

READINGS FOR SUMMER OF 2020

JUNE 14 - SEPTEMBER 13

2ND AFTER PENTECOST - JUNE 14

ROMANS 5:1-8, NRSV

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves God's love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

PSALM 116:1, 10-17, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

I love you, God, for you have heard my cry for mercy.
I believed even when I said, "I am completely crushed," and in despair said, "No one can be trusted." How can I repay you, God, for all your goodness to me? I raise the cup of deliverance, and call on the Name of God. I will fulfill my vows to you in the presence of all your people. The death of your faithful is precious in your sight.
God, I am your faithful one - I am faithful to you alone, the child of your fidelity. You have freed me from my chains! I will offer you the sacrifice of praise, and call on the Name of God.

MATTHEW 9:35- 10:8, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller	May God be with you.
People	And also with you.
Gospeller	The Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to Matthew,
People	Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus continued touring all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good news of God's reign and curing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses.

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said to the disciples, "The harvest is bountiful but the labourers are few. Beg the overseer of the harvest to send labourers out to bring in the crops."

Jesus summoned the Twelve, and gave them authority to expel unclean spirits and heal sickness and diseases of all kinds. These are the names of the Twelve apostles: the first were Simon, nicknamed Peter – that is, "Rock" – and his brother Andrew; then James, ben-Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas; Matthew, the tax collector; James, ben-Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

These twelve Jesus sent out after giving them the following instructions:

"Do not visit Gentile regions, and do not enter a Samaritan town. Go instead to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The reign of heaven has drawn near.' Heal those who are sick, raise the dead, cure leprosy, expel demons. You received freely – now give freely."

Gospeller	The Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DAY – JUNE 21

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9, NRSV

Rejoice in God always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. God 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 your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, 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.

PSALM 23 FOR THE INUIT, A PARAPHRASE BY SAMANTHA CARAVAN

The wind was cold and dry then out of the mist came my provider,
The Eternal One, the Creator.

The Creator taught me to fish so I would want for nothing and causes the fish
to find my net. My entire existence is owed to the Eternal Creator.

The Eternal Redeemer warms my soul and soothes my heart.

The Eternal has taught me to see the dangers of the tundra, I walk in
confidence that the Eternal has gone before and I can follow the path.

The Redeemer controls the enemies of my life, the bear, the cold, the wind –
and casts them away when they are too close. I walk upright; I walk strong, for
the Eternal Redeemer is always present.

I hear the Redeemer on the wind and see the Eternal in the colours of the
night sky. When I wander the wrong way confused by the light off the snow
the Redeemer chases me home and I turn and run into the path of the
Redeemer. May I live there eternally.

JOHN 1:1-18, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to John.

People Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and
the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning.
Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word
nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and
that life was humanity's light – a light that shines in the darkness, a light that
the darkness has never overtaken. Then came One named John, sent as an
envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the light, so that
through his testimony everyone might believe. John was not the light; he only
came to testify about the light – the true light that illumines all humankind. The
Word was coming into the world – was in the world – and though the world
was made through the Word, the world did not recognize it. Though the
Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people did not accept it. Yet any

who did accept the Word, who believed in the Name, were empowered to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh, nor human will – but born of God. And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory – the favour and position a parent gives as only child – filled with grace, filled with truth. John testified by proclaiming. "This is the One I was talking about when I said, 'The One who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.'" Of this One's fullness we have all had a share – gift on top of gift. For while the Law was given through Moses, the Gift – and the Truth – came through Jesus Christ. No One has ever seen God; it is the Only Begotten, ever at God's side, who has revealed God to us.

Gospeller	The Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

4TH AFTER PENTECOST , JUNE 28

GENESIS 22:1-14, NRSV

A reading from the Hebrew testament and the book of beginnings, Genesis. After these things God tested Abraham. God said to him, "Abraham!" And Abraham said, "Here I am."

God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And Abraham replied, "Here I am, my

son." Isaac said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."

