

January Readings

January 6/7

Page 1

Epiphany 1

First Reader

A Reading from the Book of Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. The Word of the Lord. The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 29 (People read after the asterisk)

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, * **ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Continued on next page

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.

9 And in the temple of the Lord * **all are crying, "Glory!"**

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Second Reader: Two Gospels this Week

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. The Gospel of the Lord.

Second Thursday: January 11

William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury

First Reader

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-14

And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children — ‘My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.’ Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 73:24-29

(People read the odd verses)

24 You will guide me by your counsel,
and afterwards receive me with glory.

**25 Whom have I in heaven but you?
and having you I desire nothing upon earth.**

26 Though my flesh and my heart should waste away,
God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

**27 Truly, those who forsake you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful.**

28 But it is good for me to be near God;
I have made the Lord God my refuge.

**29 I will speak of all your works
in the gates of the city of Zion.**

Epiphany 2

First Reader**A Reading from the First Book of Samuel 3:1-10**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." The word of the Lord.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 (People read after the asterisk)

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; * **you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places * **and are acquainted with all my ways.**

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, * **but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

4 You press upon me behind and before * **and lay your hand upon me.**

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; * **it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

Continued

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; * **you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; * **your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

14 My body was not hidden from you, * **while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.**

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; * **they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.**

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! * **how great is the sum of them!**

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
* **to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

Second Reader

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. The word of the Lord.

First Reader**A Reading from the Prophet Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. The word of the Lord.

Psalm 62:6-14 (People read the odd verses)

6 For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly, my hope is in him.

7 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

8 In God is my safety and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

9 Put your trust in him always, O people, pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

10 Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

11 On the scales they are lighter than a breath, all of them together.

12 Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

13 God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

14 Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

Second Reader

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. The word of the Lord.

Epiphany 4**First Reader****A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die."

Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak - that prophet shall die." The word of the Lord.

Psalm 111**(People read after the asterisk)**

- 1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, * **in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**
- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! * **they are studied by all who delight in them.**
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, * **and his righteousness endures for ever.**
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; * **the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; * **he is ever mindful of his covenant.**
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works * **in giving them the lands of the nations.**
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; * **all his commandments are sure.**

Continued

- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, * **because they are done in truth and equity.**
- 9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; * **holy and awesome is his Name.**
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; * **those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.**

Second Reader

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. The word of the Lord.