

LITURGICAL RUBRICS: SUPPLEMENT

Composite Readings

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<i>Palm Sunday</i>	1. Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12 2. Zephaniah 3:14-19 3. Zechariah 9:9-15
<i>Holy Friday</i>	Job 42:12-17 — LXX Ending

Composite 1: The Reading from Genesis.

(17:1-2, 4, 5-7, 8, 9-10, 11-12, 14)

THE LORD APPEARED TO ABRAM AND said to him: "I am thy God. Be well pleasing before Me, and be blameless. And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee, and I will multiply thee exceedingly. And thou shalt be a father of many nations. And thy name shall no more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham, for I have made thee a father of many nations. And I will increase thee very exceedingly; and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee, in their generations, for an everlasting covenant; and I will be a God to them." And Abraham fell down on his face,

and worshiped the Lord. And God said to Abraham: "As for thee, thou shalt keep My covenant, thou and thy seed after thee in their generations. And this is the covenant which thou shalt keep, between Me and thee and thy seed after thee, in their generations: Thou shalt circumcise the flesh of thy foreskin, and it shall be for a sign of the covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee, in their generations. And the child of eight days shall be circumcised by thee, every male throughout thy generations. And the male child, who shall not be circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin on the eighth day, that soul shall be cut off from his family, for he hath broken My covenant."

Composite 2: The Reading from Proverbs.

(Chs. 10, 3, 8)

THE MEMORY OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS with praise and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessèd is the man who has found wisdom and the mortal who has understanding. For it is better to purchase her than treasuries of gold and silver. She is more precious than precious stones and all that is precious is unworthy of her. For length of days and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are riches and glory. Out of her mouth proceeds righteousness and she bears law and mercy upon her tongue. Hear me, O child, for I will speak noble things. Blessèd is the man who keeps my ways, for my ways are the ways of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. therefore, I

pray thee, and utter my voice to the sons of men: For I, wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and knowledge and I have called upon understanding. Counsel and safety are mine, understanding and strength are mine. I love those who love me and those seeking me shall find grace. Understand craftiness, O you who are simple, and imbibe knowledge, you who are untaught. Hear me again, for I will speak noble things: I will open my mouth and from my lips shall come what is right. For my throat shall meditate truth; false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing in them that is twisted or perverse. They are all straight to him who understands and right

to those who find knowledge. I shall instruct you in truth, so that your hope will be in the

Lord and you shall be filled with the Spirit.

Composite 3: The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

(Chs. 4, 5)

THE RIGHTEOUS MAN, THOUGH HE die early, will be at rest. The righteous man who has died will judge the ungodly who are living. For they will see the end of the righteous, and will not understand what was said about him; for the Lord will cast down the ungodly speechless to the ground and shake them from the foundations; they shall become desolate to the end; they will be in sorrows, and their memory will perish. For they will come with fear at the thought of their sins, and their iniquities shall stand against them to convict them. Then the righteous man will stand with great boldness before those who have afflicted him, and those who have made of no account his

labors. Having seen it, they shall be troubled with much fear and they will be amazed at his most-glorious salvation. They will say within themselves in repentance, in anguish of spirit. They will groan and say: "This was he whom we had sometimes in derision and a proverb of reproach—we fools! We accounted his life as madness, and his end to be without honor. How is he numbered among the sons of God? And why is his lot among the Saints? "Therefore, we have erred from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness did not illumine us, nor did the sun shine on us. We took our fill of the paths of lawlessness and destruction, and we walked impassible pathways, but the way of the Lord we have not known."

Composite 4: The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

(Prov. 10; Wis. 6, 7, 8, 9)

