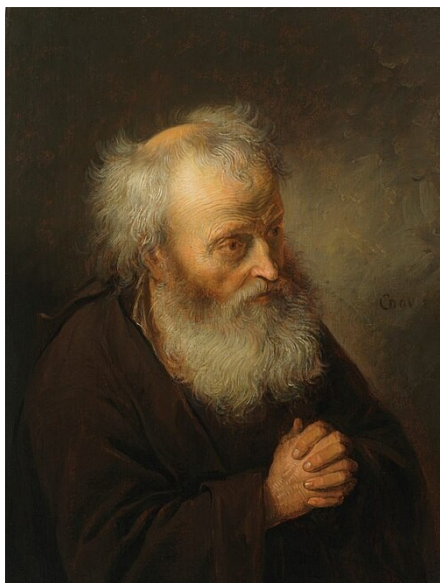


Life in His Name:

Poems for the Church Year

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

—John 20:30-31



Old Man Praying, ca. 1670, Gerard Dou {{PD-US}}

Life in God's name means living according to His word. His word delivers faith that bestows eternal life. His word sustains daily life for Christians in this fallen world. That is why receiving His word in daily devotions is helpful.

This set of poems is offered to enrich your home devotions. It contains a poem for each Sunday of the church year, as well as poems for major feasts and festivals. The poems were written in accord with the Historic One-Year Lectionary used by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Lutherans who follow the One-Year Lectionary will see connections between these poems and the Bible texts and propers they hear at church or read at home. Anglicans who follow the lectionary of the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer* will find it has good correspondence with the LCMS One-Year Lectionary.

After the title of each poem a Scripture citation appears. The citation is identical with a text designated by the LCMS One-Year Lectionary for that day in the church year. Sometimes additional Bible verses from the same chapter were used in writing a poem. Seven of the poems spring from a collect appointed for the day. (Collects from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reproduced with permission under license number 26:02-10B.)

The church year begins on November 30 with the Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle. Next come the Sundays in Advent, which prepare us for the joyous birth of Christ our Lord. The church continues to follow the life of Christ as it circles the seasons through the next November. To help you find your place in the church year for 2026, see the calendar on pages 52 to 55.

These poems are offered freely for your meditations. Last November, when I shared a similar pamphlet, *Poems from the Writings of Saint John*, some friends offered payment for the gift. If you would like to express appreciation for this pamphlet, I invite you to make a donation to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin (<https://feedingamericawi.org/>).

May our Lord bless you abundantly as you continue in His word.

Kathryn Ann Hill

St. Matthias, Apostle, February 24, 2026

<https://www.amazon.com/author/kathryn.ann.hill>

Facebook hashtag is #KeepAllHope

St. Andrew, Apostle, November 30
You Are Ever Mighty and Ever Faithful
From the Introit, which uses
Psalm 89:1, 5, 15–16

I will ever laud Your endless love,
O Lord, my God of great mercy.
My mouth will declare Your faithful kindness
to all generations, O righteous Lord.
For Your steadfast love was always established;
Your holy faithfulness is firm in the heavens.

You swore to David, Your chosen servant,
“I will establish your line to live forever,
and fix your throne firmly through the ages.”

The heavens praise Your holy wonders;
the saints assemble and sing with joy
for Your faithful constant abiding care.
For who in heaven compares to the Holy Lord?
What angel can be likened to the Lord God?
When the holy ones meet, they fear His majesty;
they surround His throne in reverent awe.
O Lord of hosts in the highest heavens,
You are ever mighty and ever faithful.

O Lord, You rule the raging sea;
by the word of Your mouth, You still its waves.
You have crushed Rahab like a rotted carcass;
You have scattered Your enemies with Your strong arm.

The heavens are Yours, and Yours the earth;
You have filled the world with wondrous creatures.
You conceived and birthed the north and south;
Tabor and Hermon, those towering mountains,
magnify Your name with all their might.
Your arm is mighty in all Your acts,
and Your right hand is lifted high.

Justice and judgment are joined at Your throne;
mercy and truth are Your twin attendants.
Blest are the feasters in their festal shouts;
the light of Your face illuminates their walk.
They exult in Your name from morn till night;
their reverent joy extolls Your righteousness.
Your awesome glory arms their victory;
Your favor to their king kindles their praise.
For our shield belongs to the Lord our God;
our king lives to serve our Holy Savior.

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All Saints, 1599, Johann König {{PD-US}}

Psalm 89, alliterated on page 1, is also the Introit Psalm for the Confession of St. Peter, Jan 18; St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor, Jan. 24; the Conversion of St. Paul, Jan. 25; St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor, Jan. 26; St. Matthias, Apostle, Feb. 24; St. Philip and St. James, Apostles, May 1; St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles, June 29; James the Elder, Apostle, July 25; St. Bartholomew, Apostle, Aug. 24; St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles, Oct. 28.

First Sunday in Advent

As You Yearn for Bethlehem

Matthew 21:1–9

As you yearn for Bethlehem,
first pass through Jerusalem:
“Save us, King!” the people cry
to the Son who soon would die.

Next, He warns of His return:
See the leafing trees and learn
of His kingdom drawing near—
joy for some; for others, fear.

John proclaims the Coming One,
turning hearts to God’s own Son:
He who makes the blind to see,
He who sets the captives free.

Come, O Lord, stir up Your power:
Spare us in this threatening hour;
turn our wayward thoughts toward You;
make our service pure and true.

Light the darkness of our hearts;
shield us from the devil’s darts;
lift away the weight of sin:
Come and make new life begin.



The Procession in the Streets of Jerusalem,
1886–1894, James Tissot {{PD-US}}

Revised from *Tree of Life: Sixty Poems from Twelve Years* © 2021 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Second Sunday in Advent

As Calves Are Sheltered in a Stall

Malachi 4:1–6

As calves are sheltered in a stall
and nourished at a manger,
Christ strengthens us and keeps us safe
from every deadly danger.

His blazing righteous wrath will burn
the arrogant to stubble—
no root of evil will remain
to cause us any trouble.

Then Christ will open wide His gates
and we, like calves aleaping,
will frolic free in pastures green
in praise for His safekeeping.

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Third Sunday in Advent

The Baptizer Was Sent to Preach Repentance

Matthew 11:2–11

The Baptizer was sent to preach repentance:
To vipers he preached axe and fire and wrath;
but where his hearers took to heart his preaching,
was made for Christ his Lord a holy path

to bring the blind their sight, to heal the lepers,
to make the lame to walk, the deaf to hear,
to raise the dead and preach His blessed Gospel
to wretches who had lived in doubt and fear.

In prison Saint John doubted his Messiah:
Could gentle Jesus be the Coming One?
The answer Jesus sent him brimmed with mercy,
recounting acts of love the Christ had done.

Like John, at times we long to see Your judgment
descend upon our enemies, O Lord;
prepare instead Your table in their presence
that they may see the love of God outpoured.



St. John the Baptist in the Prison, 1565–70,
Juan Fernández Navarrete {{PD-US}}

Reprinted from *The Song of Daniel and Selected Poems* © 2015 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

A Rain of Righteousness Began

*From the Introit, which uses
Psalm 19:1, 4–6; Isaiah 45:8a*

A rain of righteousness began
one midnight when the earth was still:
From heaven's throne the Father's Son,
incarnate by the Holy Ghost,
came down to bring His peace to earth.
God underwent a human birth:
He was the Virgin Mary's child
born holy, pure, and undefiled;
He was true God and yet true man
when Jesus' righteous reign began.
God took on human flesh
to enter mortal strife

that wretched mortal sinners
might taste eternal life.

The stanza above is from a longer poem, “When Mist Was Rising from the Land.” It is reprinted from *The Holiest of Seasons: Poems and Pictures for Passiontide and Easter* © 2012 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Christmas Eve, December 24

Immanuel

Matthew 1:18–25

God With Us—not against us—
now arms Himself with flesh;
in Mary’s womb is knitting
a God-and-human mesh:

True God and true man, Jesus,
Love strong enough to die
to conquer sin, rise again,
and force our foes to fly.

Reprinted from *Now God Is Flesh: Poems and Pictures for Christmastide* © 2013 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Christmas Midnight

Christmas Dawn

The Herders Leave Their Herds

Luke 2:1–20

The herders leave their herds
because of holy words:
The Savior from all sin
lies in a feeding bin.

O humble holy night
when angels shed their light,
let Glorias resound:
The Word made flesh is found!



Shepherds Bow, 1650–1700 {{PD-US}}

Revised from *Tree of Life: Sixty Poems from Twelve Years* © 2021 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Christmas Day, December 25

What Marvelous Things

*From the Introit, which uses
Psalm 98:1–4; Isaiah 9:6*

What marvelous things the Lord has done
by sending His beloved Son;
His right hand and His holy arm
have rescued us from every harm.

Salvation for our fallen race
He has revealed in Jesus' face,
for by His sacrifice Christ wins
complete forgiveness for our sins.

Shout joyfully before the Lord
who gives this undeserved reward;
with lyre and trumpet, harp and horn
rejoice that Jesus Christ is born.

Let earth and sea resound with joy
in honor of this holy Boy
who comes to judge with righteousness,
who comes to save and heal and bless.

Reprinted from *The Song of Joseph and Selected Poems* © 2023 Kathryn Ann Hill.

St. Stephen, Martyr, December 26

The Martyrdom of Stephen

Acts 6:8–7:2a, 51–60

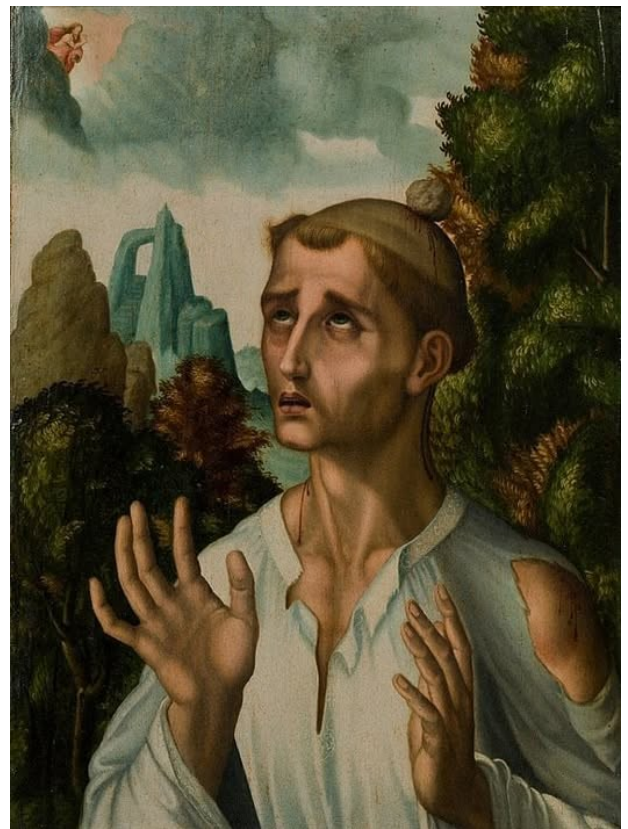
The wondrous works and wisdom of Stephen
made him the mark of mean-hearted men.
Though he acted and spoke by the Spirit of God,
their hateful hearts hardened at his words.

To obstruct and stifle Stephen's preaching
was the perfidious aim of the Free Men.
Some of them argued with ardent Stephen,
but they could not withstand Stephen's wisdom,
for the Holy Spirit spoke through the man.

So they hatched a plan to employ some persons
to slander and blame the saint for blasphemy.
Then they stirred up the elders and scribes,
and raised a rabble of riotous men,
inciting their mob to seize the saint
and take him to the Sanhedrin to try him for his words.

"This fine fellow," they falsely accused,
"does not cease to attack our sacred temple,
and the law by which we live. Listen, we pray.
He has stated that Jesus will destroy this place,
and change the customs we were charged to keep
by the prophet Moses, the mouthpiece of God."

Now onlookers staring at Stephen were stunned,
for his face resembled an angel's face.
Then the high priest, who headed the hearing,
asked the man on trial, "Is all this true?"



