

Holy Land Mass Readings

Wednesday 20 February

First reading

Prov 2:1-6

My child, if you receive my words, and store up my commands within you, by making your ear attentive to wisdom, and by turning your heart to understanding, indeed, if you call out for discernment- raise your voice for understanding- if you seek it like silver, and search for it like hidden treasure, then you will understand how to fear the LORD, and you will discover knowledge about God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.

Psalm 1

Response: *Bless are you who are poor, Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God belongs to you.*

How blessed is the one who does not follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand in the pathway with sinners,
or sit in the assembly of scoffers!

Instead he finds pleasure in obeying the LORD's commands;
he meditates on his commands day and night.
He is like a tree planted by flowing streams;
it yields its fruit at the proper time,
and its leaves never fall off.
He succeeds in everything he attempts.

Not so with the wicked!
Instead they are like wind-driven chaff.
For this reason the wicked cannot withstand judgment,
nor can sinners join the assembly of the godly.

Certainly the LORD guards the way of the godly,
but the way of the wicked ends in destruction.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servants are listening.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

Then he came down with them and stood on a level place. And a large number of his disciples had gathered along with a vast multitude from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. They came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who suffered from unclean spirits were cured. The whole crowd was trying to touch him, because power was coming out from him and healing them all.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God belongs to you.

"Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you and reject you as evil on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and jump for joy, because your reward is great in heaven. For their ancestors did the same things to the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your comfort already.

"Woe to you who are well satisfied with food now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all people speak well of you, for their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets."

Thursday 21 February

First reading

Rom 10:5-17

For Moses writes about the righteousness that is by the law: "The one who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we preach), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and thus has righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation. For the scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, who richly blesses all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

How are they to call on one they have not believed in? And how are they to believe in one they have not heard of? And how are they to hear without someone preaching to them? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How timely is the arrival of those who proclaim the good news." But not all have obeyed the good news, for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" Consequently faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the preached word of Christ.

Psalm 117

Response: *Praise the LORD, all you nations!*

Praise the LORD, all you nations!
Applaud him, all you foreigners!

For his loyal love towers over us,
and the LORD's faithfulness endures.
Praise the LORD!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

May your word penetrate our hearts
and change our lives.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel Luke

9:18-22

Once when Jesus was praying by himself, and his disciples were nearby, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They answered, "John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others that one of the prophets of long ago has risen." Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." But he forcefully commanded them not to tell this to anyone, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

Friday 22 February

First reading

Phil 2:5-11

You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had, who though he existed in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself by taking on the form of a slave, by looking like other men, and by sharing in human nature. He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death –even death on a cross! As a result God exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow – in heaven and on earth and under the earth– and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm 122

Response: *I was glad because they said to me, "We will go to the LORD's temple."*

I was glad because they said to me,
"We will go to the LORD's temple."
Our feet are standing
inside your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is a city designed
to accommodate an assembly.
The tribes go up there,
the tribes of the LORD,
where it is required that Israel
give thanks to the name of the LORD.

Indeed, the leaders sit there on thrones and make legal decisions,
on the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love her prosper!
May there be peace inside your defences,
and prosperity inside your fortresses!

For the sake of my brothers and my neighbours
I will say, "May there be peace in you!"
For the sake of the temple of the LORD our God
I will pray for you to prosper.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my Chosen One.

Listen to him!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings, Jesus took with him Peter, John, and James, and went up the mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became very bright, a brilliant white. Then two men, Moses and Elijah, began talking with him. They appeared in glorious splendor and spoke about his departure that he was about to carry out at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those with him were quite sleepy, but as they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. Then as the men were starting to leave, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he was saying. As he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him!" After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. So they kept silent and told no one at that time anything of what they had seen.

Saturday 23

First reading

1 Pet 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, that is, into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by God's power are protected through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. This brings you great joy, although you may have to suffer for a short time in various trials. Such trials show the proven character of your faith, which is much more valuable than gold—gold that is tested by fire, even though it is passing away—and will bring praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now but you believe in him, and so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, because you are attaining the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

Psalm 42

Response: *As a deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God!*

As a deer longs for streams of water,
so I long for you, O God!
I thirst for God,
for the living God.

I say, "When will I be able to go and appear in God's presence?"
I cannot eat, I weep day and night;
all day long they say to me, "Where is your God?"
I will remember and weep!

