

# ORDER OF CONFIRMATION READINGS

## Introduction

### How many Readings will there be?

#### *Confirmation within Mass*

- On Sundays and Solemnities there will be a First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel Acclamation and Gospel.
- On other days there may be either the full complement of readings or the Second Reading may be omitted.

#### *Confirmation without Mass*

- There will usually be a First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and Gospel.
- In addition there may be a Second Reading.
- The Responsorial Psalm may be replaced by silence.

### What Readings may be chosen?

On the following days the **Readings of the Day** must be used:

- Solemnities (*these include:* the Ascension, Corpus Christi, St Peter & St Paul (29 June))
- Sundays of Advent, Lent & Easter
- Easter Triduum
- Easter Octave
- Feasts of the Lord
- [Ash Wednesday, All Souls, Weekdays in Holy Week]

The **Readings of the Day** are those given in the Lectionary for a particular day, such as Pentecost Sunday.

On other days the **Readings of the Day** may be used either in whole or in part with the **Readings for Confirmation**. It is recommended that those of the **Day** are used for the majority of the readings on:

- Sundays in Ordinary Time & Christmas season
- Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints

On other days (Weekdays) either the **Readings of the Day** or the **Readings for Confirmation** may be used in whole or in part.

In the Easter Season it is customary that the First Reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles (N1–N5).

# READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

## O-1

### Reading

Isaiah 11:1-4a

*On him the spirit of the Lord rests.*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,  
a scion thrusts from his roots:
- <sup>2</sup> on him the spirit of the Lord rests,  
a spirit of wisdom and insight,  
a spirit of counsel and power,  
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.  
The fear of the Lord is his breath.
- <sup>3</sup> He does not judge by appearances,  
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
- <sup>4</sup> but judges the wretched with integrity,  
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
- The word of the Lord.

Reading

Isaiah 42:1-3

*I have endowed my servant with my spirit.*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says this:

- <sup>1</sup> 'Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
- <sup>2</sup> He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.
- <sup>3</sup> He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.  
Faithfully he brings true justice.'

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9

*The Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor and to give them the oil of gladness.*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> The spirit of the Lord the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord,  
a day of vengeance for our God,

<sup>3</sup> to comfort all those who mourn  
and to give them for ashes a garland;  
for mourning robe the oil of gladness,  
for despondency, praise.

<sup>6</sup> But you, you will be named 'priests of the Lord',  
they will call you 'ministers of our God'.

I reward them faithfully

<sup>8</sup> and make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their race will be famous throughout the nations,  
their descendants throughout the peoples.

All who see them will admit  
that they are a race whom the Lord has blessed.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Ezekiel 36:24-28  
*I shall put my spirit in you.*

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The Lord says this:

- <sup>24</sup> I am going to take you from among the nations  
and gather you together from all the foreign countries,  
and bring you home to your own land.
- <sup>25</sup> I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed;  
I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols.
- <sup>26</sup> I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you;  
I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies  
and give you a heart of flesh instead.
- <sup>27</sup> I shall put my spirit in you,  
and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances.
- <sup>28</sup> You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors.  
You shall be my people and I will be your God.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Joel 2:23a, 26-30a (*Hebrew 2:23a; 3:1-3a*)*Even on the slaves, men and women, will I pour out my Spirit.*

A reading from the prophet Joel.

- <sup>23</sup> Sons of Zion, be glad,  
rejoice in the Lord your God.
- <sup>26</sup> You will eat to your heart's content, will eat your fill,  
and praise the name of your God  
who has treated you so wonderfully.  
My people will not be disappointed any more.
- <sup>27</sup> And you will know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
that I am the Lord your God, with none to equal me.  
My people will not be disappointed any more.
- <sup>28</sup> After this  
I will pour out my spirit on all mankind.  
Your sons and daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men see visions.
- <sup>29</sup> Even on the slaves, men and women,  
will I pour out my spirit in those days.
- <sup>30</sup> I will display portents in heaven and on earth,  
The word of the Lord.

# READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

## N-1

### Reading

Acts 1:3-8

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes, and then you will be my witnesses.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>3</sup> Jesus had shown himself alive to the apostles after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God.
- <sup>4</sup> When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about:
- <sup>5</sup> John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'
- <sup>6</sup> Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'
- <sup>7</sup> He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority,
- <sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Acts 2:1-6, 14, 22b-23, 32-33

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 1 When Pentecost day came round,  
the apostles had all met in one room,  
2 when suddenly they heard what sounded like  
a powerful wind from heaven,  
the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting;  
3 and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire;  
these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them.  
4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,  
and began to speak foreign languages  
as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.
- 5 Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem  
from every nation under heaven,  
6 and at this sound they all assembled,  
each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.
- 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven  
and addressed them in a loud voice:  
22 ‘Men of Judaea, and all you who live in Jerusalem,  
make no mistake about this, but listen carefully to what I say.  
Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God  
by the miracles and portents and signs  
that God worked through him when he was among you,  
as you all know.  
23 This man, who was put into your power  
by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God,  
you took and had crucified by men outside the Law.

*(continued)*

32 God raised this man Jesus to life,  
and all of us are witnesses to that.

33 Now raised to the heights by God's right hand,  
he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised,  
and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Acts 8:1, 4, 14-17

*They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>1</sup> A bitter persecution started against the church in Jerusalem,  
and everyone except the apostles  
fled to the country districts of Judaea and Samaria.
- <sup>4</sup> Those who had escaped went from place to place  
preaching the Good News.
- <sup>14</sup> When the apostles in Jerusalem  
heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God,  
they sent Peter and John to them,  
<sup>15</sup> and they went down there,  
and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit,  
<sup>16</sup> for as yet he had not come down on any of them:  
they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
<sup>17</sup> Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
- The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Acts 10:1, 33-34a, 37-44

*The Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>1</sup> One of the centurions of the Italice cohort stationed in Caesarea was called Cornelius.

<sup>33</sup> He said to Peter, ‘I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Here we all are, assembled in front of you to hear what message God has given you for us.’

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter addressed them:

<sup>37</sup> ‘You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism.

<sup>38</sup> God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.

<sup>39</sup> Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen,

<sup>41</sup> not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand.

Now we are those witnesses — we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead —

<sup>42</sup> and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead.

*(continued)*

<sup>43</sup> It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness:  
that all who believe in Jesus  
will have their sins forgiven through his name.’

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking  
the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners.  
The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Acts 19:1b-6a

*Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>1</sup> Paul made his way overland as far as Ephesus,  
where he found a number of disciples.
- <sup>2</sup> When he asked,  
‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?’  
they answered,  
‘No, we were never even told there was such a thing as a Holy Spirit.’
- <sup>3</sup> ‘Then how were you baptised?’ he asked.  
‘With John’s baptism,’ they replied.
- <sup>4</sup> ‘John’s baptism,’ said Paul, ‘was a baptism of repentance;  
but he insisted that the people should believe  
in the one who was to come after him — in other words Jesus.’
- <sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptised  
in the name of the Lord Jesus,
- <sup>6</sup> and the moment Paul had laid hands on them  
the Holy Spirit came down on them.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

- <sup>1</sup> Through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God,  
<sup>2</sup> since it is by faith and through Jesus  
that we have entered this state of grace  
in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory.  
<sup>5</sup> And this hope is not deceptive,  
because the love of God has been poured into our hearts  
by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.  
<sup>6</sup> We were still helpless when at his appointed moment  
Christ died for sinful men.  
<sup>7</sup> It is not easy to die even for a good man  
— though of course for someone really worthy,  
a man might be prepared to die —  
<sup>8</sup> but what proves that God loves us  
is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

Romans 8:14-17

*The Spirit himself and our spirit bear witness that we are children of God,*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

<sup>14</sup> Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God.

<sup>15</sup> The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!'

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God.

<sup>17</sup> And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Romans 8:26-27

*The Spirit expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

<sup>26</sup> The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness.  
For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly,  
the Spirit himself expresses our plea  
in a way that could never be put into words,  
<sup>27</sup> and God who knows everything in our hearts  
knows perfectly well what he means,  
and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit  
are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

## Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-13

*One and the same Spirit who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.*

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

- 4 There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit;  
 5 there are all sorts of service to be done,  
 but always to the same Lord;  
 6 working in all sorts of different ways in different people,  
 it is the same God who is working in all of them.  
 7 The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person  
 is for a good purpose.  
 8 One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom  
 given him by the Spirit;  
 another may have the gift of preaching instruction  
 given him by the same Spirit;  
 9 and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit;  
 another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit;  
 10 one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy;  
 another the gift of recognising spirits;  
 another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them.  
 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit,  
 who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.
- 12 Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts,  
 is a single unit because all these parts, though many,  
 make one body, so it is with Christ.
- 13 In the one Spirit we were all baptised,  
 Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens,  
 and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.

