TRINITY SUNDAY

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 16:12–15

I still have many things to say to you, but they would be too much for you to bear now. However, when the Spirit of truth comes it will lead you to the complete truth, since it will not be speaking of its own accord, but will say only what it has been told; and it will reveal to you the things to come. The Spirit will glorify me, since all it reveals to you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: all that the Spirit reveals to you will be taken from what is mine. ❖