For I was once walking along
with the great throng to the temple of God,
shouting and giving thanks along with the crowd
as we celebrated the holy festival.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

You are my one dear Son;
in you I take great delight.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:18-22

And in this way, with many other exhortations, John proclaimed good news to the people. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil deeds that he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptised, Jesus also was baptised. And while he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my one dear Son; in you I take great delight."

Sunday 24 February

First reading

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 11-13, 22-23

So Saul arose and went down to the desert of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand select men of Israel, to look for David in the desert of Ziph.

So David and Abishai approached the army at night and found Saul lying asleep in the entrenchment with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. Abner and the army were lying all around him. Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me drive the spear right through him into the ground with one swift jab! A second jab won't be necessary!" But David said to Abishai, "Don't kill him! Who can extend his hand against the LORD's chosen one and remain guiltless?"

But may the LORD prevent me from extending my hand against the LORD's chosen one! Now take the spear by Saul's head and the jug of water, and let's get out of here!" So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got out of there. No one saw them or was aware of their presence or woke up. All of them were asleep, for the LORD had caused a deep sleep to fall on them.

Then David crossed to the other side and stood on the top of the hill some distance away; there was a considerable distance between them. David replied, "Here is the king's spear! Let one of your servants cross over and get it. The LORD rewards each man for his integrity and loyalty. Even though today the LORD delivered you into my hand, I was not willing to extend my hand against the LORD's chosen one.

Psalm 103

Response: *The LORD is compassion and love.*

The Lord is compassion and love.
My soul, give thanks to the LORD
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The LORD is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

Second reading

1 Cor 15:40-49

And there are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. The glory of the heavenly body is one sort and the earthly another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon and another glory of the stars, for star differs from star in glory.

It is the same with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living person"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. Like the one made of dust, so too are those made of dust, and like the one from heaven, so too those who are heavenly. And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, let us also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said, "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other as well, and from the person who takes away your coat, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your possessions back from the person who takes them away. Treat others in the same way that you would want them to treat you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, so that they may be repaid in full. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to ungrateful and evil people. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use will be the measure you receive."

Monday 25th

2 Tim 2:8-13

First reading

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David; such is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship to the point of imprisonment as a criminal, but God's message is not imprisoned! So I endure all things for the sake of those chosen by God, that they too may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus and its eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy: If we died with him, we will also live with him.

If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we deny him, he will also deny us. If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, since he cannot deny himself.

Gospel

Psalm 51

Response: *Have mercy on me, O God, because of your loyal love!*

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your loyal love!
Because of your great compassion, wipe away my rebellious acts!
Wash away my wrongdoing!
Cleanse me of my sin!

For I am aware of my rebellious acts;
I am forever conscious of my sin.

Against you—you above all—I have sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
So you are just when you confront me;
you are right when you condemn me.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

If we died with him, we will also live with him.
If we endure, we will also reign with him.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 22:28-34

Jesus said: "You are the ones who have remained with me in my trials. Thus I grant to you a kingdom, just as my Father granted to me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, pay attention! Satan has demanded to have you all, to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." But Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you

both to prison and to death!" Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know me."

Tuesday 26 February

First reading

Wisdom 7:1-6

I too am a mortal, the same as all the rest,
and a descendant of the first one formed of earth.
And in my mother's womb I was moulded into flesh
in a ten-month period—body and blood,
from the seed of a man, and the pleasure that accompanies marriage.
And I too, when born, inhaled the common air,
and fell upon the kindred earth;
wailing, I uttered that first sound common to all.
In swaddling clothes and with constant care I was nurtured.
For no king has any different origin or birth;
one is the entry into life for all,
and in one same way they leave it.

Psalm 23

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

The LORD is my shepherd,
I lack nothing.
He takes me to lush pastures,
he leads me to refreshing water.

He restores my strength.
He leads me down the right paths
for the sake of his reputation.
Even when I must walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff reassure me.

You prepare a feast before me
in plain sight of my enemies.
You refresh my head with oil;
my cup is completely full.

Surely your goodness and faithfulness will pursue me all my days,
and I will live in the LORD's house for the rest of my life.

Second reading

Rom 1:1-7

From Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God. This gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, concerning his Son who was a descendant of David with reference to the flesh, who was appointed the Son-of-God-in-power according to the Holy Spirit by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received grace and our apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles on behalf of his name. You also are among them, called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all those loved by God in Rome, called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Today your Saviour is born in the city of David.

He is Christ the Lord!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the empire for taxes. This was the first registration, taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David. He went to be registered with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him, and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: Today your Saviour is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a vast, heavenly army appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!"