So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of God called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And Abraham replied, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "God will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of God it shall be provided."

PSALM 13 - VOICES UNITED

How long, O God, will you utterly forget me?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I suffer in my soul, and be so grieved in my heart day and night? How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Look at me, and answer me, O God my God; give light to my eyes, lest I fall asleep in death, lest my enemies claim to have prevailed against me, lest my foes rejoice at my downfall.

But my trust is in your mercy. Let my heart be joyful in your salvation. I will sing to you, O God, because you have dealt so lovingly with me. I will praise your name, O God most high.

MATTHEW 10:40-42, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Gospeller The Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus was talking to the disciples, "Those who welcome you also welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me. Those who welcome the prophets just because they are prophets will receive the reward reserved for the prophets themselves; those who welcome the holy people just because they are holy will receive the reward of the holy ones. The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward."

Gospeller	The Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

CANADA DAY ~ JULY 5

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17, NRSV

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Church in Colossi.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as you have been forgiven, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Jesus the Christ, giving thanks to God the Creator through Christ.

PSALM 85:7-13, COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

Show us your faithful love, God! Give us your salvation!

Let me hear what the eternal God says,

because they speak peace to the people and to the faithful ones.

Do not let them return to foolish ways.

God's salvation is very close to those who honour God

so that God's glory can live in our land.

Faithful love and truth have met;
righteousness and peace have kissed.
Truth springs up from the ground;
righteousness gazes down from heaven.
Yes, the eternal God gives what is good,
and our land yields its produce.
Righteousness walks before God,
making a road for God's steps.

JOHN 15:12-17, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller	May God be with you.
People	And also with you.
Gospeller	The Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to John.
People	Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus speaking to the disciples said, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. And you are my friends, if you do what I command you. I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate does not know a superior's business. Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from God. It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that whatever you ask of God in my name God will give you. This command I give you: that you love one another.

Gospeller	The Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

6TH AFTER PENTECOST ~ JULY 12

ROMANS 8:1-11 - NRSV

A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending God's own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to

deal with sin, God condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then God who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

PSALM 119:105-112 - VOICES UNITED

Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light for my path.

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous judgements.

I am in deep distress; give me life, O God, according to your word.

Accept, O God, the willing tribute of my lips, and teach me your decrees.

I take my life into my hands continually, yet I never forget your law;

the wicked have laid a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts.

Your testimonies are my heritage forever, the very joy of my heart.

I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes, forever, even to the end.

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23 - INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down by the lakeshore. Such great crowds gathered that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the crowd stood along the shore. He addressed them at length in parables:

"One day, a farmer went out sowing seed. Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. This seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. Again, some of the seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. And some of it landed on good soil, and yielded a crop thirty, sixty, even a hundred times what was sown. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this! "

Now listen to the parable of the sower. When people hear the message about the kingdom of God without understanding it, the Evil One comes along and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. This is the seed sown along the path.

Those who received the seed that fell on rocky ground are the ones who hear the word and at first welcome it with joy. But they have no roots, so they last only for a while. When some setback or persecution comes because of the message, they quickly fall away.

Those who received the message that fell among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but then worldly anxieties and the lure of wealth choke it off, and the message produces no fruit.

But those who receive the seed that fell on rich soil are those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop that yields a hundred, or sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Gospeller The gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

7th after Pentecost -July 19

GENESIS 28:10-19A – INCLUSIVE BIBLE

A reading from the Hebrew Testament and the book of beginnings, Genesis. Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he passed the night there. He took a rock and used it for a headrest and lay down to sleep there. During the night he had a dream: there was a ladder,

standing on the ground with its top reaching to heaven; and messengers of God were going up and coming down the ladder. God was there, standing over him, saying, "I am God, the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac. Your descendants will be like the specks of dust on the ground; you will spread to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south, and all the tribes of the earth will bless themselves by you and your descendants. Know that I am with you. I will keep you safe wherever you go, and bring you back to this land; I will not desert you before I have done all that I have promised you." Then Jacob woke and said, "Truly, God is in this place, and I never knew it!" He was filled with trembling and said, "How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!" Jacob rose early the next morning, and took the stone he had used as a headrest and set it up as a monument, and anointed it with oil. Jacob named the place Bethel – "House of God".