*Saint Stephen, 1575,
Workshop of Luis de Morales {{PD-US}}*

Then the saint preached a powerful sermon
on the rebellion of forebears: “Brothers and fathers,
the God of glory, the God of our fathers,
appeared to Abraham at Ur and ordered:
‘Leave your country, leave your kindred,
leave and I will show you the land I promise you.’

“So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans,
and finally came to this refreshing land.
Not a foot of ground did God give him here,
but a promise that in time, his progeny would own it.

“God said that his seed would sojourn as strangers
in a strange land, living in bondage
and sorely afflicted for four hundred years.
‘But I will chastise the people who put them in chains.
Then I will bring them out to this better place
where they will freely serve Me,’ so said the Lord.

“And Abraham received the sign of circumcision,
that stands for the righteousness that God bestowed,
through the gift of faith, upon this favored father.
And Abraham begat Isaac, and also circumcised him
on his eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob,
who prospered as the father of twelve patriarchs.

“But these patriarchs were jealous of Joseph their brother,
and callously sold him to be a slave in Egypt.
But God was with him and gave him wisdom,
securing him favor with Pharaoh the king,
who elevated Joseph to govern all of Egypt.

“When a furious famine fell on the lands
of Canaan and Egypt, our honored ancestors
could find no food. Then father Jacob heard
there was good grain to be got in Egypt.
When he first sent our fathers for grain,
they failed to recognize the ruler facing them—
their brother Joseph. On their second journey,
Joseph revealed himself as their very brother.
Then Pharaoh invited the family of Joseph
to leave their home to live by him in Goshen.
So Jacob went down and dwelt in Egypt
until the day of his death, as did our fathers.
And later their bodies were brought to Shechem
and placed in the tomb that Abraham had purchased.

“But when a new king came to power,
life in Egypt evilly altered.
For he betrayed our people and oppressed our fathers,
making them abandon their babies to death.

"At this time of misery, Moses was born,
a darling child, dear to his parents,
who made much of him for three months.
When he was placed on the river, a princess rescued him;
the daughter of Pharaoh adopted him and named him.
She afforded Moses a fine education:
The wisdom of Egypt edified her son,
and he was mighty in words and mighty in works.

"At forty years he yearned for his brethren
but failed in his efforts to ease their affliction.
When he saw a slave driver smiting a brother,
he slew the offender and hid him in the sand.
He aimed to be seen as savior to his kindred,
but they saw him neither as savior nor friend.
When he questioned a couple of quarreling kinsmen,
a bellicose bully rebuffed Moses:
'Who made you ruler, who made you judge over us?
Would you kill me as you killed that master?'
In fear that his felony would be found out,
Moses immediately escaped to Midian.
There he settled and married, and sons were born to him.

"When Moses was eighty, he met with a marvel.
From a flaming bush that was burning brightly,
never lessening, not in the least,
the Angel of the Lord lifted His voice:
'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham,
Isaac, and Jacob, your honored ancestors.'
Now Moses trembled in terror at these tidings,
unable to look into the awesome light.

"Take off your sandals, for this is sacred ground.
I have seen how My people are oppressed in Egypt.
I have heard their cries and come to rescue them.'
Then God commanded Moses to return,
to deliver His beloved languishing people—
so they were brought out of bondage in Egypt.
And the prophet showed the power of God
in miracles performed in mighty Egypt,
and in wondrous signs in the sere wasteland.

"This is the Moses who warned the Israelites who wavered:
'God will raise up from your own people
a prophet like myself, a prophet you must hear.'

"At Mount Sinai, Moses received
living oracles to light our path.
But our forefathers refused to follow him.
Instead, they hankered in their hearts for Egypt.
They demanded of Aaron in Moses' absence,
'Give for us gods to go ahead of us.'

Then they melted their gold and molded a calf
and worshiped and celebrated the works of their hands.
So God abandoned them to abase themselves,
to stupidly sacrifice to the silent stars.
And they were punished by exile, as the prophets presaged.

“As they were led along by the Lord their God,
our fathers took the tent of testimony,
which was begun by the plan and pattern of God.
They brought it to the land the Lord was giving them.
In time it was replaced by the golden temple,
built by Solomon, the son of David.

“But the Most High, who made the heavens,
does not inhabit houses made by hands.
Hear the prophet: ‘Heaven is My throne
and earth is My footstool. I have created all;
all things belong to Me,’ the Lord avows.

“You stiff-necked ones, you stubborn people,
so sure of yourselves; uncircumcised
in hearts and ears; unhearing, unbelieving,
acting like your ancestors, always resisting
the Holy Ghost, who gives you the gospel!
What prophet did they not persecute and punish?
And they killed the prophets who proclaimed the coming
of the Just One, whom you unjustly killed.
So you betrayed the law you live to serve.”

They were cut to the heart when they heard these things,
and gnashed their teeth at him with terrible rage.
But stalwart Stephen, stirred by the Spirit,
gazed into heaven at God’s glory,
and stared at Jesus standing on high
at God’s right hand. “Behold, I see
the Son of Man, the Son of God,
standing on high in heavenly glory,”
so the saint confessed, sealing his fate.
Then the council members covered their ears
and roared at Stephen and rushed at him as one.
Outraged, they dragged him out of the city
and started to stone innocent Stephen.

As stones struck him, Stephen was praying,
“Lord Jesus, receive and accept my soul.
Do not condemn them for their evildoing.”
So the saint prayed as his Savior prayed
and fell asleep in the saving faith.
Then reverent men mourned the martyr
as they somberly bore his body to his grave.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, December 27

Grace and Peace to You

Revelation 1:1–6

From Him who is and was and is to come,
from Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
and from the Holy Spirit, by whose grace
your faith began and constantly is fed,
come grace and peace to you who are redeemed,
who have, by Jesus' blood, been freed from sin
and entered into everlasting life
with all the host of heaven as your kin.

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The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, December 28

Be Comforted, Dear Rachel

Jeremiah 31:15–17

Restrain your voice from weeping,
your eyes from shedding tears;
your work will be rewarded,
your day of comfort nears:

Your sons are taken from you,
But Mary's Son is spared;
His life and death and rising
will yield a home prepared

to reunite His children,
each mother and each son,
where you will bless forever
the work that He has done.



Virgin and Child, 1845, William Dyce {{PD-US}}

Reprinted from *Now God Is Flesh: Poems and Pictures for Christmastide* © 2013 Kathryn Ann Hill.

First Sunday after Christmas

The Breath of His Lips

Isaiah 11:1–5

A Rod shall emerge from the root of Jesse;
a Branch from his stump shall bud and blossom;
new fruit shall flourish from his fertile stock.
The Lord's Spirit shall ever inspire Him
with wise understanding and counsel and strength
and moral knowledge and most of all
the fear of the Lord—His first delight.

What His eyes see, what His ears hear
shall not determine His truth and justice.

But when the poor are oppressed by prideful men,
He shall justly rule between right and wrong.
His equity shall decide for the earth's meek ones.
The rod of His mouth shall smite the ruthless;
the breath of His lips shall blot out the wicked.
Righteousness and faithfulness shall wrap His waist,
girding Him for great and godly deeds.

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New Year's Eve, December 31

The Waiting Servants

Luke 12:35–40

Christ bids us wait as slaves wait at the door
To usher in their master late at night:
Not sleeping, in a dissipated dream,
But girded, with their oil lamps burning bright.

We do not wait as ones who have no hope:
Our hope burns brighter as we hear His word;
His body and His blood gird up our faith
To make us trust each promise we have heard.

So do we watch with joy for that great Day
When Christ our Lord comes knocking at our door,
And girds Himself to serve us banquet food,
And sheds His light on us forevermore.



Reprinted from *To You It Has Been Given: The Parables of Jesus in Picture and Verse* © 2011 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Circumcision and Name of Jesus, January 1

The Circumcision of Our Lord

Luke 2:21; Matthew 1:21

The circumcision of our Lord
His eighth day on this earth
began our Savior's holy work
to bring us second birth.

His tender skin was cut, for we
could not cut off our sin,
as later He would give His life
that true life might begin

for all who fail to keep God's law,
for this poor human race—
for all who trust His righteousness
shall live to see His face.

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Second Sunday after Christmas

The Guardian of Jesus

Matthew 2:13–23

“Get up and go,” the angel said to Joseph;
and not a moment did he hesitate;
for Joseph, as the Guardian of Jesus,
was there to shelter God from Herod’s hate.

The Providence that kept the Child protected
will also see us through our worst distress:
For Christ, who lived and died and rose to save us,
has paved our way toward perfect blessedness.



Reprinted from *Now God Is Flesh: Poems and Pictures for Christmastide* © 2013 Kathryn Ann Hill.
Image is *Return of the Holy Family from the Flight to Egypt*, 1618–1700, Jacob Jordaens {{PD-US}}

The Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6

Lord Jesus, by the Leading of Your Star

Matthew 2:1–12

Lord Jesus, by the leading of Your star
The Gentiles first beheld the face of God;
Now may Your word illuminate our path
That, following where faithful folk have trod,
We come at last with joy to that blest place
Where all Your saints behold You face to face.

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The Baptism of Our Lord, January 11

A Smoking Wick He Will Not Snuff

Isaiah 42:1–7

A smoking wick He will not snuff;
a bruised reed has faith enough:
Although our days on earth seem grim,
our Lord will bring us home to Him.
Preserve our faith, O Lord, we pray,
and bring us to that endless day
when, bathed in everlasting light,
we bless Your name with all our might.

Reprinted from *The Song of Joseph and Selected Poems* © 2023 Kathryn Ann Hill.

First Sunday after the Epiphany

His Father’s Son

Luke 2:41–52

The Son of Mary lingered in the temple
for Jesus knew He was His Father’s Son;

His mother found Him talking with the rabbis—
a twelve-year-old amazing everyone!

But Mary did not understand His staying,
so Jesus was content to come away—
our Father, may we so respect our parents
and grow in Your good favor day by day.

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Confession of St. Peter, January 18

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Teach Us to Intercede

John 2:1–11

Alas, at Cana's wedding feast
the wine had all been poured;
then Mary saw the bridegroom's need
and brought it to the Lord.

To Cana came a nobleman
whose son was deathly ill;
he begged the Lord to heal his son,
expecting God's good will.

The faithful see another's need
and bring it to the Lord,
and so comes wine to bless a feast
and so is health restored.

Supply us, Lord, with loving eyes
to see our neighbor's need,
and faith in You to hear our prayer:
Teach us to intercede.



Icon of the Wedding at Cana {{PD-US}}

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St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor, January 24

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

You Stretched Your Loving Arms

From the Collect

You stretched Your loving arms against the cross
and let Your hands be nailed there in our stead;
You died and rose triumphant from the grave
still battle-scarred, O Firstborn of the dead.

Stretch forth Your hand now, Lord, to heal our hurts,
and then stretch wide Your arms from east to west
to gather up the faithful You have won
and carry them to Your eternal rest.

Reprinted from *The Holiest of Seasons: Poems and Pictures for Passiontide and Easter* © 2012 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Sign of Jonah

Jonah 1

The sign of Jonah is a sign of Jesus,
the lesser depicting his Lord, the greater:
confined three days in the depths of darkness
then suddenly freed to speak forgiveness
to undeserving sinners; to speak the word
that delivers life in the everlasting light
of the love of God. For His goodness and mercy
and pity for men, His repenting from anger,
His overwhelming love, worship the Lord
and laud His name and lift Him up
and magnify your God! Amen and amen.



Jonah and the Whale, 1621, Pieter Lastman {{PD-US}}

Reprinted from *A Verse Vigil and Selected Poems* © 2017 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Wheat and the Tares

Matthew 13:24–30; 36–43

A man who owned a field sowed seed
to raise a crop of wheat;
his enemy trespassed and sowed
a crop unfit to eat.
When tares appeared among the wheat
the owner's servants asked
if they should gather up the tares—
it seemed a righteous task.

Lest he should see his precious wheat
pulled up before its prime,
the master told them it was best
to wait till harvest time:
Then would he have his reapers bind
and burn the worthless weed,
and gather to his barn the wheat
that grew from his good seed.