THE MOUTH OF THE RIGHTEOUS bringeth forth wisdom; the lips of the wise man know grace. The mouth of the wise speaketh wisdom, and the truth delivereth them from death. If a righteous man dies, hope doth not, for the son of the righteous is born to life, and in his own good things he acquireth the fruit of righteousness. There is always light for the righteous and they obtain grace and glory from the Lord. The tongue of the wise is a good sister-in-law, and in their hearts resteth wisdom. The Lord loveth the hearts of the holy, and acceptable to him are

all the undefiled in the way. The wisdom of the Lord illumineth the faces of the wise. For she takes hold of those desiring her by making herself first known to them. She is easily seen by those who love her. He who rises early to seek her shall have no difficulty, and those keeping vigil for the sake of her shall quickly be without sorrows. For she goeth about seeking those worthy of her, and graciously revealeth herself in the pathways. Against wisdom evil doeth not prevail. Therefore I was a lover of her beauty; I loved her and sought her out from my youth. I desired to

make her my bride, and even the Master of All loved her. For she is an initiate in the knowledge of God, and a discoverer of his works. Her labors are virtues, for she teaches temperance and prudence, justice and courage; nothing in life is more necessary for men than these. And if anyone desireth much knowledge, she knoweth the things of old, and beholdeth things to come; she understandeth turns of speech and the solution of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and the outcome of times and seasons. She is a mediator of good things for all, for immortality is in her, and glory in the company of her words. Therefore I appealed to the Lord and prayed to Him, and said to Him with all

my heart: "O God of my fathers and Lord of mercy, Who hast made all things by Thy word, and by Thy wisdom hast fashioned man that he should have dominion over the creatures made by Thee, that he should rule the world in holiness and righteousness: Give me wisdom that sitteth by Thy throne, and cast me not away from among Thy children, for I am Thy servant and the son of Thy handmaid. Send her forth from the heavens, from Thy holy abode, and from the throne of Thy glory, that she may be with me, and instruct me in what is pleasing to Thee. And she shall guide me in understanding, and preserve me in her glory. For the thoughts of mortals are miserable, and their intentions likely to fail."

Composite 5: The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

(Chs. 4, 6, 7, 2)

WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS IS PRAISED, the people rejoice: For his memory is immortality, since it is known both by the Lord and by men, for his soul was pleasing to the Lord. Therefore love wisdom, O men, and live. Desire her and be instructed: For her beginning is love and the keeping of her laws. Honor wisdom that you may reign forever. I will tell you and not hide the mysteries of God from you. For He is the Guide of wisdom, the Corrector of the wise and the Artisan of all thoughts and deeds. Wisdom will teach with all understanding: For in her is a Spirit, intelligent and holy, the Radiance of the Everlasting Light and the Image of the Grace of God. She fashions friends of God and prophets. For she is more beautiful than the sun and above all the order of the stars. Compared with the light she is found

to be first. She delivered from infirmities those pleasing her and guided them on the paths of righteousness. She gave to them understanding to be holy and to preserve them from those who would ensnare them, and she granted them strength in struggles, so that all might understand that the most powerful of all is piety, and that evil might not prevail against wisdom, nor judgment pass away without convicting the wicked. Having reasoned unrighteously, they said to themselves, "Let us oppress the righteous man and not spare his venerableness, nor let us be ashamed of the gray hairs of the old man of many years. But let our might be our law and let us seize the righteous, because he is inconvenient to us and is opposed to our deeds; he reproaches us for apostasy against the law and divulges the sins of our training. "He de-

clares to us to have knowledge of God and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his life is unlike that of others, and his ways are very different. We are considered by him to be an insult, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the end of the righteous blessed. "Let us see if his words are true; let us test him to see what will happen to him. Let us torment him with revilement and tortures, that we may understand his meekness and test his guile-

lessness. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to his own words, he shall be respected." Thus they reasoned, but were deceived, for their wickedness blinded them. They did not know the mysteries of God, nor did they discern that Thou alone art God, having the power of life and death; Who savest in times of affliction and deliverest from every evil; Who art compassionate and merciful, granting Grace to His venerable ones, and opposing the proud with His arm.

Composite 6: The Reading from Exodus.
(Ex. 12, 13; Num. 8; Lev. 12)

THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES IN THAT very day on which He led the children of Israel out from the land of Egypt saying: "Sanctify to Me all the first-born, the first-produced opening the womb among the children of Israel." And Moses went and gathered all the people and said: "Remember this day, in which you came out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, for with a strong hand the Lord led you out from thence; and you shall keep His law. And it shall come to pass when the Lord your God shall bring you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to your fathers: you shall set apart all the first-born, whatever opens the womb, the males for the Lord. And it shall come to pass that if thy son asks thee, saying, "What is this?" thou shalt say to him: "By strength of hand the Lord led thee out of the land Egypt, out of the house of bondage. For when Pharaoh hardened his heart, so as not to let us go, the Lord slew all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both the first-born of

man and the first-born of cattle. Therefore, I bring a sacrifice to the Lord: every male that opens the womb; but all the first-born of my sons I will redeem." And it shall be for a sign, set firmly before your eyes. For thus saith the Lord God Almighty: "The first-born of your sons you shall give to Me. And it shall be that a woman who bears a male child, on the eighth day shall circumcise the flesh of his foreskin. Then for thirty-three days she shall not enter into the sanctuary of God to the priest until the days of purification are fulfilled. "And after this she shall bring to the Lord an unblemished lamb one year old, as a whole-burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove, to the doors of the tent of witness, to the priest. Or, instead of these she shall bring before the Lord two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and the priest shall pray for her. "For these are given to Me as a recompense from all the sons of Israel, and I have taken them and consecrated them for Myself, instead of the first-born of the Egyptians, in

the day in which I slew all the first-born in the land of Egypt, of both man and cattle.” Thus

saith God Most High, the Holy One of Israel.

Composite 7: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

(19:1, 3, 4-5, 12, 16, 19-21)

BEHOLD, THE LORD SITTETH ON A light cloud, and shall come to Egypt; and the idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence, and their hearts shall faint within them. And their spirit shall be troubled within them, and He will frustrate their counsel. He will deliver Egypt into the hands of cruel lords ... Thus saith the Lord, the Holy Lord of Hosts! And the Egyptians shall drink the water that is by the sea, but will fail and be dried up. Thus saith the Lord: Where now are your wise men? Let them tell you and make known what the Lord of Hosts has purposed against Egypt. In that day the Egyptians will be in

fear and trembling because of the hand of the Lord of Hosts which He shall lay upon them. And there shall be an altar to the Lord in the land of the Egyptians, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. And it shall be a sign to the Lord of Hosts forever in the land of the Egyptians; for they shall cry to the Lord and the Lord shall send to them a man who shall save them. And the Lord will make Himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and they shall offer sacrifices and gifts, and shall pray, and make their vows unto the Lord.

Composite 8: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

(Chs. 40, 41, 45, 48, 54)

THUS SAITH THE LORD: “COMFORT, comfort My people,” says God. “Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, ye priests, comfort her, for her humiliation is increased, her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God.’ “Go up to a high mountain, you who are proclaiming glad tidings to Zion, lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem. Lift it up, fear not! I the Lord God, I have heard the poor of Israel and will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the

mountains, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the deserts pools of water, and the thirsty land springs of water. Let the heavens rejoice from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth bring forth, and let it sprout forth mercy and cause righteousness to shine forth also. “Declare this with a shout of joy, and let this be known, proclaim it to the end of the earth. Say, ‘The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob!’ And if they thirst, He shall lead them through the desert, He shall bring forth water for them out of the rock. Rejoice, O barren one who did not bear; break forth into singing and

cry aloud, you who have not been in travail!
For more are the children of the desolate one

than of her who hath a husband.”

Composite 9: The Reading from the Prophecy of Malachi.

(Chs. 3, 4)

THUS SAITH THE LORD ALMIGHTY: “Behold, I send My messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee, and the Lord whom ye seek, shall come into His temple. But who can endure the day of His coming? For He is coming like the fire of a furnace and like the fuller’s herb; and He shall cleanse, refining and purifying, as it were, silver and gold. And He comes to you with judgment, and will be a swift witness against the evil ones and against adulterers, and against those who swear falsely by My name, against those who withhold the hireling’s wages, against those who oppress widows and beat orphans, against those who avoid judgment in favor of strangers, and against those who do not fear Him,” saith the Lord Almighty. “For I am the Lord your God, and I change not; and you, the sons of Jacob, have

turned aside from the Law and have not kept it. Return to me, therefore, and I will return to you,” saith the Lord Almighty. “And all nations shall call you blessed, and they shall understand that I am the Lord, who distinguishes between the righteous and between the transgressors on that day, in which I shall act to spare those who love Me. “Know, therefore, and remember the Law of Moses, my servant, as I commanded you at Horeb, the statutes and ordinances for all Israel. And behold, I will send to you Elijah the Tishbite before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes, who shall turn the heart of a father to his son, and the heart of a man to his neighbor, lest I come quickly and smite the earth,” saith the Lord Almighty, God, the Holy One of Israel.