PSALM 139:1-11, THE MESSAGE

O God, You have searched me and known *me*.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You understand my thoughts from afar.

You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue,

Behold, O God, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,"

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43 - INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Gospeller	The holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew.
People	Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus presented another parable to those gathered: "The kingdom of heaven is like a farmer who sowed good seed in a field. While everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then made off. When the crop began to mature and yield grain, the weeds became evident as well. "The farmer's workers came and asked, 'Did you not sow Good seed in your field? Where are the weeds coming from?' "The farmer replied, 'I see an enemy's hand in this.' They in turn asked, 'Do you want us to go out and pull them up?' "'No,' replied the farmer, 'if you pull up the weeds, you might take the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until the harvest, then at harvest time I will order the harvesters first to collect the weeds and bundle them up to burn, then to gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then Jesus left the crowd and went into the house. The disciples also came in and said, "Explain the parable about the weeds in the field."

Jesus answered, "The farmer sowing the good seed is the Chosen one, the field is the world, and the good seed, the citizens of the kingdom. The weeds are the followers of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, while the harvesters are the angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned, so it will be at the end of the age. The Chosen One will send the angels who will weed out the kingdom of everything that causes sin and all who act lawlessly. Then angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Gospeller	The Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

8TH AFTER PENTECOST, JULY 26

GENESIS 29:15-28 – INCLUSIVE BIBLE

A reading from the Hebrew Testament and the book of beginnings, Genesis. When Jacob had been with them for a month, Laban said, "Why do you work for me without wages just because we are related? Tell me your worth, and I will hire you."

Now Laban had two daughters: the older one was Leah, and the younger one was Rachel. Leah was near-sighted; but Rachel was lovely and graceful, and Jacob was in love with her. He said, "I will work for seven years for the hand of your younger daughter, Rachel." Laban answered, "I would rather that she marry you than give her hand to another. I accept this offer."

So Jacob worked for seven years for the right to marry Rachel, but to him it felt as if it were a few days – that was how much he loved Rachel. When seven years were up, Jacob said to Laban, "I have worked for you for seven years. Let me now marry Rachel." So Laban brought together all the local people for a wedding feast, and there was a great deal of drinking. That night, however, Laban brought his daughter Leah to Jacob, and Jacob slept with her. Laban also gave Leah his maid Zilpah to attend her that night. In the morning Jacob woke up – and it was Leah beside him! Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not work for you for seven years for Rachel's hand? Why have you deceived me?"

Laban answered, "It is not our custom here to let the younger child marry first. Finish this wedding week with the elder, and I will let you marry the younger after another seven years' work." Jacob agreed to finish the wedding week with Leah. When the week was finished, Laban allowed Rachel and Jacob to marry. And Laban assigned his maid Bilhah to Rachel. So Jacob lay with Rachel too and he loved her more than Leah. Then Jacob worked for Laban for seven more years.

PSALM 128, THE MESSAGE

How blessed is everyone who fears God, who walks in God's ways. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy and it will be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, your children like olive plants around your table. Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed who fears God. May God bless you from Zion, and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Indeed, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52 - INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Gospeller The holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus presented another parable to the crowds: "The kingdom of heaven is like the mustard seed which a farmer sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all – it becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come to perch in its branches."

Jesus offered them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a baker took and mixed in with three measures of flour until it was leavened all through." The kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure found in a field. The ones who discovered it hid it again, and, rejoicing at the discovery, went and sold all their possessions and bought that field.

"Or again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant's search for fine pearls. When one pearl of great value was found, the merchant went back and sold everything else and bought it.