## N-10

### Reading

Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23a, 24-25

*Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians.

- <sup>16</sup> If you are guided by the Spirit  
you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence,  
<sup>17</sup> since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit,  
the Spirit is totally against such a thing,  
and it is precisely because the two are so opposed  
that you do not always carry out your good intentions.  
<sup>22</sup> What the Spirit brings is very different:  
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
goodness, trustfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control.  
<sup>24</sup> You cannot belong to Christ Jesus  
unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires.  
<sup>25</sup> Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.
- The word of the Lord.

Reading

Ephesians 1:3a, 4a, 13-19a

*You have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

- 3 Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
4 Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ.
- 13 Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth  
and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it;  
and you too have been stamped  
with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise,  
14 the pledge of our inheritance  
which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own,  
to make his glory praised.
- 15 That will explain why I,  
having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus,  
and the love that you show towards all the saints,  
16 have never failed to remember you in my prayers  
and to thank God for you.
- 17 May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed,  
to bring you to full knowledge of him.
- 18 May he enlighten the eyes of your mind  
so that you can see what hope his call holds for you,  
what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit  
19 and how infinitely great is the power  
that he has exercised for us believers.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Ephesians 4:1-6

*One Body, one Spirit, one baptism.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

- <sup>1</sup> I, the prisoner in the Lord,  
implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation.
- <sup>2</sup> Bear with one another charitably,  
in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience.
- <sup>3</sup> Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit  
by the peace that binds you together.
- <sup>4</sup> There is one Body, one Spirit,  
just as you were all called into one and the same hope  
when you were called.
- <sup>5</sup> There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- <sup>6</sup> and one God who is Father of all,  
over all, through all and within all.

The word of the Lord.

# RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

## P-1

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21(22): 23-24. 26-27. 28. 31-32. R̄. 23 or John 15:26-27

R̄. I will tell of your name to my brethren.

or

R̄. When the Advocate comes, you will be my witnesses.

<sup>23</sup> I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.

<sup>24</sup> ‘You who fear the Lord, give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel’s sons.’ R̄.

<sup>26</sup> You are my praise in the great assembly.  
My vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.  
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.  
May their hearts live for ever and ever. R̄.

<sup>28</sup> All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,  
all families of the nations worship before him.  
<sup>31</sup> They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,  
<sup>32</sup> declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:  
‘These things the Lord has done.’ R̄.

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22(23): 1-3a. 3b-4. 5-6. R. 1

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

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

2 Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,  
3 to revive my drooping spirit. R.

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.

4 If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. R.

5 You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. R.

6 Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. R.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95(96): 1-2a. 2b-3. 9-10a. 11-12. R̄ 3

R̄. Proclaim the wonders of the Lord  
among all the peoples.

<sup>1</sup> O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R̄.

Proclaim his help day by day,  
<sup>3</sup> tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. R̄.

<sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.

<sup>10</sup> Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' R̄.

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
<sup>12</sup> let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy. R̄.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103(104): 1ab, 24. 27-28. 30-31. 33-34. R̥. 30

R̥. Send forth your spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.

<sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are.

<sup>24</sup> How many are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your riches. R̥.

<sup>27</sup> All of these look to you

to give them their food in due season.

<sup>28</sup> You give it, they gather it up:

you open your hand, they have their fill. R̥.

<sup>30</sup> You send forth your spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>31</sup> May the glory of the Lord last for ever!

May the Lord rejoice in his works! R̥.

<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the Lord all my life,

make music to my God while I live.

<sup>34</sup> May my thoughts be pleasing to him.

I find my joy in the Lord. R̥.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 116 (117):1. 2 . R. Acts 1:8

R. You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.

or

R. Alleluia!

<sup>1</sup> O praise the Lord, all you nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples! R.

<sup>2</sup> Strong is his love for us;  
he is faithful for ever. R.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144(145): 2-3. 4-5. 8-9. 10-11. 15-16. 21. R̥ 1b

R̥ I will bless your name for ever, O Lord.