So let true Christians learn to live
in patience with their foes,
let plowshares not be shaped to swords,
let churchmen not suppose
that they should cut down heretics
who blight the world with lies—
instead let preachers preach the word
that makes the foolish wise:

So may God's Spirit work in hearts,
converting weeds to wheat,
that more grain may be gathered up
before God's judgment seat.
So may all Christians take to heart,
when enemies crowd in,
that Christ their Lord who holds the field
has vanquished death and sin.

Revised from *To You It Has Been Given: The Parables of Jesus in Picture and Verse* © 2011 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Conversion of St. Paul, January 25

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

The Transfiguration of Our Lord A Glimpse of Glory Matthew 17:1–9

A glimpse of glory gives a man ambition:
First Peter would have built a kind of shrine
where Moses and Elijah stood with Jesus
when Jesus' human face began to shine.

Then later James and John requested Jesus
to give them seats of honor at His side
when Jesus would begin His reign of glory—
so sons of thunder showed ambitious pride.

But Jesus would not grant them high position,
though surely He would let them drink His cup
and serve, as little Christs must serve and suffer,
until His holy cross would lift them up.

Lord Jesus, let Your cross be all our glory:
Let humble service be our highest aim
until You grant us seats at Your great banquet
where all unite to glorify Your name.



Transfiguration of Christ, Gerard David, 1520 {{PD-US}}

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St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor, January 26

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

Septuagesima

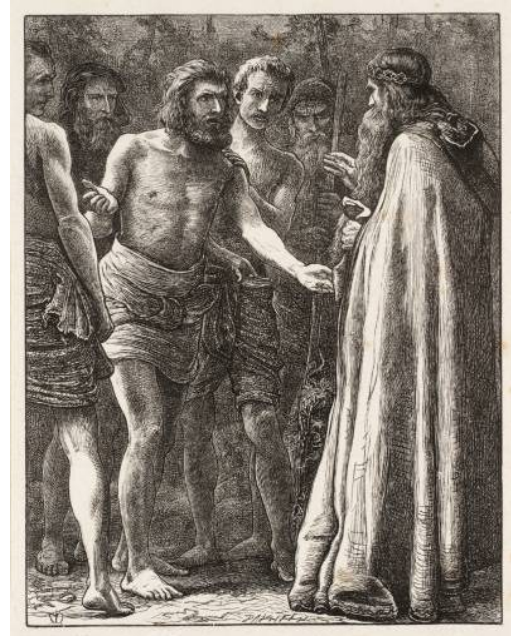
The Good Employer

Matthew 20:1–16

The Lord is good, so my eye must be evil
when I see other men's prosperity
and envy what the Lord in love has given
and think those blessings should have come to me.

Pluck out my evil eye, O God of mercy,
and give me eyes of faith so I will see
the loving heart that governs Your rewarding
and gives Your gifts with perfect equity.

Then will I be more apt to help than envy,
more prone to serve than plot to take away;
then will I look with confidence unbounded
toward Jesus and His great Rewarding Day.



*Laborers in the Vineyard, John Everett Millais,
1864 {{PD-US}}*

Reprinted from *To You It Has Been Given: The Parables of Jesus in Picture and Verse* © 2011 Kathryn Ann Hill.

The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord, February 2

Jesus Is

Luke 2:22–40

A Light for revelation to the Gentiles,
the Glory of His people Israel,
for Simeons and Annas one sure Savior,
who comes into His churches now to dwell
in bread and wine to feed us His salvation,
in heart and mind to keep us in His way
and bring us to His golden holy city,
where Lamb-light makes for us one endless day.

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Sexagesima

The Sower

Luke 8:4–15

The ground could not be rockier
but he is undeterred:
The sower sows his wholesome seed
as Christ proclaims His word.

Some seed among the thorns will choke,
some seed the birds will snatch,
some seed the blazing sun will scorch,
but in a fertile patch

some seed will sprout and grow and yield
good fruit a hundredfold,
as fruit is borne in honest hearts
when God's good word takes hold.

May words of truth and deeds of love
from patient hearts abound
that through their witness faith crops up
in other fertile ground.

Where rocks and thorns and birds are rife
the faithful sower sows
the word of Christ, the thorn-crowned King,
rejoicing in what grows.



The Sower, 1864, John Everett Millais, {{PD-US}}

Reprinted from *To You It Has Been Given: The Parables of Jesus in Picture and Verse* © 2011 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Quinquagesima

Fix Our Eyes

Luke 18:31–43

The blind man could not fix his eyes on Jesus
but he believed the Christ would make him right;
and so he used his tongue to cry for mercy
and so the Lord restored to him his sight.

By faith we Christians fix our eyes on Jesus
when we receive His blessed bread and wine—
lay mercy on our tongues, O tender Savior;
deliver pardon, health, and life divine.

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Ash Wednesday

Rend Your Hearts and Not Your Garments

Joel 2:12–19

Rend your hearts and not your garments;
bow your heads, forsake your pride;
send your prayers for holy mercy
through the Crucified.

Come, believe My holy preaching;
come, receive My bread and wine;
go, relieved of sin and sorrow:
Know that you are Mine.



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First Sunday in Lent

Word and Action

Matthew 4:1–11

Eve took a fatal bite of fruit
when tempted by the snake,
but Christ would not turn stones to bread
despite His hunger-ache.

Eve acted on the tempter's words—
Christ countered them instead,
and lived and died and rose again
to bring us living bread.

O Christ who crushed the serpent's head
to save us from the Fall,
defend us by Your mighty word
when Satan comes to call.

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St. Matthias, Apostle, February 24

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

Second Sunday in Lent

With Hands Pressed Palm to Palm

Matthew 15:21–28

With hands pressed palm to palm the faithful nod
and kneel for crumbs below their master's table
and then go forth in joy, as they are able,
to scatter gospel words and deeds abroad:
So Christians cast their bread upon the waters

to nourish Jesus' other sons and daughters
while saints and angels give their praise to God.

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Third Sunday in Lent
On Christians Who Have Wandered
From the Collect

On Christians who have wandered from Your ways
By listening to empty words and lies
Have mercy, Lord, and bring them once again
To trust Your word that makes the foolish wise
Through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You
And with the Holy Spirit, ever true,
One holy, merciful, unchanging Lord,
By saints and angels evermore adored.



Reprinted from *The Song of Joseph and Selected Poems* © 2023 Kathryn Ann Hill.
Image is a mediæval illustration of Jesus healing the Gerasene {{PD-US}}

Collect: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Fourth Sunday in Lent
The Manna Melted in the Sun
Exodus 16:2–21

The manna melted in the sun
when morning's gathering was done:
Why linger when its purpose had been served
to meet that day the hungry need
of people whom the Lord would lead
to fare far better than their sins deserved?
The fare that yields eternity
our Jesus feeds to you and me,
His holy body and His precious blood—
He fared to earth to bleed and die
to bring us to His home on high,
His holy home for creatures formed of mud.

God's love transcends what we call fair:
It is the love beyond compare
that He who knew no sin bore all our blame.
O Love beyond all human thought,
who loved when our dark hearts would not,
may we forever bless Your holy name!

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St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus, March 19

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

See Jesus

From the Collect

Lord, look upon Your people and see Jesus—
then we will have no fear to face Your throne,
for it is Christ who knows Your love unceasing
and it is Christ who claims us as Your own.
All praise to Christ, who paid sin's penalty,
whose blood declares us holy, pure, and free.



Reprinted from *The Song of Daniel and Selected Poems* © 2015 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Image is *The Holy Trinity*, 1491–93, Sandro Botticelli {{PD-US}}

Collect: Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Annunciation of Our Lord, March 25

Annunciation Falls in Lent

*From the Introit, which uses
Psalm 34:1–3; Isaiah 62:11b*

Annunciation falls in Lent:
A day for joy without lament—
take heart; leave off your grieving.

With Mary's words lift up your voice:
Now magnify the Lord, rejoice
in marvelous conceiving.
The Virgin bears the Father's Son,
whose holy death makes sin undone:
Christ to His Bride is cleaving.

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Palm Sunday Procession

Hosanna!

Matthew 21:1–9 or John 12:12–19

Hosanna was the plea for God to save
that Jesus answered by His cross and grave:
God's death that life for sinners might abound.
Hosanna is Palm Sunday's song of praise
but when Christ quits His tomb in seven days
glad shouts of Alleluia will resound.

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Sunday of the Passion

Be of Good Courage

Psalm 31

Let me never be ashamed, O Lord, my shelter.
In Your holy righteousness, rescue me from harm.
Incline Your ear to me and come quickly!
Rescue me, O Lord; be my rock of refuge.
Defend and save me as my mighty fortress.
Since You are my rock and fortress, faithful and stalwart,
guide me, O Lord, lead me, O Lord,
for the sake of Your name, for Your sacred honor.
Take me out of the net that traitors set for me,
for You are my only refuge from my artful foes.
Into Your merciful hand I commit my spirit,
for indeed, O Lord, You have redeemed my life.

I hate those who worship worthless idols.
O Lord my God, the God of truth,
my trust is ever in You, for You are ever faithful.
In Your steadfast love, O Lord, I will rejoice,
for You have witnessed my trouble and known my woe.
You have withheld me, O Lord, from my foe's hand;
You have put my feet in a spacious place.

I suffer miserably. Have mercy, O Lord!
My eye is wasting away with grief;
my soul and body are sorely troubled;
my life is consumed by sorrow and sighing;
my strength is failing as my guilt afflicts me;
and my bones are wasting away in my weakness.
I am an utter reproach because of all my foes;
my neighbors and friends never come near me;
they see me coming and cross the street.
I am dismissed from their minds like a buried man;
I am abandoned like a piece of broken pottery.
Terror multiplies as many slander me,
as they take counsel to take my life from me.

But my life belongs to You, O Lord my Savior.
Truly You are my God; my times are in Your hand.
Pluck me from the hand of unholy foes.
Let Your face shine on me—favor Your servant;
for the sake of Your mercy, O Lord, save me!

Let me not be put to shame, my shelter and my rock;
but let the wicked be shamed; let them descend to Sheol.
Silence, O Lord, the lying lips
that rudely speak against a righteous man;
suppress and extinguish their pride and contempt.

O Lord my God, how great is the goodness
stored up for Your servants, Your God-fearing saints!



Ksani Fortress, Georgia, 2010, Aleksey Muhranoff;
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This You have wrought for the righteous, O refuge-giver.
Let the sons of men see and understand.
In the secret place of Your holy presence
You hide Your servants from harmful scheming;
Your tent protects them from contentious tongues.

Blessed be the Lord for His loving care:
when I was in a besieged city I said in my alarm,
“I am now cut off from Your eyes, O God.”
But You heeded my pleas and helped me in Your mercy.

O saints of the Lord, love Him and laud Him!
For He preserves the faithful, and fully repays
the proud actors who earn His punishment.
O saints of God, be of good courage,
for He will strengthen the hearts that hope in the Lord.

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Holy Thursday **This Salutary Gift**

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

This salutary gift upon my tongue,
this taste and sip of immortality,
delivers stronger faith and fervent love,
for by it, Christ becomes a part of me,
and I a part of Him and all the rest
who eat and drink, believing what He said:
For you, this is My body and My blood,
your certain hope of rising from the dead.



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Image is *Communion of the Apostles*, c. 1659, Luca Giordano. {{PD-1996}}

Good Friday **Crucify Him!**

John 18:1–19:42

Though Pilate found no basis for a charge,
the bloodlust of the crowd did not relent;
and so at last he took the judgment seat
to let the angry mob have his assent.

A higher justice was at work that day
when Innocence would pay sin's fatal price,
for up to God the Father from the cross
would waft the sweetest-smelling sacrifice.

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Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday

Matthew 27:57–66

A day of rest was Holy Saturday,
when Jesus' body rested in His grave.
Forever done with suffering, He lay,
no longer bound and punished like a slave,
but wound in linen cloth He would unwind,
as Sunday's dawn replaced the fading night,
with hands whose wounds had won for humankind
eternal rest in everlasting light.



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Image is *Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb and Covered in Incense*, 1886–87, Theophile Maria Francois Lybaert {{PD-US}}

Vigil of Easter

The Red Sea Song

Exodus 15:1–21

“I will sing to the Lord, the living God,
for He has triumphed gloriously: My mighty God
has hurled into the sea both horse and horseman.