"Or again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collected all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishers hauled it ashore. Then, sitting down, they collected the goods ones in a basket and threw away those that were of no use. This is how it will be at the end of time. Then angels will come and separate the wicked from the just and throw the wicked into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" "Yes," they answered.

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ

People Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

9TH AFTER PENTECOST, AUGUST 2

GENESIS 32:22-31, NRSV

A reading from the book of beginnings, Genesis.

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he

did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

PSALM 17:1-7, COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

Listen to what's right, God; pay attention to my cry! Listen closely to my prayer; it is spoken by lips that do not lie! My justice comes from you; let your eyes see what is right! You have examined my heart, testing me at night. You have looked me over closely, but have not found anything wrong. My mouth doesn't sin. But these other people's deeds? I have avoided such violent ways by the command from your lips.

My steps are set firmly on your paths; my feet have not slipped.

I cry out to you because you answer me. So tilt your ears toward me now—listen to what I'm saying! Manifest your faithful love in amazing ways because you are the one who saves those who take refuge in you, saving them from their attackers by your strong hand.

MATTHEW 14:13-21, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Gospeller The Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

When Jesus heard about the beheading, he left Nazareth by boat and went to a deserted place to be alone. The crowds heard of this and followed him from their towns on foot. When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he healed their sick. As evening drew on, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place and it is

already late. Dismiss the crowds so they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves." Jesus said to them: "There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves." "We have nothing here," they replied, "but five loaves and a couple of fish." "Bring them here," Jesus said. Then he ordered the crowds to sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, who in turn gave it to the people. All those present ate their fill. The fragments remaining, when gathered up, filled twelve baskets. About five thousand families were fed.

Gospeller	The Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

TRANSFIGURATION, AUGUST 9

2 PETER 1:16-19, NRSV

A reading from Peter's 2nd letter to the Church.

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Saviour Jesus the Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of Jesus' majesty. For Jesus received honour and glory from God the Creator when that voice was conveyed to Jesus by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with Jesus on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

PSALM 99, VOICES UNITED

You reign, O God, and the peoples tremble,
you sit enthroned upon the cherubim, and the earth is quaking.
You, O God, are great in Zion,
you are exalted over all the nations.
Let them praise your great and awesome name:
Holy are you and mighty, a ruler who delights in justice.
You have determined what is fair,

You have done in Jacob what is just and right.
Moses and Aaron were among your priests,
Miriam among those who called on your name;
They called to you; God, and you answered.
In the pillar of cloud you spoke to them,
they kept your teachings and the law that you gave them.
O God, our God, you answered them;
to them you were a forgiving God, though you punished their offences.
Proclaim the greatness of God and worship on God's holy hill;
For God, our God, is he Holy One.

LUKE 9:28-36, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller	May God be with you.
People	And also with you.
Gospeller	The Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to Luke.
People	Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

About eight days after saying this, Jesus took Peter, John and James and went up into a mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, his face changed in appearance and the clothes he wore became dazzlingly white. Suddenly two people were there talking with Jesus – Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and spoke of the prophecy that Jesus was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. Peter and the other had already fallen into a deep sleep, but awakening, they saw Jesus' glory – and the two people who were standing next to him. When the two were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here! Let us set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!" Peter did not really know what he was saying. While Peter was speaking, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and the disciples grew fearful as the others entered it. Then from the cloud came a voice which said, "this is my own, my Chosen One. Listen to him!" When the voice was finished speaking, they saw no one but Jesus standing there. The disciples kept quiet, telling nothing of what they had seen at that time to anyone.

Gospeller	The Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

11TH AFTER PENTECOST, AUGUST 16

ROMANS 11:1-2A, 29-32, NRSV

A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

I ask, then, has God rejected the chosen people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected the chosen people whom God foreknew, for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that God may be merciful to all.

PSALM 133, NRSV

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there God has commanded the blessing: life for-evermore.