2 I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.

3 The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. R̥

4 Age to age shall proclaim your works,  
shall declare your mighty deeds,  
5 shall speak of your splendour and glory,  
tell the tale of your wonderful works. R̥

8 The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.

9 How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. R̥

10 All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.

11 They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God. R̥

15 The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.

16 You open wide your hand,  
grant the desires of all who live. R̥

21 Let me speak the praise of the Lord,  
let all mankind bless his holy name  
for ever, for ages unending. R̥

# ALLELUIA VERSES AND VERSES BEFORE THE GOSPEL

---

During the season of Lent the *Alleluia* sung before and after the Verse before the Gospel is replaced by an acclamation such as: *Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

---

## V-1

### Gospel Acclamation

John 14:16

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Father will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever, says the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## V-2

### Gospel Acclamation

John 15:26b, 27a

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of truth will be my witness,  
and you too will be witnesses,  
says the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## V-3

### Gospel Acclamation

John 16:13a; 14:26b

Alleluia, alleluia!  
When the Spirit of truth comes  
he will lead you to the complete truth;  
and he will remind you of all I have said to you.  
Alleluia!

## V-4

### Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 1:5a, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are the faithful witness, O Christ,  
the First-born from the dead;  
you have made us a line of kings,  
priests to serve our God and Father.  
Alleluia!

## V-5

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Alleluia!

## V-6

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,  
from the clear celestial height,  
thy pure beaming radiance give.  
Alleluia!

## V-7

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Come, Holy Spirit;  
send forth a ray of your light from on high.  
Alleluia!

# GOSPEL READINGS

## G-1

### Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

*Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

- <sup>1</sup> Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.  
There he sat down and was joined by his disciples.
- <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
- <sup>3</sup> ‘How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
- <sup>5</sup> Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.
- <sup>6</sup> Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.
- <sup>7</sup> Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.
- <sup>8</sup> Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.
- <sup>9</sup> Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.
- <sup>10</sup> Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>11</sup> ‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you  
and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.
- <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 16:24-27

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

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

<sup>24</sup> Jesus said to his disciples,  
‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine,  
let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.

<sup>25</sup> For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it;  
but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

<sup>26</sup> What, then, will a man gain  
if he wins the whole world and ruins his life?

Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

<sup>27</sup> ‘For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father  
with his angels, and, when he does,  
he will reward each one according to his behaviour.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

*You have shown you can be faithful in small things, come and join in your master's happiness.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

14 Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:  
 ‘A man on his way abroad summoned his servants  
 and entrusted his property to them.  
 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third, one;  
 each in proportion to his ability.  
 Then he set out.  
 16 The man who had received the five talents  
 promptly went and traded with them and made five more.  
 17 The man who had received two  
 made two more in the same way.  
 18 But the man who had received one  
 went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.  
 19 Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back  
 and went through his accounts with them.  
 20 The man who had received the five talents  
 came forward bringing five more.  
 “Sir,” he said, “you entrusted me with five talents;  
 here are five more that I have made.”  
 21 His master said to him,  
 “Well done, good and faithful servant;  
 you have shown you can be faithful in small things,  
 I will trust you with greater;  
 come and join in your master’s happiness.”  
 22 Next the man with the two talents came forward.  
 “Sir,” he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents;  
 here are two more that I have made.”

(continued)

23 His master said to him,  
“Well done, good and faithful servant;  
you have shown you can be faithful in small things,  
I will trust you with greater,  
come and join in your master’s happiness.”

24 Last came forward the man who had the one talent.  
“Sir,” said he, “I had heard you were a hard man,  
reaping where you have not sown  
and gathering where you have not scattered;  
25 so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground.  
Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.”

26 But his master answered him,  
“You wicked and lazy servant!  
So you knew that I reap where I have not sown  
and gather where I have not scattered?  
27 Well then you should have deposited my money with the bankers,  
and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest.  
28 So now, take the talent from him  
and give it to the man who has the five talents.  
29 For to everyone who has will be given more,  
and he will have more than enough;  
but from the man who has not,  
even what he has will be taken away.  
30 As for this good-for-nothing servant,  
throw him out into the dark,  
where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

Mark 1:9-11

*He saw the Spirit descending on him.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

- <sup>9</sup> Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee  
and was baptised in the Jordan by John.
- <sup>10</sup> No sooner had he come up out of the water  
than he saw the heavens torn apart  
and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him.
- <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven,  
'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel

Luke 4:16-22a

*The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

<sup>16</sup> Jesus came to Nazara, where he had been brought up,  
and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did.  
He stood up to read,

<sup>17</sup> and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.  
Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for he has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to captives  
and to the blind new sight,  
to set the downtrodden free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

<sup>20</sup> He then rolled up the scroll,  
gave it back to the assistant and sat down.  
And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him.