“The Lord is my strength; the Lord is my song:
His vigorous victory has brought me salvation.
He is my father's God and my own God,
the holy warrior I will proudly worship.
My lips will exalt the name of the Lord.
“He hurled into the sea the host of Pharaoh;
into the depths of the sea like a stone sank
all his chariots and chosen officers.
By Your right hand, O Holy Lord,
You are glorious in power, compelling the sea;
By Your right hand, O Holy Lord,
You have shattered the strength of Your shameless foes.
From Your high throne You have overthrown them;
Your wrath destroyed them, turning them to stubble.
By the blast of Your nostrils, You built a wall
of water that stood still in the seabed;
the deeps hardened in the heart of the sea.
The enemy said, ‘I will pursue and conquer,
I will divide the spoils and devour my plunder.
I will draw my sword and slay them with my hand.’
But You blew Your breath and buried them below;
in the mighty sea they sank like lead.
Who is like You, O Lord, the living God,
among the many gods men glorify?
Who is like You in holiness high and majestic,
and in awesome deeds, doing wonders?
For You reached out with Your right hand
and the earth swallowed Your enemies, O Lord.

“You have lovingly guided and led your people
to Your holy abode that abounds in peace.
The nations have heard and helplessly tremble:
On heathen Philistines, fear has fallen;
the chiefs of Edom are chilled and shudder;
the leaders of Moab moan with dismay;
the men of Canaan have melted away;
they are taken over by terror and dread;
they have grown dumb at Your arm’s greatness—
until the passing by of Your rescued people;
until the passing by of Your purchased people.

“To Your beautiful mountain You will bring Your own,
and plant them with care in Your sacred place,
the sanctuary hallowed by Your holy hands.
Here You will reign and rule forevermore.

“I will sing to the Lord, the living God,
for He has triumphed gloriously: My mighty God
has hurled into the sea both horse and horseman.”

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Easter Sunrise
The Feast of Fat Things
Isaiah 25:6–9

The Lord of hosts on His holy mountain
will make a feast of the finest foods,
an exquisite feast for all peoples,
a feast of fat things full of marrow
and well-aged wines for one and all.
On Mount Zion the Lord will demolish
the burial shroud, the binding sheet,
the shadow of doom that darkens the nations,
dimming for them the light of the love of God.
He will swallow up their enemy death
forever and ever; from all faces
He will wipe away the woeful tears;
He will remove the reproach of all His people:
For the Lord has spoken it; the Lord has promised.



The Vale of Tears, 1883, Gustave Doré {{PD-US}}

On that day they will confess with heartfelt faith:
“Behold, this is our God, for whom we hoped and waited.
Behold, this is the Lord, who rescued us from harm.
Let us rejoice and be glad in God’s salvation;
let us glorify His name now and forever.”

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Easter Day
Already He Had Risen
Mark 16:1–8

Our Savior had no need of their anointing:
Already He had risen from the dead;
already He made plans for His appointing
of men to preach His Gospel in His stead,
to baptize with His holy word and water
each one who comes to join His family,
to nurture and prepare each son and daughter
to feast with Him for all eternity.

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Easter Evening/Monday
Jesus and the Emmaus Disciples
Luke 24:13–35

He taught them from the Scriptures of the Christ
and their hearts burned to hear the things He said,
but still they did not recognize their Lord
until He blessed and broke and gave them bread.

They knew Him in the breaking of the bread,
and Mary knew Him when He spoke her name,
and all His sons and daughters know Him so
for Jesus shows His love to all the same:

He names us and He pours on us His name
to make us one with Him forevermore;
He feeds us, with His body and His blood,
forgiveness from His never-failing store.



Image is *Supper at Emmaus*, 1601, Carravaggio {{PD-US}}

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Easter Tuesday
Why Do the Nations Rage?
Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage against the Lord's Anointed?
In vain the peoples plot and conspire.
The nations' kings unite to fight
the Lord and His Anointed, but they can only lose.
They say, "Let us burst their bonds apart,
and cast away the cords that confine us."

The Lord of heaven laughs from His throne
at all the rebels as they rage and rant.
He takes them to task in terrifying fury:

"I have set My holy King upon My holy hill;
on Zion I have placed My Prince forever."

And now listen to the Lord's Anointed:
"The Lord said to Me, 'Surely You are My Son;
today I have begotten You with greatest joy.
My Son, at Your asking, the ends of the earth
will become the domain of Your mighty rule;
the nations will become Your holy kingdom.
You shall break the rebels with an iron rod,
and dash them to pieces like a clay pot.'"

Now be wise, O kings; be warned, O rulers,
and herald the Lord with holy joy.
Honor the King and kiss the Son,
lest He take offense with fearsome wrath,
and you promptly perish by His potent arm.

The Lord is the refuge of righteous hearts;
blest are they who turn where grace abounds.

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Easter Wednesday

Discipleship

John 21:1–14

When they decided they would all go fishing,
they fished all night and did not catch a thing.
Then Jesus came and gave His good direction
and they caught almost more than they could bring.

There is a lesson here for all disciples
who want to fish for men to fill their naves:
Do not embark on such a bold adventure
without commands from Christ, who rules the waves.

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Second Sunday of Easter

The Water and the Blood

1 John 5:4–10

The water and the blood,
the cleansing and the flood
of sin-expelling red,
the rising from the dead,
eternal life ahead—
What wonders You have done,
O Father, through Your Son!

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Jesus Enthroned, 1590, Thomas Bathas {{PD-US}}

Third Sunday of Easter

Defending Sheep

John 10:11–16

Defending sheep, the Shepherd dies
but in three days He will arise:
Up He will leap, for He has sheep to tend.
Then He will seek His scattered sheep
and bring them safely to His keep
and show them lovingkindness without end.

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Fourth Sunday of Easter

Little Whiles

John 16:16–22

“In a little while you will not see Me,
but when some little whiles have passed away,
you will be surrounded by My glory,
My light providing you with endless day.”
All praise to Him who first created light,
then died to make us holy in His sight.

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*Christ Taking Leave of the Apostles, 1308–11,
Duccio di Buoninsegna {{PD-US}}*

St. Philip and St. James, Apostles, May 1

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Spirit Came and Sang

John 16:5–15

The Spirit came and sang to Christ’s apostles
a lyric sure to make their faith grow strong,
until they could not help but sing to others
who heard the truth and joined the faithful throng
that praises Christ for sending down His Spirit
to move our tongues to sing salvation’s song.

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

Ask Him

John 16:23–33

God's people cried to Him in their distress
and never did He fail to hear and bless;
now Jesus bids us ask in His own name,
petitioning the Father without shame—
so whether hopes elate or fears annoy,
ask Him, and He will fill your heart with joy.

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The Ascension of Our Lord

Men of Galilee

Acts 1:1–11

Why stand you gazing up into the sky?
Your Lord ascends, but He does not retire:
He soon will send the Holy Spirit's fire
to give you tongues and wing your feet to fly
to preach His word and bring His sacraments
to every blessed sinner who repents
in service to the Christ who reigns on high.



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Image is *Ascension of Christ*, Dosso Dossi, d. 1542 {{PD-US}}

Seventh Sunday of Easter

How to Keep the Great Commandment

Ezekiel 36:22–28

A heart of flesh for this cold heart of stone,
a heart to be the Holy Spirit's throne
until His holy will becomes my own:
O God, create a tender heart in me
that loves You and my neighbor faithfully.

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Pentecost Eve/Pentecost Monday

For God So Loved the World

John 3:16–21

God loved the world so much,
He sent His only Son
to suffer and to die
that sin might be undone:

No condemnation now
for all who live in trust
that Christ the Risen One
will raise them from the dust.

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Day of Pentecost

How Manifold Are Thy Works

Psalm 104

O Lord, my God, great is Your name;
You are clothed in majesty, O Maker of all.
Enwrapped in light, Your luminous garment,
You stretch out the heavens like a starry curtain;
the beams of Your palace You place in the waters.
Like a racing chariot are the clouds You ride;
on the wings of the wind You walk at Your will.
Your messengers the angels are like mighty winds;
these fleet ministers are Your flaming fire.

You set the earth on solid foundations
to keep it stable and still forever.
You covered it with the deep as with a draping garment;
the waters stood above the steep mountains.
At Your rebuke they fled, flowing away hastily
from the voice of the heavens' thunder.
Over the high mountains, into the hidden valleys,
they flowed to the places You formed and appointed.
You set them a boundary to bar the waters
from coming back again to blanket the earth.

Into the valleys You send the springs to satisfy
the thirst of asses and other beasts.
In branches nearby, the birds of the air
nestle in safety and sweetly sing.
You water the hills from Your high chambers
to satisfy the world with Your fruitful works.

You cause the grass to grow for cattle;
You prosper the crops planted to meet
the needs of humans who hunger and thirst.
The gift of wine that gladdens hearts,
the oil that furnishes luster to faces,
and sustaining bread are bounty You bestow.
The cedars of Lebanon, flowing with sap,
are planted by Your hand. Here are the nests
of little birds who blithely sing;
while the fir trees furnish shelter
to the long-legged storks who soar aloft.
Wild goats are at home on the high hills,



Peaceable Kingdom, 1834, Edward Hicks {{PD-US}}

while the crags are a refuge for the rock badgers.
 You have made the moon to mark the seasons.
 Your sun goes down to provide darkness
 for the creeping forth of forest beasts.
 This is the time the lions look for their prey,
 for they must seek the meat that makes them strong.
 When the sun rises, their roaring ceases;
 the lions gather together to shelter;
 again they lie down in their dens to sleep—
 while men begin to go to work
 and labor as long as the light remains.

How manifold are Your works, O mighty Lord!
 In marvelous wisdom You made them all;
 the earth abounds with all You created.
 In the teeming sea, where ships travel,
 are sea creatures of all sizes,
 the fish who swim swiftly along
 and the great Leviathan, vastest of monsters,
 formed by Your will to frolic in the water.

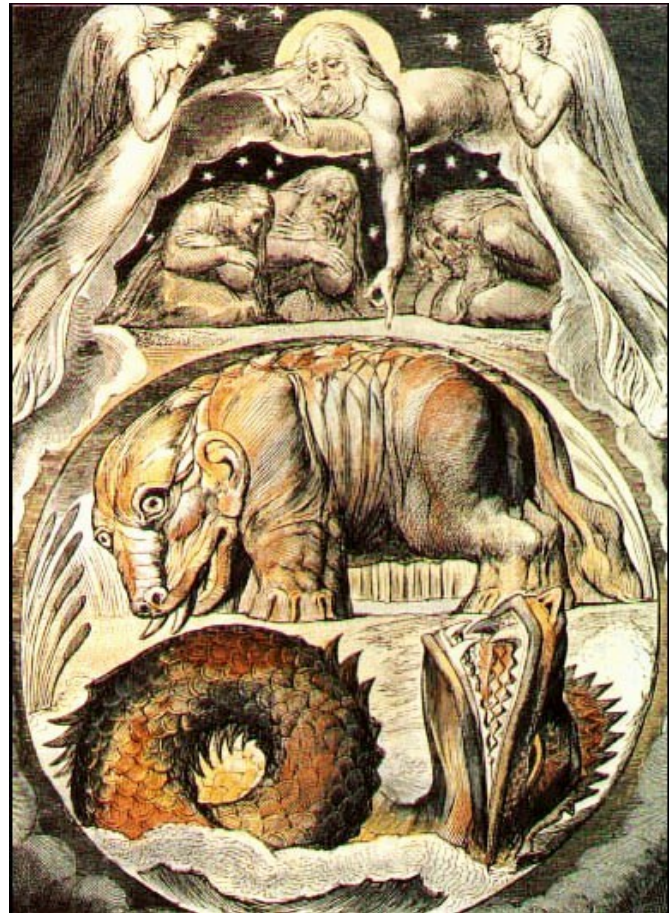
All You have formed wait to be fed
 by Your sustaining hand, O Holy Lord.
 You satisfy their hunger in due season;
 they gather up the good You give to them.

