

Old Testament Readings

1.

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

In their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!” The LORD answered Moses, “Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.” This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD in our midst or not?”

2.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel 36:24-28

I shall pour clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

New Testament Readings

1.

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 6:3-5

Buried with him through baptism into his death, we too might live in newness of life.

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

2.

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians

Galatians 3:26-28

All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Brothers and sisters: Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

3.

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

You are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were “no people” but now you are God’s people; you “had not received mercy” but now you have received mercy.

Responsorial Psalms

1.

Psalm 27:1bcde, 4, 8b-9abc, 13-14

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD and contemplate his temple.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Your presence, O LORD, I seek.

Hide not your face from me; do not in anger repel your servant.

You are my helper: cast me not off.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

2.

Psalm 22:1-6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

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. The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel of Matthew 5:13-16

The Salt and Light

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Not do they light a lamp and then put under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Gospel of John 3:1-6

No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born from above. He cannot see the Kingdom of God” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother’s womb and be born again, can he?” Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit.”

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

Life among the believers

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers... all who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one’s need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were saved.