MATTHEW 15:10-28, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller	May God be with you.
People	And also with you.
Gospeller	The Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to Matthew.
People	Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus called the crowd together and said to them, "Hear this and understand: it is not what enters your mouth that defiles you—it is what comes out of your mouth that defiles you." Then the disciples approached him and said, "Do you realize that the Pharisees were offended by what you said?" Jesus replied, "Every plant that God in heaven has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Ignore them—they are blind people leading other blind people. And when the blind lead the blind, they all will fall into a ditch." Then Peter said to him,

"Explain this parable to us." Jesus replied, "Do you still not understand? Do you not realize that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and eventually finds its way into the sewer and is gone? But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart. This is what makes a person 'unclean.' For from the heart come all sorts of evil intentions—murder, sexual infidelity, promiscuity, stealing, lying, even foul language. These things make a person unclean—not eating with unwashed hands!"

Jesus left there and departed for the district of Tyre and Sidon. It happened that a Canaanite woman living in that area came and cried out to Jesus, "Heir to the House of David, have pity on me! My daughter is horribly demon-possessed." Jesus gave her no word of response. The disciples came up and repeatedly said to him, 'Please get rid of her! She keeps calling after us.' Finally Jesus turned to the woman and said, "My mission is only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel." She then prostrated herself before him with the plea, 'Help me, Rabbi!' He answered, "But it is not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 'True, Rabbi,' she replied, 'but even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.' Jesus then said in reply, "Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass." At that very moment her daughter was healed.

Gospeller	The Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

12TH AFTER PENTECOST, AUGUST 23

EXODUS 1:8-2:10, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

A reading from the book of wanderings, Exodus.

A new Pharaoh – one who did not know Joseph – came to power in Egypt. Pharaoh said to the Egyptians, "Look at how powerful the Israelites have become, and how they outnumber us! We need to deal shrewdly with their increase, against a time of war when they might turn against us and join our enemy, and so escape out of the country." So they oppressed the Israelites with overseers who put them to forced labour; and with them they built the storage cities of Pitom and Ra'amses.

Yet the more the Israelites were oppressed, the more they multiplied and burst forth, until the Egyptians dreaded the Israelites. So they made the Israelites utterly subservient with hard labour, brick and mortar work, and every kind of fieldwork. The Egyptians were merciless in subjugating them with crushing labour. Pharaoh spoke to the midwives of the Hebrews – one was Shiphrah, and the other Puah – and said, “When you assist the Hebrew women in childbirth, examine them on the birthing-stool. If the baby is a boy, kill it. If it is a girl, let it live.” But the midwives were God-fearing women, and they ignored the Pharaoh’s instructions, and let the male babies live. So Pharaoh summoned the midwives and asked why they let the male babies live. The midwives responded, “These Hebrew women are different from Egyptian women; they are more robust, and deliver even before the midwife arrives.” God rewarded the midwives, and the people increased in numbers and in power. And since the midwives were God-fearing, God gave them families of their own. The Pharaoh then commanded all those in Egypt, “Let every boy that is born to the Hebrews be thrown into the Nile, but let every girl live.” There was a man from the house of Levi who had married a Levite woman, and she conceived and gave birth to a boy. And she saw that the baby was good, so she hid it for three months. When she could hide the baby no longer she took a papyrus basket, daubed it with bitumen and pitch, and put the child in it, and placed the basket among the reeds by the banks of the Nile. The baby’s sister watched from a distance to learn what would happen. Pharaoh’s daughter came down to the Nile to bathe, while her attendants walked along the river bank. She noticed the basket among the reeds, and sent her attendant to fetch it. Opening it, she saw the baby and how it wept! She was moved to pity and said, “This must be one of the Hebrew’s children!” Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Do you want me to go and find a nurse for you from among the Hebrews to suckle the child for you?” “Yes, go,” she answered. So the sister went off and brought back the baby’s own mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child with you and suckle it for me, and I myself will pay you.” The woman took the child and nursed it. After the child was weaned, she brought it to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted it as her own. She called him Moses – “He Who Pulls Out” – for she said, “I pulled him out of the water.”