Composite 10: The Reading from Genesis.

(17:15–17, 19; 18:11–14; 21:1–8)

GOD SAID TO ABRAHAM, “AS FOR Sarai thy wife, her name shall not be called Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her, and give thee a child by her; and I will bless him, and he shall become nations, and kings of nations shall come from him.” And Abraham fell on his face and said to himself, “Shall there be born a son to one who is a hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, give birth?” And God

said to Abraham, “Yes. Behold, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him, for an everlasting covenant.” Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in days. Sarah laughed to herself saying, “This has not as yet happened to me, even until now, and my lord is old.” And the Lord God said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh to herself, saying, ‘Shall I then indeed bear? but

I am old? Shall anything be impossible that is spoken by God?" And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said. And she conceived, and bore Abraham a son in old age as the Lord God had spoken to him. And Abraham circumcised him on the eighth day, as the Lord God had commanded him. And Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac

was born to him. And Sarah said, "The Lord God has made laughter for me; for everyone who hears shall rejoice with me." And she said, "Who shall say to Abraham that Sarah suckles a child? Yet I have borne him a child in my old age." And the child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

Composite 11: The Reading from Judges.

(13:2-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21)

IN THOSE DAYS, THERE WAS A CERTAIN man of the tribe of Dan, whose name was Manóah; and his wife was barren and bore not. And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, thou art barren. But thou shalt conceive and bear a son. And now beware and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for lo, thou shalt conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be consecrated to God from the womb." And the woman went and spoke to her husband, saying, "A man of God came to me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very bright. And he said to me, 'Behold, thou shalt conceive and bear a son; and now, drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for

the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb, even until the day of his death.'" Then Manóah prayed to God and said, "O Lord, let the man of God whom thou didst send come again to us, and teach us what we are to do with the child that will be born." And the angel of the Lord came to Manoah, and said, "Of all things that I said to thy wife, let her keep. Let her eat nothing that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink." And Manóah said to the angel of the Lord, "What is thy name, that, when thy words come to pass, we may glorify thee?" And the angel of the Lord said unto him, "Why dost thou ask concerning my name, whereas it is wonderful?" And the angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife.

Composite 12: The Reading from the Third Book of Kings.

(1 Kings 17:1-23)

THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO Elijah, and he said unto Ahab, "As the Lord God of Hosts, the God of Israel lives, before Whom I stand this day, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except

by the words of My mouth." And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Depart hence eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, which is before the River Jordan. And there shall be water from the brook, and

thou shalt drink it, and I will command the ravens to feed thee there.” And Elijah went and did according to the word of the Lord; and he sat beside the brook Cherith, which is before the Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread in the morning, and meat in the evening, and he drank water from the brook. And it came to pass after some days, that the brook dried up, for there was no rain in the land. And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Arise, and go to Sarepta of the Sidonians, and dwell there. For behold, I have commanded there a widow-woman to feed thee.” And he arose and went to Sarepta of the Sidonians, and came to the gate of the city; and behold, a widow-woman there was gathering sticks. And Elijah called her and said to her, “Bring to me, now, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” And she went to fetch it. And Elijah called her and said to her, “Bring me also a morsel of bread in thy hand, that I may eat.” And the woman said, “As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but only a handful of meal in the pitcher, and a little oil in a cruse; and behold, I am gathering two sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my children, and we shall eat it and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Take courage, go in and do according to thy word; but make of it a little cake first and bring it to me; and afterward thou shalt make some for thyself and thy children. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, “The pitcher of meal shall not fail and the cruse of oil shall not be diminished, until the day that the Lord giveth rain on the earth.” And the woman went and did according to the words of Elijah; and he ate, and she, and her children. And from that day the pitcher of meal did not fail, and the

cruse of oil was not diminished, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by the hand of Elijah. And it came to pass after this that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick and his illness was very grievous, until there was no breath left in him. And she said to Elijah, “What have I to do with thee, O man of God? Hast thou come in to me to call to remembrance my unrighteousness, and to slay my son?” And Elijah said to the woman, “Give me thy son.” And he took him from her bosom and carried him to the upper chamber where he was lodged, and laid him upon his own bed. And Elijah cried aloud to the Lord and said, “Woe is me, O Lord, the witness of the widow with whom I now abide; Thou hast wrought harm in slaying her son!” And he blew on the child three times, and called on the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, let the soul of this child return to him.” And it was so. And the child cried out; and he brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, thy son liveth.” And the woman said to Elijah, “Behold, I know that thou art a man of God, and the word of the Lord in thy mouth is true.”

