**Old Testament Readings**

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 30: 15 – 17**

Moses said to the people:

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 43: 1 – 3; 4a**

Thus says the Lord,   
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.   
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Jeremiah

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 29: 11- 14

The word of the Lord was addressed to me saying,

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the book of Proverbs 8: 32 – 35**

The Wisdom of God cries aloud:

‘And now, my children, listen to me:  
happy are those who keep my ways.   
Hear instruction and be wise,  
and do not neglect it.

Happy is the one who listens to me,  
watching daily at my gates,  
waiting beside my doors.   
For whoever finds me finds life  
and obtains favour from the Lord

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the book of Ruth 1: 16 –17**

But Ruth said,  
‘Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God.   
Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried.  
May the Lord do thus and so to me and more as well, if even death parts me from you!’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the book of Numbers 6: 24 – 26**

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘Say this to Aaron and his sons: “This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.”

This is how they are to call down my name on the people of Israel, and I will bless them.’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1 –12**

## Everything Has Its Time

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;   
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;   
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;   
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;   
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;   
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;   
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the book of the Ecclesiastes (adapted text)**

*Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.*

God sets the time for birth and the time for death,

the time for planning and the time for pulling up,

the time for killing and the time for healing,

the time for tearing down and the time for building.

God sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy,

the time for mourning and the time for dancing,

the time for making love and the time for not making love,

the time for kissing and the time for not kissing.

God sets the time for finding and the time for losing,

the time for saving and the time for throwing away,

the time for tearing and the time for mending,

the time for silence and the time for talk.

God sets the time for love and the time for hate,

the time for war and the time for peace.

What do we gain from all our work? I know the heavy burdens that God has laid on us.God has set the right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what God does. So I realised that all we can do is to be happy and do the best we can while we are still alive. All of us should eat and drink and enjoy what we have worked for. It is God’s gift.

The Word of the Lord

**A reading from the book of Wisdom 6:11 – 20**

Set your heart, therefore, on what I have to say, listen with a will, and you will be instructed.

Wisdom is brilliant, she never fades. By those who love her, she is readily seen, by those who seek her, she is readily found.

She anticipates those who desire her by making herself known first.

Whoever gets up early to seek her will have no trouble but will find her sitting at the door.

Meditating on her is understanding in its perfect form, and anyone keeping awake for her will soon be free from care.

For she herself searches everywhere for those who are worthy of her, benevolently appearing to them on their ways, anticipating their every thought.

For Wisdom begins with the sincere desire for instruction, care for instruction means loving her, loving her means keeping her laws, attention to her laws guarantees incorruptibility, and incorruptibility brings us near to God; the desire for Wisdom thus leads to sovereignty.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the book of Sirach 2: 1 – 6**

My child, if you aspire to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for an ordeal.

Be sincere of heart, be steadfast, and do not be alarmed when disaster comes.

Cling to him and do not leave him, so that you may be honoured at the end of your days.

Whatever happens to you, accept it, and in the uncertainties of your humble state, be patient, since gold is tested in the fire, and the chosen in the furnace of humiliation.

Trust him and he will uphold you, follow a straight path and hope in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the first book of Kings 3: 5 – 7, 12**

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask what I should give you.’ And Solomon said, ‘You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 32: 7 – 12**

Remember the days of old, consider the years long past;  
ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you.   
When the Most High apportioned the nations, when he divided humankind,  
he fixed the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the gods;   
the Lord’s own portion was his people, Jacob his allotted share.

He sustained him in a desert land, in a howling wilderness waste;

He shielded him, cared for him, guarded him as the apple of his eye.   
As an eagle stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young;  
as it spreads its wings, takes them up, and bears them aloft on its pinions,   
the Lord alone guided him; no foreign god was with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**From the Book of Ecclesiasticus:**

A faithful friend is a sure shelter, whoever finds one has found a rare treasure. A faithful friend is something beyond price, there is no measuring their worth. A faithful friend is the elixir of life, and those who respect the Lord will find one, whoever respects the Lord makes true friends, for as one is so are their friends.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

*The one who seeks finds.*

Wisdom is bright and unfading. She readily appears to those who love her. She’s found by those who keep seeking after her.She makes herself known even in advance to those who desire her with all their hearts. Someone who awakens before dawn to look for her will find her already sitting at the door.Taking wisdom to heart is the way to bring your thinking to maturity. The one who can’t sleep at night because he’s consumed with thinking about her will soon be free from worry.