PSALM 124 - VOICES UNITED

"If God had not been at our side," now let Israel say: "If God had not been at our side when mortals rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive, when their fury was roused against us. Then the flood would have swept us away, and the torrent would have covered us. Then the raging waters would have gone right over our heads." But praise be God who has not given us as a prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the hunter's snare; the snare is broken and we are free.

MATTHEW 16:13-20, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller	May God be with you.
People	And also with you.
Gospeller	The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew.
People	Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

When Jesus came to the neighbourhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: "What do people say about who the Chosen One is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "And you," Jesus said, "Who do you say that I am?" "You are the Messiah," Simon Peter answered, "The Firstborn of the Living God!" Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but God in heaven. I also tell you this: your name is now 'Rock,' and on bedrock like this I will build my community and the jaws of death will not prevail against it. "Here - I will give you the keys to the reign of heaven: whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Gospeller	The gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

13TH AFTER PENTECOST, AUGUST 30

EXODUS 3:1-15 – INCLUSIVE BIBLE

A reading from the book of wanderings, Exodus.

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock deep into the wilderness, Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God. The messenger of God appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a thorn bush. Moses saw – “The bush is ablaze with fire, and yet it is not consumed!” Moses said, “Let me go over and look at this remarkable sight – and see why the bush does not burn up!” When God saw Moses coming to look more closely, God called out to him from the midst of the bush: “Moses! Moses!” Moses answered, “I am here.” God said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground! I am the God of your ancestors,” the voice continued, “the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob!” Moses hid his face, afraid to look at the Holy One. Then God said, “I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt; I have heard their cries under those who oppress them; I have felt their sufferings. Now I have come down to rescue them from the hand of Egypt, out of their place of suffering, and bring them to a place that is wide and fertile, a land flowing with milk and honey – the land of Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the children of Israel has reached me, and I have watched how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now, go! I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?” God answered, “I will be with you, and this is the sign by which you will know that it is I who have sent you: after you bring my people out of Egypt, you will all worship at this very mountain.” “But,” Moses said, “when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ if they ask me, ‘What is his god’s name?’ what am I to tell them?” God replied I AM AS I AM. This is what you will tell the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God spoke further to Moses: “Tell the children of Israel: God, the I AM, the God of your ancestors, the God of Sarah and Abraham, of Rebecca and Isaac, of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, has

sent me to you.’ This is my Name forever; this is the name you are to remember for all generations.

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c – Voices United

Give thanks and call on God’s name. Make known to the nations what God has done. Sing, O sing the songs of praise; tell of God’s wonderful deeds. Exult in God’s holy name; let those who seek God be joyful in heart. Turn for help to the one who is your strength; seek God’s presence continually. Remember the marvels the Most High has done, the wonders and judgments God has given, O children of Abraham and Sarah, God’s servants, O offspring of Israel, chosen to God. When Israel came to Egypt, when Jacob settled in the land of Ham, there you made your people fruitful, stronger than their foes. But when you turned their hearts to hate your people, to deceitful dealing with your servants, then you sent your servant Moses, and Aaron, whom you had chosen. You gave them the lands of the nations; they took possession where others had toiled, that they might keep your laws and obey your teachings.

MATTHEW 16:21-28 - INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller	May God be with you.
People	And also with you.
Gospeller	The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew.
People	Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

From that time on, Jesus began to explain to the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, to suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and religious scholars, and that he must be killed, and on the third day raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Rabbi!” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get yourself behind me, you Satan! You are trying to make me stumble and fall. You are setting your mind not on the things of God, but of mortals.” Then Jesus said to the disciples, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very selves, take up the instrument of your own death and begin to follow in my footsteps. “If you would save your life, you will lose it; but if you would lose your life for my sake, you will find it. What profit would you show if you gained the whole world but lost yourself? What can you

offer in exchange for your very self? "The Promised One will come in the glory of God accompanied by angels, and will repay all according to their conduct. The truth is, some of you standing here will not taste death before you see the coming of the Promised One's reign."