When You hide Your face, how they are troubled!
 Their breath departs, they perish, they die,
 they decay, they desiccate; they return to dust.
 When You loose Your breath, they live and breathe
 so You ever renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of God, our great Creator,
 ever endure, day after day.
 May He rejoice in the wondrous work of His hand:
 For the earth trembles in awe at His glance;
 and at His single touch, the mountains smoke.

I will laud the Lord as long as I live;
 I will heap praise on Him while I have my being.
 May my musings please my marvelous Maker
 as the Lord my God gladdens my heart.
 But may sinners be removed from the earth He made;
 may wicked people depart forevermore.

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Behemoth and Leviathan, William Blake, d. 1827 {{PD-US}}

The Holy Trinity

You Have Crowned Him

From the Introit, which uses

Psalm 8:1–5

O Lord, our God, our great Creator,
how excellent is Your name in all the earth!
Above the boundless heavens Your beauteous glory
is set in splendor, displaying Your might.

From the mouth of babes and the mouth of sucklings,
You have ordained strength to stand against Your foes
and to silence the enemies who seek revenge.

When I muse upon the heavens, the marvelous stars
Your fingers configured and fixed in the sky,
O Star-Maker, O Moon-Shaper,
what is man that You remember and make much of him,
what is the son of man that You meet him gladly?
For You have made him a little less than the celestial angels,
and You have crowned him, O God, with glory and honor.

You have given him dominion over the made things;
all You have wrought, all oxen and sheep,
the beasts of the field, the birds of the air,
the fish of the sea and the sea creatures
who pass through its paths, are put under his feet.

O Lord, our God, our great Creator,
how excellent is Your name in all the earth!

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*The Holy Trinity, Jean Bourdichon
(1457–1521) {{PD-US}}*

First Sunday after Trinity

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19–31

A rich man loafed in luxury
and feasted every day,
while Lazarus desired the crusts
the feasters tossed away.
The beggar could but hope in God
when men refused to share,
until the angels carried him
to Abraham's good care.

The rich man's fate was opposite:
in Hades' flame he burned
when he sought help from Lazarus,
the beggar he had spurned.
But Abraham would not allow

his Lazarus to run
and bring a single water-drop
to cool the rich man's tongue.

Nor would he make of Lazarus
a messenger to tell
the rich man's brothers how to shun
the way that leads to hell:
"For Moses and the Prophets preached
the words they need to hear—
but even to a risen one,
they will not lend an ear."

It is God's way that faith should come
by hearing His good word;
but those who love their riches best
dismiss it as absurd
to seek forgiveness from the Christ
who suffered, bled, and died:
"My wealth shows God approves of me,"
say rich men in their pride.

So let us bless our gracious Lord
who gives us ears to hear;
and let us beg for rich men grace
as Christ's return draws near,
that they believe and love and share
their blessings with the poor,
and feast on wine and broken bread
with us forevermore.



The Rich Man and Lazarus, 1864, John Everett Millais, {{PD-US}}

Revised from *To You It Has Been Given: The Parables of Jesus in Pictures and Verse* © 2011 Kathryn Ann Hill.

St. Barnabas, Apostle, June 11
The Lord Will Go Forth Like a Fearless Man
Isaiah 42:5–12

"Behold My Servant whom I uphold gladly,
My trusted Elect who delights my soul.
I have put My Spirit on Him to dispense justice,
to serve nations near and nations far.
He will not cry aloud or lift up His voice
to disturb the peace of the city streets.
He will never break a reed that is bruised,
and never quench a wick that weakly burns.
He will bring justice forth in faith and truth.
He will not grow weak, He will not give up
until His justice reaches and rules the earth,
and islanders come to trust His honest teachings."

Thus says the Lord, the living God,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and all its offspring,
who breathes His life into human bodies,
and inspirits all who walk the earth:
“In righteousness I summoned You, O Son, O Messiah.
I will take Your hand and hold You and keep You
and shape You to become a covenant for Israel,
and a light for all the nations of the earth,
to heal the eyes of the helpless blind,
and free prisoners confined in the dark,
and lead condemned ones out of deep dungeons.

“My name is the Lord and I will not yield
My glory to another; no graven image
will enjoy a part of My just praise.
The things I promised have come to pass,
and I now declare new things for you,
to fill you full of joy and faithful thanks.”

Sing to the Lord with a new song;
from the ends of the earth, let all give praise:
sailors of the sea and sea creatures;
islands and coastlands and all their countrymen;
wilderness dwellers and city dwellers;
people of Kedar and people of Sela,
singing from settlements and singing from mountains.
For the Lord will go forth like a fearless man,
and stir up His zeal like a strong warrior,
and bravely raise the battle cry,
and boldly triumph over His bitter foes.

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Christ and the Pauper, 2009,
Andrey N. Mironov

Second Sunday after Trinity

Learn of Me

1 John 3:13–18

Laying down your life
like your dearest Friend—
this is what is meant
by loving to the end.

Will you give your life
to let another live?
Follow Him and learn
from Jesus how to give.

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Third Sunday after Trinity

The Lost Coin

Luke 15:1–10

Unless a lady lights her lamp,
she cannot hope to find her coin
that fell upon the earthen floor;
it will lie lost forevermore
unless she lights her lamp.

But when that lady lights her lamp
and diligently sweeps the floor
and turns her household upside down—
what joy! Her silver piece is found
because she lit her lamp.

So will the Church reclaim the lost
by holding forth the light of Christ,
by preaching forth His Gospel word;
for only when His word is heard
will Christ reclaim the lost.

Then will the found ones' faces shine
to hear the love of Christ proclaimed;
as silver gleams in candlelight
that banishes the gloom of night,
so will their faces shine;

while in the kingdom of the Lamb
where saints behold Him face to face
sounds forth the bright angelic hymn
of joy for found ones entering
the kingdom of the Lamb.



The Lost Coin, 1864, John Everett Millais {{PD-US}}

Revised from *To You It Has Been Given: The Parables of Jesus in Picture and Verse* © 2011 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Nativity of St. John the Baptist, June 24

Call His Name John

Luke 1:57–80

On golden wings and glowing with goodness
from God on high, Gabriel came
to the Holy Place where the priest prayed
and offered incense, earnestly seeking
the Lord's salvation with heartfelt devotion.
Devout Zechariah saw at his right
the holy angel sent from heaven—
then fear afflicted the faithful priest.

“Do not be afraid but be filled with joy:
your prayer has been heard on high by the Lord.

Your long-barren lady Elizabeth
will bear you a son, a boy called John,
for God is gracious. And John will be great
in the sight of the Lord who lives to save.
The Holy Spirit—not wine or spirits—
will fill your son from conception forward.
This prophet John will preach repentance,
preparing for God a penitent people
who turn with love to the Lord their God,
who turn from vain rebellion to bold believing.”

So Gabriel announced good news to him.
But Zechariah doubted. For rich in years
were the priest and his lady: it seemed unlikely
that they would know this joy, that John would open
the womb of his wife. He wondered aloud
to the envoy of God, and the angel answered:

“My name is Gabriel, God is my strength,
and I serve in His presence. He sent me to bring you
these glad tidings, this trustworthy news.
And now, behold, for not believing
my words of truth, your tongue is stilled
until the blessed day your John is born.”

Meanwhile the people prayed and wondered
what was so long delaying their priest.
When he came out, unable to speak,
the people discerned he had seen a vision
in the Holy Place. How could he tell them?
He made signs to them, but remained speechless.

When his days of service were faithfully done,
Zechariah headed home to his wife.
And Elizabeth conceived. Then she hid herself
for five months’ time, finding her joy
in the Giver of gifts—for God is gracious.

Revised from *Now God Is Flesh: Poems and Pictures for Christmastide* © 2013 Kathryn Ann Hill.

Fourth Sunday after Trinity
Be Merciful, as Jesus Shows You Mercy
Genesis 50:15–21

When Joseph’s brothers begged him to show mercy,
remembering their evil deeds toward him,
he soothed their fears and promised them provision:
His lovingkindness overflowed the brim.

He acted in the place of God, forgiving,
as God forgives your sins abundantly;



Archangel Gabriel Appears to Zachary, 1412–16, Paul de Limbourg, brothers Jean and Herman {{PD-US}}

he showed how mercy is God's rule of justice,
as Jesus died to set sin's captives free.

Be merciful, as Jesus shows you mercy;
judge not and you will not be judged, dear friends;
condemn not others, for our Lord has shown you
His lovingkindness toward you never ends.

Give unto others, and you will be given,
though you have been hard pressed and shaken down,
the badges of God's overflowing mercy:
His white robe and His everlasting crown.

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St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles, June 29

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

The Visitation, July 2

The Breath of His Lips

Isaiah 11:1–5

A Rod shall emerge from the root of Jesse;
a Branch from his stump shall bud and blossom;
new fruit shall flourish from his fertile stock.
The Lord's Spirit shall ever inspire Him
with wise understanding and counsel and strength
and moral knowledge and most of all
the fear of the Lord—His first delight.

What His eyes see, what His ears hear
shall not determine His truth and justice.
But when the poor are oppressed by prideful men,
He shall justly rule between right and wrong.
His equity shall decide for the earth's meek ones.
The rod of His mouth shall smite the ruthless;
the breath of His lips shall blot out the wicked.
Righteousness and faithfulness shall wrap His waist,
girding Him for great and godly deeds.

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Image is *Tree of Jesse with the Madonna and Child*, ca. 1260, from the Scherenberg Psalter {{PD-US}}



Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Expectations

Luke 5:1–11

Our Lord prepared good things and then He gave them
to men whose expectations were surpassed:
a catch of fish two-boatloads big for Peter;
and for Elijah, when he was downcast,
the word that seven thousand faithful people
had been preserved from foul idolatry,
and that another faithful man, Elisha,
would carry on the work of prophecy.

God gives some to be prophets—some apostles,
like Peter and the sons of Zebedee,
and where His word is spoken, He gives hearers
with ears to learn and listen faithfully.
We thank You, Lord, for faith that comes by hearing;
faith wants Your ways and ours to be the same;
fulfill then, Lord, our greatest expectation:
to join the ranks who always praise Your name.



*The Miraculous Draught of Fishes, 1515–16,
Raphael {{PD-1996}}*

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Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Justified

Matthew 5:20–26

The Pharisees were known for righteous living;
they kept the laws they crafted very well.
You must exceed their righteousness, said Jesus,
or else you will be liable to hell.

The only truly righteous one is Jesus,
who kept all God's commandments perfectly.
By faith in Jesus, you are counted righteous,
not bound by sin but justified and free.

So do not be afraid when the accuser
loads words of condemnation in your ear—
your advocate and judge is your dear Savior,
who gave His life to take away your fear.

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Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Seven Loaves

Mark 8:1–9

A crowd four thousand strong were growing weak;
for three days they had been with Christ our Lord
to see Him heal their sick and hear Him speak.
With Jesus' words they all had been well fed;
now for their journey home they needed bread.

Christ had compassion on the multitude:
From His disciples He took seven loaves,
and having given thanks for that good food,
He broke the loaves and gave them to His men
to satisfy the hungry there and then.

Man does not live by bread alone, we know—
God's words deliver everlasting life;
and here on earth where Christians come and go,
His words combined with bread deliver strength
to build the faith that brings us home at length.

Reprinted from *The Song of Daniel and Selected Poems*.
Image is *The Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish*, 16th century, Ambrosius Francken {{PD-1996}}



St. James the Elder, Apostle, July 25

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

St. Mary Magdalene, July 22

More Precious than Rubies

Proverbs 31:10–31

More precious than rubies is a good woman. She
Opens her mouth with wisdom; the
Teaching of kindness is on her tongue. The
Heart of her husband trusts in her, for
Every day she does him good. She
Rises at night to feed her family. She
Clothes all her household in scarlet. Her
Husband praises her, and
Up rise her children to bless her. Far beyond
Rubies is her worth:
Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but
Here is a woman who fears the Lord.

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Eighth Sunday after Trinity

True or False

Matthew 7:15–23

A prophet's fruit must be his words,
for words are what all prophets bear;
true prophets yield the word of Christ—
false prophets yield despair.