Composite 13: The Reading from the Third Book of Kings.

(I Kings 18, 19)

THE WORD OF GOD CAME TO ELIJAH the Tishbite in the third year of the reign of Ahab, saying, "Go, and show thyself to Ahab; and I will bring rain upon the face of the earth." And it came to pass when Ahab saw Elijah, that he said to him, "Art thou he that troublest Israel?" And Elijah said, "I do not trouble Israel, but it is thee and thy father's house, in that thou didst forsake the Lord thy God, and thou didst follow after Baal. Now therefore send and gather all Israel to meat Mount Carmel, and the four hundred and fifty prophets of shame of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of the groves who eat at Jezebel's table." And according to the word of Elijah, Ahab sent to all Israel, and gathered all the prophets on Mount Carmel, and he brought Elijah before all of them. And Elijah said to them, "How long will you go limping on both feet? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people answered him not a word. And Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; and the prophets of Baal are four hundred and fifty men, and the prophets of the groves four hundred." And Elijah said, "Give me two oxen, and let you choose one for yourselves, and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; and I will prepare the other bullock and lay it on the wood, and put no fire to it. And you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord, my God; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people answered and said, "The word that Elijah has spoken is good; let it be so." And

Elijah said to the prophets of shame, "Choose for yourselves one bullock and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire to it." And they took the bullock and prepared it; and they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, and said, "Hear us, O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice, nor an answer. And they ran about the altar which they had made. And it was noon, and Elijah the Tishbite mocked them and said, "Call with a loud voice, for your god is [musing], or he has gone to another place, or perhaps is sleeping and you must awake him." And they cried with a loud voice, and cut themselves with knives and flogged themselves many times with whips, even to the shedding of their own blood. And they prophesied until the evening; and it came to pass that it was the time of the offering of the sacrifice, but there was no voice. And Elijah spoke to the prophets of shame, saying, "Stand by for the present, and I will offer my sacrifice." And they stood aside and were silent. And Elijah said to the people, "Come near to me"; and all the people came near to him. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel, as the Lord had said to him, "Israel shall be thy name." And he built up the stones in the name of the Lord, and repaired the altar that had been broken down; and he made a trench for water that would hold two measures of seed round about the altar. And he piled the cleft wood on the altar which he had made, and divided the whole-burnt-offering, and laid it on the

wood and around the altar. And Elijah said, "Fetch me four jars of water and pour it on the whole-burnt-offering, and on the wood." And they did so. And he said, "Do it a second time"; and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time"; and they did it a third time. And the water ran round about the altar, and the trench was filled with water. And Elijah cried aloud to heaven and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, hearken unto me, hearken unto me this day by fire, and let all this people know that Thou alone art the Lord God of Israel and that I am Thy servant and that I have done all these things for Thy sake; for Thou hast turned back the hearts of this people to follow Thee." Then fire fell from the Lord out of heaven and devoured the whole-burnt-offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and the water that was in the trench; the fire licked up everything. And all the people fell upon their faces, and said, "Truly the Lord God, He is God!" And Elijah said to the people, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there. And Elijah said to Ahab, "Behold, there is the sound of the coming of rain; prepare thy chariot and go down, lest the rain overtake thee." And Elijah went up on Mount Carmel, and bowed himself down to the ground; and he put his face between his knees and prayed to the Lord. And the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab wept and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the Lord was upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran before Ahab to Jezreel. And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done,