Gospeller	The gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

14TH AFTER PENTECOST, SEPTEMBER 6

EXODUS 12:1-14 - INCLUSIVE BIBLE

A reading from the Hebrew Testament and the book of wandering, Exodus. God said to Aaron and Moses in the land of Egypt, "This month will be the first of all months to you. You will count it as the first month of the year. Say this to the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month, every family in Israel will take an animal from the flock, one for each household. If your household is too small for a whole animal, join with your next door neighbour, and divide the animals in proportion to the number of persons who eat it. The animal must be a year-old male without blemish. You may take it either from the sheep or the goats. You must keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, then the whole community of Israel is to slaughter it at sunset. Some of the blood must then be taken and applied to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house where the animal is eaten.

"That night you will eat the roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled, but roasted over the fire – the head, feet and entails. You must not leave any over until morning. Whatever is left in the morning you are to burn.

"This is how you are to eat it: with your belt buckled, your sandals on your feet, and a staff in your hand; you will eat it in haste. It is the Passover of God. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night and strike down all the first born in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I will execute this judgement on all the gods of Egypt: I am God. The blood will mark the houses where you live. When I see the blood I will pass over you, and no harm will come to you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day will be for you a

memorial day, and you must celebrate it as a feast to God. All generations are to observe it forever as a feast day.

PSALM 149 - VOICES UNITED

Sing to God a new song; give praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker;
let the children of Zion exult in their Sovereign!

Let them praise God's name with dancing;
let them sing God's praise with tambourine and harp!

For you, O God, take delight in your people;
you crown the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in their glory; let them sing for joy as they feast.

Let God's praise be on their lips, the two-edged sword in their hands,
to bring their rulers with fetters, their great ones with bonds of iron,
to execute on them the sentence decreed.

This is the glory of all God's saints!

MATTHEW 18:15-20 - INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

"If your sister or brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out the error, but keep it between the two of you. If she or he listened to you, you have won a loved one back; if not, try again, but take one or two others with you, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses. If your sister or brother refuses to listen to them, refer the matter to

the church. If she or he ignores even the church, then treat that sister or brother as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. "The truth is, whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted you by my God in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst."

Gospeller	The gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

15TH AFTER PENTECOST, SEPTEMBER 13

EXODUS 14:19-31, NRSV

A reading from the Hebrew Testament and the book of wandering, Exodus. The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and God drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch God in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. God clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for their God is fighting for them against Egypt." Then God said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, God tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them

remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus God saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that God did against the Egyptians. So the people feared God and believed in God and in God's servant Moses.

PSALM 114, THE VOICE

When the time came for Israel to leave Egypt—
for Jacob's family *to be free* of those who spoke another language—
God chose to make Judah a sacred place,
and Israel became God's realm.

And the waters of the sea witnessed *God's actions* and ran away;
the Jordan, too, turned around and ran back *to where it came from*.
All of the mountains leapt with *the strength of mighty rams*,
and all of the hills *danced with the joy of little lambs*.

Why do you retreat, O sea?

Why do you roll back *your waters*, O Jordan?

Why, O mountains, do you leap with *the strength of rams*?

Why, O hills, do you dance with joy like *little lambs*?

Shudder and quake, O you earth, at the sight of God.

The God of Jacob comes,

Who turns rock into pools of *refreshing* water
and flint into fountains of *life-giving* streams!

MATTHEW 18:21-35, INCLUSIVE BIBLE

Gospeller May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Gospeller The Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Matthew,

People Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Peter came up and asked Jesus, "When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?" "No," Jesus replied, "not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. And here's why. "The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As

the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt. "At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, 'I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!' Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt. "Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, 'Pay back what you owe me!'" The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, 'Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!' But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor's prison until the money was paid." When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. The ruler sent for the official and said, 'You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?' Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full. "God in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts."

Gospeller	The Gospel of Christ
People	Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.