False hope is all false prophets bring,
for though they preach in Jesus' name,
their Jesus and the Lord who saves
are not one and the same.

The Jesus whom the gospels show
bore fruit true shepherds love to give:
They serve the fruit of Jesus' cross
that faithful folk may live.

True shepherds preach the word of Christ
and feed His flock His bread and cup;
false shepherds preach a pack of lies
and want to eat sheep up!

Lord, pour Your Spirit out on us
to work in us discerning ears
that hear true shepherds, not false wolves
until our Christ appears.



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Image is *The False Prophet Directs the Worship of the Beast*, 1290s {{PD-1996}}

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Restore to Us the Joy

From the Collect

Restore to us the joy of Your salvation—
then will our baser motives melt away
and we will ask You, Lord, for Your good pleasure
and You will grant the things for which we pray
through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You
and with the Holy Spirit, ever true,
one holy, merciful, eternal Lord,
by saints and angels evermore adored.

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Collect: Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Power in Pity

From the Collect

In showing mercy, Lord, in showing pity,
Your power is most splendidly declared:
So shower down Your grace upon our weakness
that we obtain the treasures You prepared
through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You
and with the Holy Spirit, ever true,
one holy, merciful, almighty Lord,
by saints and angels evermore adored.

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Collect: O God, You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity. Mercifully grant us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord, August 15

The King Is Wed

Psalm 45:10–17

He is the handsomest of men;
the King speaks graciously;
the blessings God pours out on Him
last for eternity.

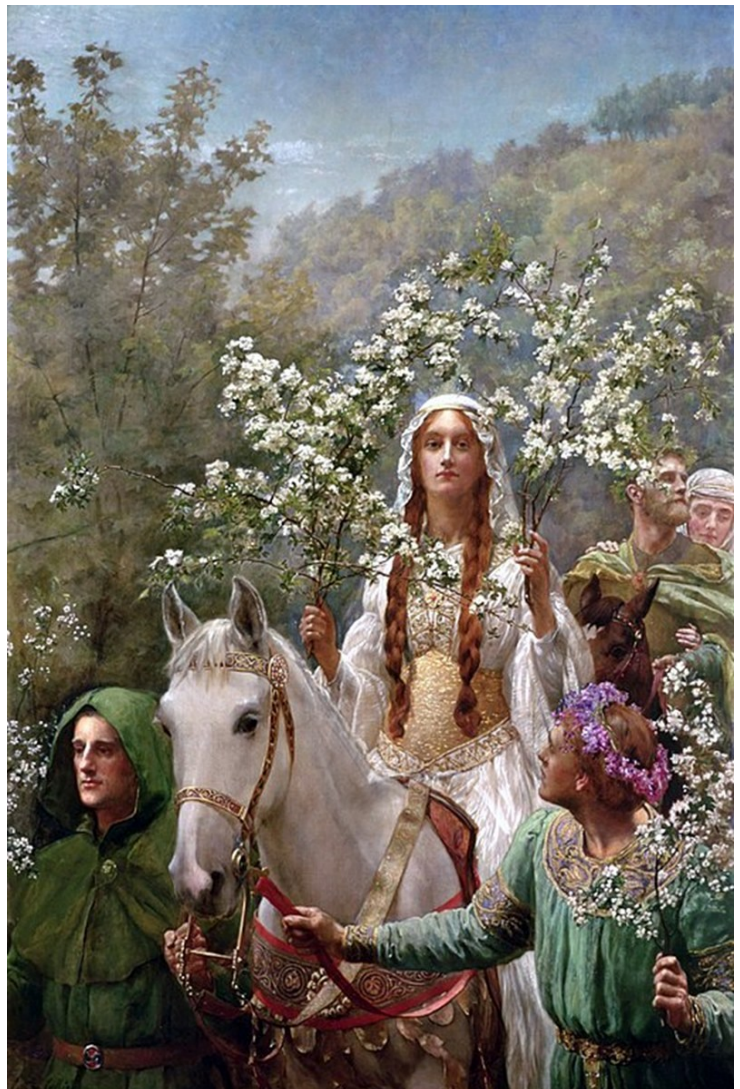
For when He girded on His sword
and rode in majesty,
He overthrew His people's foes
to reign victoriously.

His righteous rule shall never end;
He is forever glad.
In robes perfumed with cinnamon
this King is fitly clad.

Sweet music from the palace plays
to fill Him with delight;
while royal ladies gather round,
His Queen stands at His right.

The King is wed. Then comes His bride
to dwell in His own place:
forgetting her old home, she comes
to serve her Lord with grace.

How glorious this daughter is
in gold-embroidered dress



Queen Guinevere's Maying, 1900, John Collier {{PD-1996}}

as her companions follow her
with perfect joyousness!

And in good time this King and Queen
shall see their sons succeed
the fathers who have gone before
in faithful word and deed.

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Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
The Mark of Cain

Genesis 4:1–15

Our Lord has put a mark upon our foreheads
that terrifies our mortal enemies:
Enraged by it, sin, death, and hell attack us
but they cannot do everything they please—
the victory belongs to Christ our Savior,
and though we suffer pain and shame and loss,
He will bestow the crown of life eternal
on brows that bear the tracing of His cross.



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Image is *Baptism of Lydia*, 1861, Marie Ellenrieder {{PD-1996}}

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Ears and Tongues

Mark 7:31–37

O Word made flesh, whose love did not disdain
to put Your finger in a deaf man's ear
and spit and touch the tongue inside his mouth
that his impeded speech might be made clear,

without Your gospel word, we cannot hear;
without true hearing, we cannot believe;
without our faithful hearing of Your word,
our tongues are doomed to flatter and deceive.

So open up our ears to hear, we pray,
and bring us where Your faithful preachers preach
the only word that will enable us
to witness to Your works with holy speech.

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St. Bartholomew, Apostle, August 24

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

Be of Good Courage

Portions of Psalm 31 are used in the Introit. Find the poem based on Psalm 31 at Sunday of the Passion, which follows Palm Sunday.

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:23–37

He whom robbers stripped and beat
lay beside the road and bled;
those who saw him crossed the road,
leaving him as good as dead . . .

*That we may obtain Your promise,
make us love what You command:
Make us love to love our neighbor;
make of us Your healing hand.*

Love the Lord with all your heart;
love your neighbor as yourself:
Who would keep this law and live
must partake of Jesus' health.

Binding up our gaping wounds,
Jesus pours on oil and wine,
filling us with healing love
till it cannot be confined:

Acts of mercy, gifts of love
to our neighbor overflow,
bearing witness to the Christ
who can heal each pain and woe.

*That we may obtain Your promise,
make us love what You command:
Make us love to love our neighbor;
make of us Your healing hand.*



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Woodcut for *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*, 1864, John Everett Millais {{PD-1996}}

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Walk by the Spirit

Luke 17:11–19

As leprosy will waste away man's flesh,
indulging fleshly lusts will waste his soul;
but when the Holy Spirit leads a man,
Christ works to make his soul and body whole.

Then will he walk as Christ his Lord commands
except when he falls down at Jesus' feet
to thank and praise the one who will not fail
to render mercy from His mercy seat.

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Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Do Not Be Anxious

Matthew 6:24–34

About your meat and drink do not be anxious
or worry over what you are to wear
but let your anxious thoughts become petitions
to Him who loves to hear and answer prayer.

To birds who neither sow nor reap nor gather,
your Father gives keen eyes to find good seed;
seek first His kingdom and you will discover
that daily God supplies your every need.

The lilies' fleeting life God clothes with splendor
more glorious than Solomon's array;
the robe of righteousness that Jesus gives you
shines brighter and will never fade away.

The sweet birds sing God's praise until they perish;
the wind blows, and the lilies wave their praise;
now let the tongues of you who are His children
give grateful praise to God throughout your days.

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*White Arum Lilies, 2005, Tony Hisgett,
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Holy Cross Day, September 14

Christ Is Crucified

Numbers 21:4–9

When wicked Satan tempted Eve,
a mortal sickness she received:
More deadly than a serpent's kiss,
sin came and quenched her hope of bliss.

The Israelites in desert land
complained of food from God's good hand:
Their sin provoked the serpent's bite
that put their hope of life to flight.

But God had mercy on these men
when they confessed that they had sinned:
A snake of bronze upon a pole
became the means to make them whole.

The Lord had words of hope to give:
Who looks upon the snake shall live—
and so were life and health restored
to sinners trusting in their Lord.

As Moses lifted up the snake
the Son of Man for sinners' sake
upon the cross was lifted up
to shed His blood, to fill the Cup

that slakes our thirst for righteousness,
that gives to us His innocence:
A bite of fruit, a wicked tongue
by Christ's forgiveness are undone.

So when the Host and Cup are raised,
then let us fix our loving gaze
on Christ, who life and healing brings,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Reprinted from *Rich in Grace: The Bible of the Poor for 21st-Century Christians* © 2007 ALPB Books.

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Crossing

Luke 7:11–17

By death a widow's only son was taken:
Now double was her want and grief and pain
until the bier that headed death's procession
was made to halt outside the gates of Nain.

For Christ the Lord of Life and His companions
came crossing there to interrupt death's train:
Christ touched the bier and gave His resurrection
to him whom death had shackled in its chain.

Upon His cross Christ died for our salvation;
He bled for us to wash away sin's stain;
then He arose to give us resurrection—
had Christ not risen, all our hopes were vain.

At Baptism the Lord of Life comes crossing:
His mark upon our foreheads is the bane
of sin and death and Satan's dark dominion—
with Christ we die and rise to life again.

We thank You for Your cross and for Your crossings;
Your loss, O Lord, is nothing but our gain;
and so in songs of praise we raise our voices
to blend in heaven's never-ending strain.

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The Raising of the Widow's Son in Nain,
1860, Jan Verhas {{PD-1996}}

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Choice Places at the Table

Luke 14:1–11

Let each man choose the humblest seat
when he is made a wedding guest,
and let his host decide if he
should have more honor than the rest.

Let each man serve his friends in love,
not trample them to gain a prize;
let no man be the cause of pain
or envy in his brother's eyes.

And would you like to serve as host?
Do not invite your well-heeled friends,
but bring the maimed and lame and blind
to taste the feast that never ends.

For God's own Son did not disdain
to share in our humanity:
He ate and drank with needy folk;
He died to set sin's prisoners free.

Then did He rise and quit His tomb
and up to heaven's throne ascend
and take His seat at God's right hand
to reign in glory without end.

In glory Christ will come again
to exercise His truth and grace:
Then will He bid His lowly ones
to go up to a higher place.

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Friday, 1882, Walter Dendy Sadler {{PD-1996}}

St. Michael and All Angels, September 29

Who Is Like God?

Revelation 12:7–12

He said, "The Lord rebuke you,"
when Satan tried to claim
the body left by Moses—
his weapon was God's name.
He faced the Prince of Persia
and matched him blow for blow
beside his battling brother
to spare God's people woe.

When war arose in heaven,
the rebels could not win;

he threw down the deceiver
who lured us into sin.

Who is like God but Michael,
the angel of the Lord,
who wielded for our welfare
God's mighty two-edged sword.

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Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
The First and Second Tables
Matthew 22:34–46

Love God the Lord with all your heart
and all your soul and all your mind—
for did not Jesus give His all
to ransom all of humankind?

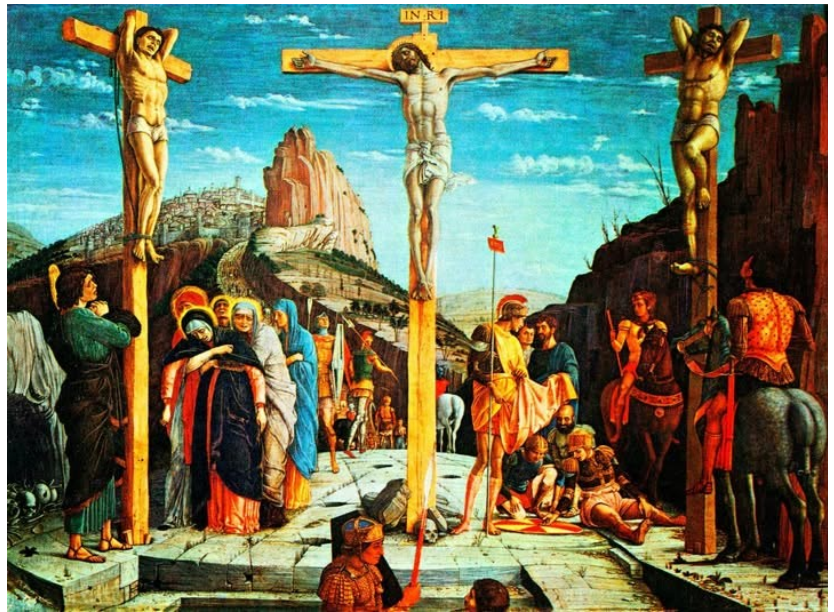
In gratitude for His great love,
with gospel words and patient deeds
now love our neighbor as yourself—
in Jesus meet your neighbor's needs.