<sup>21</sup> Then he began to speak to them,  
'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

<sup>22</sup> And he won the approval of all,  
and they were astonished by the gracious words  
that came from his lips.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel

Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15

*As for the part in the rich soil, this is people who take the word to themselves  
and yield a harvest through their perseverance.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

- 4 With a large crowd gathering  
and people from every town finding their way to him,  
Jesus used this parable:
- 5 ‘A sower went out to sow his seed.  
As he sowed,  
some fell on the edge of the path and was trampled on;  
and the birds of the air ate it up.
- 6 Some seed fell on rock,  
and when it came up it withered away, having no moisture.
- 7 Some seed fell amongst thorns  
and the thorns grew with it and choked it.
- 8 And some seed fell into rich soil  
and grew and produced its crop a hundredfold.’  
Saying this he cried,  
‘Listen, anyone who has ears to hear!’
- 9 His disciples asked him what this parable might mean,  
and he said,
- 10 ‘The seed is the word of God.
- 11 Those on the edge of the path are people who have heard it,  
and then the devil comes and carries away the word  
from their hearts in case they should believe and be saved.
- 12 Those on the rock are people who,  
when they first hear it, welcome the word with joy.  
But these have no root;  
they believe for a while, and in time of trial they give up.

(continued)

<sup>14</sup> As for the part that fell into thorns,  
this is people who have heard,  
but as they go on their way they are choked by the worries  
and riches and pleasures of life and do not reach maturity.

<sup>15</sup> As for the part in the rich soil,  
this is people with a noble and generous heart  
who have heard the word and take it to themselves  
and yield a harvest through their perseverance.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel

Luke 10:21-24

*I bless you, Father, for revealing these things to mere children.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

<sup>21</sup> Filled with joy by the Holy Spirit, Jesus said,  
‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth,  
for hiding these things from the learned and the clever  
and revealing them to mere children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.  
<sup>22</sup> Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father;  
and no one knows who the Son is except the Father,  
and who the Father is except the Son  
and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.’

<sup>23</sup> Then turning to his disciples he spoke to them in private,  
‘Happy the eyes that see what you see,  
<sup>24</sup> for I tell you that many prophets and kings  
wanted to see what you see, and never saw it;  
to hear what you hear, and never heard it.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

John 7:37b-39

*Fountains of living water shall flow.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

<sup>37</sup> Jesus cried out:

‘If any man is thirsty, let him come to me!

Let the man come and drink <sup>38</sup> who believes in me!’

As scripture says:

From his breast shall flow fountains of living water.

<sup>39</sup> He was speaking of the Spirit  
which those who believed in him were to receive;  
for there was no Spirit as yet  
because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

John 14:15-17  
*The Spirit of truth is with you.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>15</sup> ‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.

<sup>16</sup> I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever,

<sup>17</sup> that Spirit of truth  
whom the world can never receive  
since it neither sees nor knows him;  
but you know him,  
because he is with you, he is in you.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

John 14:23-26

*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>23</sup> 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him  
and make our home with him.

<sup>24</sup> Those who do not love me do not keep my words.  
And my word is not my own:  
it is the word of the one who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> I have said these things to you  
while still with you;

<sup>26</sup> but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,  
whom the Father will send in my name,  
will teach you everything  
and remind you of all I have said to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

John 15:18-21, 26-27

*The Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness,*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

18 'If the world hates you,  
remember that it hated me before you.

19 If you belonged to the world,  
the world would love you as its own;  
but because you do not belong to the world,  
because my choice withdrew you from the world,  
therefore the world hates you.

20 Remember the words I said to you:  
A servant is not greater than his master.  
If they persecuted me,  
they will persecute you too;  
if they kept my word,  
they will keep yours as well.

21 But it will be on my account that they will do all this,  
because they do not know the one who sent me.

26 When the Advocate comes,  
whom I shall send to you from the Father,  
the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father,  
he will be my witness.

27 And you too will be witnesses,  
because you have been with me from the outset.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

John 16:5b-7, 12-13a

*The Spirit of truth will lead you to the complete truth.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

5 'Now I am going to the one who sent me.

Not one of you has asked, "Where are you going?"

6 Yet you are sad at heart because I have told you this.

7 Still, I must tell you the truth:

it is for your own good that I am going

because unless I go,

the Advocate will not come to you,

but if I do go,

I will send him to you.

12 I still have many things to say to you

but they would be too much for you now.

13 But when the Spirit of truth comes

he will lead you to the complete truth.'

The Gospel of the Lord.