She herself goes about looking for those who are worthy of her. She graciously makes herself known to them as they travel. She comes to them in each of the ideas that they think.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**1st Reading – Jeremiah 31:3-4; 29:11-14**

The Lord God has this to say to you today: I have loved you with an everlasting love and I am constant in my affection for you. I will build you up and I will protect you in good times and in bad. So be happy and go forth in the dancing of the merrymakers. I have plans in my heart for you: plans for peace, not disaster, plans to give you a future and a reason to hope. And remember, when you call upon me and come and pray to me I will hear you. You will seek me and find me: when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you.

**This is the Word of the Lord**

**New Testament Reading**

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

I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell.

I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains – but if I have no love, this does me no good.

“Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth.

Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

The word of the Lord

**Romans 8: 31 – 35; 37 – 39**

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

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**1 Corinthians 12: 31; 13: 1- 13**

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

But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

**Ephesians 1: 17 – 23**

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

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Ephesians 3: 14 – 21**

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

Brothers and sisters:

I kneel in prayer to the Father.

All things in heaven and on earth receive their life from him.

God is wonderful and glorious.

I pray that his Spirit will make you become strong followers

and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith.

Stand firm and be deeply rooted in his love.

I pray that you and all of God’s people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep.

I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured.

Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**2 Peter 1: 3 – 9**

**A reading from the second letter of Peter**

Brothers and sisters

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants in the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For anyone who lacks these things is short-sighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**1 Corinthians 12: 4 – 7, 13**

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

Brothers and sisters:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit.

There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things.

Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.

The body of Christ has many different parts, just as any other body does.

But God's Spirit baptised each of us and made us part of the body of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Romans 12: 1 – 6**

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

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***2* Thessalonians 2: 13 – 17**

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**1 John 4: 7 – 12**

**A reading from the first letter of John**

My dear friends, we must love each other.

Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows that we have been given new life.

We are now God’s children, and we know him.

God is love, and anyone who doesn’t love others has never known him.

God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life.

Real love is not our love for God, but his love for us.

God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**First Reading: Philippians 4:4-9**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians  
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

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

Every time I pray for you all of you, I pray with joy remembering how you have helped spread the Good news from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the one who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This is the word of the Lord.

**Reading – Romans 12:9-18**

Do not let your love be a pretence but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers and sisters should and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them and you should make hospitality your special care. Bless those who persecute you: never curse them, bless them. Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow. Treat everyone with equal kindness; never be condescending but make real friends with the poor. Do no allow yourself to become self-satisfied. Never repay evil with evil but let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

**This is the word of the Lord**

**GOSPEL READINGS**

**Matthew 6: 25 – 34**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Don’t worry about having something to eat, drink, or wear.

Isn’t life more than food or clothing?

Look at the birds in the sky!

They don’t plant or harvest.

They don’t even store grain in barns.

Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them.

Aren’t you worth more than birds?

“Can worry make you live longer?

Why worry about clothes?

Look how the wild flowers grow.

They don’t work hard to make their clothes.

But I tell you that Solomon with all his wealth was not as well clothed as one of them.

God gives such beauty to everything that grows in the fields, even though it is here today and thrown into a fire tomorrow.

He will surely do even more for you!

Why do you have such little faith?

“Don’t worry and ask yourselves,

‘Will we have anything to eat?

Will we have anything to drink?

Will we have clothes to wear?’

Only people who don’t know God are always worrying about such things.

Your Father in heaven knows that you need all of these.

But more than anything else, put God’s work first and do what he wants.

Then all the other things will be yours as well.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 6:19 – 21**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Don’t store up treasures on earth!

Moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them.

“Instead, store up your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them.