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Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
Through the Roof
Matthew 9:1–8

The man who cannot lift his limbs
is lowered by his friends
into the presence of the Lord,
whose absolution ends
his fatal languishing in sin,
whose resurrection stands
him on his feet—to lift his load
with Spirit-quicken hands.

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The Crucifixion, 1457–60, Andrea Mantegna {{PD-1996}}

St. Luke, Evangelist, October 18

Behold, Your God Will Come

Isaiah 35:5–8

Strengthen and heal the hands that are weak,
make sure and firm the feeble knees.
Say to the fearful-hearted, “Take heart, be strong!
Behold, your God, the Holy One of Israel,
will come with vengeance for your vindication.”

Then God will open the eyes of the blind;
your Savior will open the ears of the deaf.
The lame shall skip and leap like a stag,
and the tongue of the mute shall merrily sing.
In the barren wilderness, waters shall gush,
and streams in the dry, desolate wasteland.
The burning sand shall be a bracing pool,
and springs shall enliven the thirsty land.
And the haunt of jackals, their parched haven,
shall then be overrun with reeds and rushes.

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Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Give Us a Quiet Mind

From the Collect

Sin’s residue of guilty thoughts
cannot withstand the tide
of pardon and enduring peace
that flows from Jesus’ side;
forgive our sins therefore, O Lord,
give us a quiet mind:
the mind of Christ to do Your will
in service to mankind
through Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace,
who with the Holy Ghost
and You, O Father, reigns in peace
above the heavenly host.

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Collect: O Lord, grant to Your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr, October 23

Portions of Psalm 31 are used in the Introit. Find the poem based on Psalm 31 at Sunday of the Passion, which follows Palm Sunday.



The Crucifixion, 1340s, Pietro Lorenzetti {{PD-1996}}

Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

Faith

John 4:47–54

Faith is not in what we see—
faith is in what we have heard
when the Gospel is proclaimed:
Jesus' grief-reversing word.

Grasp the faith you have received;
cleave to it with all your might;
live by faith; be led by faith
that will put your fears to flight.

In this fallen sin-sick world,
times of trouble come and go.
By the mercy of our Lord,
troubles cause our faith to grow.

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St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles, October 28

Portions of Psalm 89 are used in the Introit. The poem based on Psalm 89 is on page 1.

Reformation Day

God Is Our Refuge

Psalm 46

God is our refuge, our righteous strength,
ever present to aid us in trouble—
so we will have no fear of any misfortunes,
though the earth shudders and shakes and breaks,
though the mountains fall into the foaming sea,
though the rocking waters raucously roar,
though the mountains quake in the moiling sea.

There is a river that streams riches steadily
into the city of God, gladdening her heart.
She is the holy place of the Most High.
God is in her midst; she shall not be moved;
God will save her as the sun rises.
Nations and kingdoms crack and totter;
He utters thunder and the earth melts.

*Here with His own is the Lord of Hosts;
the God of Jacob is our gracious refuge.*

Come and behold the works of our Holy Lord,
the desolations He wrought on wrongdoers.
He establishes peace in every place:



*Fortress Lovrijenac, 2013, Dennis Jarvis,
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He breaks and shatters the bow and spear,
and consumes chariots in His seething fire.
He says, "Be still now, and know that I am God.
My name will be exalted in every nation;
across all the world, My wonders will be known."

*Here with His own is the Lord of Hosts;
the God of Jacob is our gracious refuge.*

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All Saints' Day, November 1

Out of the Great Tribulation

Revelation 7:14–17

Out of the great tribulation
the saints of God have passed
to find their tears all wiped away
by nail-scarred hands at last.

The Lamb of God has brought them
where living waters spring,
and now with tongues refreshed they join
the hymns the angels sing.

They stand before the throne of God
and serve Him day and night,
the former poor in spirit
now clothed in spotless white.

His temple gives them shelter
no scorching heat can pierce;
His table keeps them ever
from thirst and hunger fierce.

O come, Lord Jesus, to this world
of suffering and strife
and bring Your children home with You
to everlasting life.

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All Saints' Day, 1888, Émile Friant La Toussaint {{PD-1996}}

Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

The Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21–35

Around his fellow's throat he wraps his hands
as if to squeeze a few poor pennies out.
O man, how dare you persecute your peer?
It is your lord's forgiveness that you flout.
O man, how can you not forgive your friend
when God Himself has cancelled all your debt?

You must not think you owed Him very much
nor take to heart His costly payment yet.

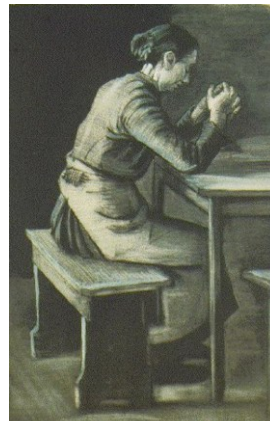
The precious blood of God's beloved Son
was spent to make the payment for your sin—
now take to heart the love that purchased you
and do not hold that gracious love within

but fervently forgive your brother's wrong
as mercy in abundance you have known.
So will you prove yourself a faithful sheep
when you appear before God's judgment throne.

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Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity
Because of Human Frailty
From the Collect

Because of human frailty we sin
and find ourselves in bonds we cannot break;
deliver us from evil, Lord, we pray:
Absolve us of our sins for Jesus' sake
that having been set free from guilt and shame,
we live to glorify Your holy name.



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Image is *Woman Praying*, 1883, Vincent van Gogh {{PD-1996}}

Collect: O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity
Awake, Awake, and Work Your Wonders
Isaiah 51:9–16

Rise up, rise up, O arm of the Lord!
Bestir your strength to stand against our foes.
Awake, awake, and work your wonders,
as in the days of old, the ancient times.
Are you not the one who wielded the weapon
that hacked apart that hateful Rahab,
that slashed and slew that sea serpent?

And You dried up the depths of the sea,
making a way through the waving waters,
a dry pathway for the redeemed to cross.
So the ransomed of the Lord shall laud their rescuer
as they return to Zion, zealously singing.

They shall gain unending gladness and joy;
sorrow and mourning shall melt away.

“I am He who comforts you, cares for you and saves you.
Who are you to be dismayed by mortal men,
by the sons of men who are sapped like grass?
And you forget the Lord, your loving Maker,
who stretched out the airy heavens
and founded the earth firmly for your good.
And you always fear the oppressor’s fury—
he wills destruction, but where is his wrath?
The captive who crouches shall quickly be freed;
he shall not die in the deep dungeon;
his bread shall not fail to fill his belly.
I am the Lord your God, the Great and Good,
who rules the waves while they roar in vain—
I am the Lord of hosts, your holy God.

“I have given you My wisdom, My words into your mouth,
and have hidden you in the shadow of My holy hand—
I who stretched out the airy heavens
and founded the earth firmly for your good,
and who say to Zion, ‘See, you are My people.’”

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Crossing the Red Sea, 1266, Toros Roslin {{PD-1996}}

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity

Consolation 2021

Matthew 24:15–28

Abomination causing desolation,
when all we really want is consolation:
O come, Lord Jesus, Lord of all creation,
make of Your world one holy righteous nation,
where we, moved by Your love, forgive each other,
embracing every sister, every brother.

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Twenty-sixth Sunday after Trinity

When Christians Love as Christians Should

Matthew 25:31–46

When Christians love as Christians should,
they make no boast about their deeds;
their hearts and minds are all about
alleviating others’ needs.

They make no check marks on a list
of good deeds they must do each day;
they simply act with gratitude
toward Christ who takes their sin away.

When unbelievers fail to love,
so turned in on themselves are they
that they are blind and deaf to Christ
who offers them a better way.

Self-consciousness crowds Jesus out.
Self-righteousness denies His grace.
But where the good Lord enters in,
the world becomes a better place:

For where Christ dwells, His active love
begins to rescue, soothe, and heal.
Lord, love the world through us, we pray,
so others learn Your love is real.

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Last Sunday of the Church Year
The Wise and Foolish Virgins
Matthew 25:1–13

All ten of them were virgins,
but only five were wise;
all ten left torches burning
while slumber shut their eyes;
but only five brought oil flasks
to feed their torches' flame
to light the bridegroom's passage
when finally he came.

The saving faith is given
to all who are baptized:
In some it grows and prospers;
by some it is despised.
To each of them is offered
what keeps true faith alive:
the preaching and the Supper
that make the wise ones thrive.

But foolish ones grow scornful
of ordinary means
and quit the Church's service
for more exciting scenes
until their faith grows feeble,
as torches flickered out
when foolish girls were startled
to hear the watchman's shout.
As virgins wise be ready,
dear Christians, for your Lord:
So eat and drink His Supper,
so feast upon His word



The Ten Virgins, 1864, John Everett Millais {{PD-1996}}

that faith burns ever brighter
to meet that blissful day
when Christ your Bridegroom claims you
and carries you away.

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Church Year Calendar for the One-Year Series, Nov. 30, 2025—Nov. 26, 2026

Season	Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
ADVENT 2025	Nov. 30 2025	First S. in Advent (Ad Te Levavi)	Jer. 23:5–8	Psalm 24	Rom. 13:(8–10) 11–14	Matt. 21:1–9
	Dec. 7	Second S. in Advent (Populus Zion)	Mal. 4:1–6	Psalm 50:1–15	Rom. 15:4–13	Luke 21:25–36
	Dec. 14	Third S. in Advent (Gaudete)	Isaiah 40:1–8 (9–11)	Psalm 85	1 Cor. 4:1–5	Matt. 11:2–10 (11)
	Dec. 21	Fourth S. in Advent (Rorate Coeli)	Deut. 18:15–19	Psalm 111	Phil. 4:4–7	John 1:19–28 or Luke 1:39–56
	Dec. 24	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)	Isaiah 7:10–14	Psalm 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
CHRISTMAS 2025	Dec. 25	The Nativity of Our Lord (Midnight)	Isaiah 9:2–7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
		The Nativity of Our Lord (Dawn)	Micah 5:2–5a	Psalm 80:1–7	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20
		The Nativity of Our Lord (Day)	Ex. 40:17–21, 34–38	Psalm 2	Titus 3:4–7	John 1:1–14 (15–18)
	Dec. 28	The Holy Innocents	Jer. 31:15–17	Psalm 54	Rev. 14:1–5	Matt. 2:13–18
	or	First S. after Christmas	Isaiah 11:1–5 or 2 Sam. 7:1–16	Psalm 89:1–8	Gal. 4:1–7	Luke 2:(22–32) 33–40
	Dec. 31	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus (New Year's Eve)	Isaiah 30:(8–14) 15–17	Psalm 90:1–12	Rom. 8:31b–39	Luke 12:35–40
A.D. 2026	Jan. 1	Circumcision and Name of Jesus (New Year's Day)	Num. 6:22–27	Psalm 8	Gal. 3:23–29	Luke 2:21
	Jan. 4	Second S. after Christmas	Gen. 46:1–7	Psalm 77:11–20	1 Peter 4:12–19	Matt. 2:13–23
EPIPHANY	Jan. 6	The Epiphany of Our Lord	Isaiah 60:1–6	Psalm 24	Eph. 3:1–12 or Col. 1:23–27	Matt. 2:1–12
	Jan. 11	First S. after the Epiphany	1 Kings 8:6–13	Psalm 50:1–15	Rom. 12:1–5	Luke 2:41–52
	or	The Baptism of Our Lord	Joshua 3:1–3, 7– 8, 13–17 or Isaiah 42:1–7	Psalm 85	1 Cor. 1:26–31	Matt. 3:13–17
	Jan. 18	Second S. after the Epiphany	Ex. 33:12–23 or Amos 9:11–15	Psalm 67 or Psalm 111	Rom. 12:6–16 or Eph. 5:22–33	John 2:1–11
	or	The Confession of St. Peter	Acts 4:8–13	Psalm 118:19– 29	2 Peter 1:1–15	Mark 8:27–35 (36–9:1)
	Jan. 25	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Ex. 34:29–35 or Ex. 3:1–14	Psalm 2	2 Peter 1:16–21	Matt. 17:1–9

PRE-LENT	Feb. 1	Septuagesima	Ex. 17:1–7	Psalm 95:1–9	1 Cor. 9:24–10:5	Matt. 20:1–16
	Feb. 8	Sexagesima	Isaiah 55:10–13	Psalm 84	2 Cor. 11:19–12:9 <i>or</i> Heb. 4:9–13	Luke 8:4–15
	Feb. 15	Quinquagesima	1 Sam. 16:1–13 <i>or</i> Isaiah 35:3–7	Psalm 89:18–29 <i>or</i> Psalm 146	1 Cor. 13:1–13	Luke 18:31–43
ASH WEDNESDAY	Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12–19 <i>or</i> Jonah 3:1–10	Psalm 51:1–13 (14–19)	2 Peter 1:2–11	Matt. 6:(1–6) 16–21
LENT	Feb. 22	First S. in Lent (Invocabit)	Gen. 3:1–21 <i>or</i> 1 Sam. 17:40–51	Psalm 32 <i>or</i> Psalm 118:1–13	2 Cor. 6:1–10 <i>or</i> Heb. 4:14–16	Matt. 4:1–11
	March 1	Second S. in Lent (Reminiscere)	Gen. 32:22–32	Psalm 121	1 Thess. 4:1–7 <i>or</i> Rom. 5:1–5	Matt. 15:21–28
	March 8	Third S. in Lent (Oculi)	Ex. 8:16–24 <i>or</i> Jer. 26:1–15	Psalm 136:1–16 <i>or</i> Psalm 4	Eph. 5:1–9	Luke 11:14–28
	March 15	Fourth S. in Lent (Laetare)	Ex. 16:2–21 <i>or</i> Isaiah 49:8–13	Psalm 132:8–18	Gal. 4:21–31 <i>or</i> Acts 2:41–47	John 6:1–15
	March 22	Fifth S. in Lent (Judica)	Gen. 22:1–14	Psalm 43	Heb. 9:11–15	John 8:(42–45) 46–59
HOLY WEEK	March 29	Palm Sunday (Palmarum)	Zech. 9:9–12	Psalm 118:19–29 <i>or</i> Psalm 31:9–16	Phil. 2:5–11	<i>Matt. 21:1–9 or John 12:12–19 (Procession)</i> ----- <i>Matt. (26:1–27:10) 27:11–54 (55–60)</i>
	April 2	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Ex. 12:1–14 <i>or</i> Ex. 24:3–11	Psalm 116:12–19	1 Cor. 11:23–32	<i>John 13:1–15 (34–35)</i>
	April 3	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13–53:12	Psalm 22 <i>or</i> Psalm 31	2 Cor. 5:14–21	John 18:1–19:42
EASTER	April 5	The Resurrection of Our Lord (Sunrise)	Isaiah 25:6–9 <i>or</i> Ex. 14:10–15:1	Psalm 16 <i>or</i> The Song of Moses and Israel	1 Cor. 15:1–11 <i>or</i> 1 Cor. 15:12–25	John 20:1–18
		The Resurrection of Our Lord	Job 19:23–27	Psalm 118:15–29	1 Cor. 5:6–8 <i>or</i> 1 Cor. 15:51–57	Mark 16:1–8
	April 12	Second S. of Easter (Quasimodo Geniti)	Ezek. 37:1–14	Psalm 33	1 John 5:4–10	John 20:19–31
	April 19	Third S. of Easter (Misericordias Domini)	Ezek. 34:11–16	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:21–25	John 10:11–16
	April 26	Fourth S. of Easter (Jubilate)	Isaiah 40:25–31 <i>or</i> Lam. 3:22–33	Psalm 147:1–11	1 Peter 2:11–20 <i>or</i> 1 John 3:1–3	John 16:16–22
	May 3	Fifth S. of Easter (Cantate)	Isaiah 12:1–6	Psalm 66:1–8	James 1:16–21	John 16:5–15
	May 10	Sixth S. of Easter (Rogate)	Num. 21:4–9	Psalm 107:1–9	James 1:22–27 <i>or</i> 1 Tim. 2:1–6	John 16:23–30 (31–33)
	May 14	The Ascension of Our Lord	2 Kings 2:5–15	Psalm 110	Acts 1:1–11	Mark 16:14–20 <i>or</i> Luke 24:44–53
	May 17	Seventh S. of Easter (Exaudi)	Ezek. 36:22–28	Psalm 51:1–12	1 Peter 4:7–11 (12–14)	John 15:26–16:4
PENTECOST	May 24	The Day of Pentecost	Gen. 11:1–9	Psalm 143	Acts 2:1–21	John 14:23–31
TRINITY	May 31	The Holy Trinity	Isaiah 6:1–7	Psalm 29	Rom. 11:33–36	John 3:1–15 (16–17)
	June 7	First Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 15:1–6	Psalm 33:12–22	1 John 4:16–21	Luke 16:19–31
	June 14	Second Sunday after Trinity	Prov. 9:1–10	Psalm 34:12–22	1 John 3:13–18 <i>or</i> Eph. 2:13–22	Luke 14:15–24

	June 21	Third Sunday after Trinity	Micah 7:18–20	Psalms 103:1–13	1 Peter 5:6–11 or 1 Tim. 1:12–17	Luke 15:1–10 <i>or</i> Luke 15:11–32
	June 28	Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 50:15–21	Psalms 138	Rom. 8:18–23 <i>or</i> Rom. 12:14–21	Luke 6:36–42
	July 5	Fifth Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 19:11–21	Psalms 16	1 Peter 3:8–15 or 1 Cor. 1:18–25	Luke 5:1–11
	July 12	Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Ex. 20:1–17	Psalms 19	Rom. 6:(1–2) 3–11	Matt. 5:(17–19) 20–26
	July 19	Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 2:7–17	Psalms 33:1–11	Rom. 6:19–23	Mark 8:1–9
	July 26	Eighth Sunday after Trinity	Jer. 23:16–29	Psalms 26	Rom. 8:12–17 <i>or</i> Acts 20:27–38	Matt. 7:15–23
	Aug. 2	Ninth Sunday after Trinity	2 Sam. 22:26–34	Psalms 51:1–12	1 Cor. 10:6–13	Luke 16:1–9 (10–13)
	Aug. 9	Tenth Sunday after Trinity	Jer. 7:1–11 <i>or</i> Jer. 8:4–12	Psalms 92	1 Cor. 12:1–11 or Rom. 9:30–10:4	Luke 19:41–48
	Aug. 16	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 4:1–15	Psalms 50:7–23	1 Cor. 15:1–10 or Eph. 2:1–10	Luke 18:9–14
	Aug. 23	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 29:17–24	Psalms 146	2 Cor. 3:4–11 <i>or</i> Rom. 10:9–17	Mark 7:31–37
	Aug. 30	Thirteenth S. after Trinity	2 Chron. 28:8–15	Psalms 32	Gal. 3:15–22	Luke 10:23–37
	Sept. 6	Fourteenth S. after Trinity	Prov. 4:10–23	Psalms 119:9–16	Gal. 5:16–24	Luke 17:11–19
	Sept. 13	Fifteenth S. after Trinity	1 Kings 17:8–16	Psalms 146	Gal. 5:25–6:10	Matt. 6:24–34
	Sept. 20	Sixteenth S. after Trinity	1 Kings 17:17–24	Psalms 30	Eph. 3:13–21	Luke 7:11–17
	Sept. 27	Seventeenth S. after Trinity	Prov. 25:6–14	Psalms 2	Eph. 4:1–6	Luke 14:1–11
	Sept. 29	St. Michael and All Angels	Daniel 10:10–14; 12:1–3	Psalms 91	Rev. 12:7–12	Matt. 18:1–11 <i>or</i> Luke 10:17–20
	Oct. 4	Eighteenth S. after Trinity	Deut. 10:12–21	Psalms 34:8–22	1 Cor. 1:(1–3) 4–9	Matt. 22:34–46
	Oct. 11	Nineteenth S. after Trinity	Gen. 28:10–17	Psalms 84	Eph. 4:22–28	Matt. 9:1–8
	Oct. 18	Twentieth S. after Trinity	Isaiah 55:1–9	Psalms 27:1–9	Eph. 5:15–21	Matt. 22:1–14 <i>or</i> Matt. 21:33–44
	<i>or</i>	St. Luke	Isaiah 35:5–8	Psalms 147:1–11	2 Tim. 4:5–18	Luke 10:1–9
REFORMATION	Oct. 25 (Observed)	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6–7	Psalms 46	Rom. 3:19–28	Matt. 11:12–19 <i>or</i> John 8:31–36
	<i>or</i>	Twenty-first S. after Trinity	Gen. 1:1–2:3	Psalms 8	Eph. 6:10–17	John 4:46–54
ALL SAINTS' DAY	Nov. 1	All Saints' Day	Rev. 7:(2–8) 9–17	Psalms 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matt. 5:1–12
	Nov. 8	Twenty-third S. after Trinity	Prov. 8:11–22	Psalms 111	Phil. 3:17–21	Matt. 22:15–22
	Nov. 15	Twenty-fourth S. after Trinity	Is. 51:9–16	Psalms 126	Col. 1:9–14	Matt. 9:18–26
	Nov. 22	Last S. of the Church Year	Isaiah 65:17–25	Psalms 149	1 Thess. 5:1–11	Matt. 25:1–13
THANKSGIVING	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1–10	Psalms 67	Phil. 4:6–20 <i>or</i> 1 Tim. 2:1–4	Luke 17:11–19
New Church Year Starts Here (2026–2027)						
ADVENT 2026	Nov. 29	First S. in Advent (Ad Te Levavi)	Jer. 23:5–8	Psalms 24	Rom. 13:(8–10) 11–14	Matt. 21:1–9

	Dec. 6	Second S. in Advent (Populus Zion)	Mal. 4:1–6	Psalms 50:1–15	Rom. 15:4–13	Luke 21:25–36
	Dec. 13	Third S. in Advent (Gaudete)	Isaiah 40:1–8 (9–11)	Psalms 85	1 Cor. 4:1–5	Matt. 11:2–10 (11)
	Dec. 20	Fourth S. in Advent (Rorate Coeli)	Deut. 18:15–19	Psalms 111	Phil. 4:4–7	John 1:19–28 <i>or</i> Luke 1:39–56
	Dec. 24	The Nativity of Our Lord (<i>Christmas Eve</i>)	Isaiah 7:10–14	Psalms 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
CHRISTMAS 2026	Dec. 25	The Nativity of Our Lord (<i>Midnight</i>)	Isaiah 9:2–7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
		The Nativity of Our Lord (<i>Dawn</i>)	Micah 5:2–5a	Psalms 80:1–7	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20
		The Nativity of Our Lord (<i>Day</i>)	Ex. 40:17–21, 34–38	Psalms 2	Titus 3:4–7	John 1:1–14 (15–18)
	Dec. 27	First S. after Christmas	Isaiah 11:1–5 <i>or</i> 2 Sam. 7:1–16	Psalms 89:1–8	Gal. 4:1–7	Luke 2:(22–32) 33–40
	<i>or</i>	St. John	Rev. 1:1–6	Psalms 11	1 John 1:1–2:2	John 21:20–25
	Dec. 31	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus (<i>New Year's Eve</i>)	Isaiah 30:(8–14) 15–17	Psalms 90:1–12	Rom. 8:31b–39	Luke 12:35–40