“Your heart will always be where your treasure is.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 14: 22- 33**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and start back across the lake.

But he stayed until he had sent the crowds away.

Then he went up on a mountain where he could be alone and pray.

Later that evening, he was still there.

By this time the boat was a long way from the shore.

It was going against the wind and was being tossed around by the waves.

A little while before morning,

Jesus came walking on the water toward his disciples.

When they saw him, they thought he was a ghost.

They were terrified and started screaming.

At once Jesus said to them, "Don't worry!

I am Jesus. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come on!" Jesus said.

Peter then got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward him.

But when Peter saw how strong the wind was, he was afraid and started sinking.

"Lord, save me!" he shouted.

Right away Jesus reached out his hand.

He helped Peter up and said,

"You surely don't have much faith. Why do you doubt?"

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind died down.

The men in the boat worshiped Jesus and said,

"You really are the Son of God!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 22: 34 – 40**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

After Jesus had made the Sadducees look foolish, the Pharisees heard about it and got together.

One of them was an expert in the Jewish Law.

So he tried to test Jesus by asking,

"Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.' This is the first and most important commandment.

The second most important commandment is like this one.

And it is, 'Love others as much as you love yourself.'

All the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets are based on these two commandments."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Luke 24: 13 – 35**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke**

Two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

As they were talking and thinking about what had happened,

Jesus came near and started walking along beside them.

But they did not know who he was.

Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?"

The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy.

Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus,

"Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?"

"What do you mean?" Jesus asked.

They answered:

"Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth.

By what he did and said he showed that he was a powerful prophet, who pleased God and all the people.

Then the chief priests and our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross.

We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free!

"But it has already been three days since all this happened.

Some women in our group surprised us.

They had gone to the tomb early in the morning, but did not find the body of Jesus.

They came back, saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive.

Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said.

But they didn't see Jesus either."

Then Jesus asked the two disciples,

"Why can't you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said?

Didn't you know that the Messiah would have to suffer before he was given his glory?"

Jesus then explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures, beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets.

When the two of them came near the village where they were going,

Jesus seemed to be going farther.

They begged him, "Stay with us!

It's already late, and the sun is going down."

So Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some bread.

He blessed it and broke it.

Then he gave it to them.

At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared.

They said to each other,

"When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn't it warm our hearts?"

So they got right up and returned to Jerusalem.

The two disciples found the eleven apostles and the others gathered together.

And they learned from the group that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter.

Then the disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Luke 19: 11 – 26**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke**

 As they were listening to this, he went on to tell a parable, because he was near Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. So he said, ‘A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return. He summoned ten of his slaves, and gave them ten pounds, and said to them, “Do business with these until I come back.” But the citizens of his country hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, “We do not want this man to rule over us.” When he returned, having received royal power, he ordered these slaves, to whom he had given the money, to be summoned so that he might find out what they had gained by trading. The first came forward and said, “Lord, your pound has made ten more pounds.” He said to him, “Well done, good slave! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small thing, take charge of ten cities.” Then the second came, saying, “Lord, your pound has made five pounds.” He said to him, “And you, rule over five cities.” Then the other came, saying, “Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a piece of cloth, for I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.” He said to him, “I will judge you by your own words, you wicked slave! You knew, did you, that I was a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then when I returned, I could have collected it with interest.” He said to the bystanders, “Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds.” (And they said to him, “Lord, he has ten pounds!”) “I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**John 15: 9 – 17**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. if you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.

“I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

“You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

“You did not choose me but I chose you.

And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**GOSPEL**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lamp stand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**GOSPEL**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.  My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.  I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.  You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.  This is my command: Love each other.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 8:4-8**

With a large crowd gathering, as people from every town find their way to him, he used this parable: ‘A sower went out to sow his seed. As he sowed some seeds fell on the edge of the path and were trampled on; and the birds of the air ate up. Some seeds fell on rock, and when it came up it withered away, having no moisture. Some seed fell amongst thorns and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell into rich soil and it grew and produced its crop a hundredfold. Saying this he cried, ‘Listen, anyone who has ears to hear!’

The Gospel of the Lord.