and how he had slain the prophets with the sword. And Jezebel sent to Elijah, saying, "By this time tomorrow I will make thy life as the life of one of them." And Elijah heard and was afraid; and he rose and departed for his life. And he came to Beersheba, in the land of Judah. And he left his servant there and went a days journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he asked, concerning his life, that he might die, and said, "Let it be enough, O Lord; now take away my life from me; for I am no better than my fathers." And he lay down and slept under the tree. And behold, an angel of the Lord touched him and said to him, "Arise, eat and drink." And Elijah looked, and behold, at his head there was a cake of barley and a cruse of water. And he arose, and ate and drank, and lay down again and slept. And the angel of the Lord returned a second time, and touched him, and said unto him, "Arise, eat and drink, for the journey will be too much for thee." And he arose, and ate and drank. And he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb. And he entered there into a cave, and lodged there. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and the Lord said unto him, "What art thou doing here, Elijah?" And Elijah said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord God Almighty, for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thee; they have thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword; and I alone am left; and they seek my life to take it." And the angel said, "Go forth tomorrow, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountain, and broke in pieces the rock before the Lord, but the

Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire the voice of a gentle breeze, and the Lord was there. And it came to pass when Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his mantle and went out and stood before the cave. And behold, a voice came to him, and said, "What art thou doing here, Elijah?" And Elijah said, "I have been very jealous for the

Lord God Almighty, for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword; and I alone am left; and they seek my life to take it." And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on thy way, and thou shalt come on the way of the wilderness of Damascus; and thou shalt anoint Hazael to be king over Syria; and thou shalt anoint Jeru the son of Nimshi to be king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat thou shalt anoint to be prophet in thy place."

Composite 14: The Reading from the Third Book of Kings.

(I Kings 19:19, 20, 21; II Kings 2:1, 6-14)

IN THOSE DAYS, ELIJAH FOUND ELISHA the son of Shaphat, and he was plowing with oxen. And Elijah went to him and cast his mantle upon him. And Elisha left the oxen, and ran after Elijah and ministered to him. And it came to pass, when the Lord was about to take Elijah up in a whirlwind, as it were, into heaven, Elijah and Elisha went out from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, "Tarry here, then, for the Lord has sent me as far as the Jordan." And Elisha said, "As the Lord liveth, and thy soul liveth, I shall not leave thee." And they both went on. And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went also, and they stood opposite afar off; but Elijah and Elisha stood by the Jordan. And Elijah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and smote the water; and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and they both went over on dry ground. And it came to pass when they had gone over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for thee before I am taken up from thee." And Elisha said, "Let there be, then, a double portion of thy spirit upon me."

And Elijah said, "thou askest a difficult thing. If thou shalt see me when I am taken up from thee, then shalt it be so for thee; and if thou dost not see me, it shall not be so." And it came to pass as they went on and talked. And, behold, a chariot of fire, and horses of fire! And they separated the two of them. And Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind, as it were, into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, "Father! Father! The chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. And he took hold of his garments and rent them into two pieces. And Elisha took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen upon his head. And Elisha went back and stood upon the bank of the Jordan. And Elisha took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen upon his head, and smote the waters, but they were not parted. And Elisha said, "Where now, is the God of Elijah, He also?" And Elisha smote the waters a second time, and the waters parted; and he went over on dry land.

Composite 15: The Reading from Exodus.

(33:11-23; 34:4-6, 8)

THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES, AS IF ONE should speak to his friend; and he returned to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, departed not from the Tabernacle. And Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, Thou didst command me to lead forth this people, but Thou hast not showed me whom Thou wilt send with me; but Thou hast said to me, 'I know thee above all, and thou hast found favor with me.' If, then, I have found grace in Thy sight, reveal Thyself to me, that I may see Thee clearly, that I may find grace in Thy sight, and that I may know that this great nation is Thy people." And the Lord said unto him, "I Myself will go before thee, and I will give thee rest." And Moses said to Him, "If Thou Thyself dost not go with us, bring me not up from here. "And how shall it be surely known that both I and Thy people have found grace with Thee, except Thou go with us? So both I and Thy people shall be glorified beyond all the nations, as many as are upon the earth." And the Lord said to Moses, "This word also, which thou hast spoken, I will do; for thou hast found grace before Me, and I know thee above all."

And Moses said, "Show me Thy glory." And the Lord said to Moses, "I will go before thee with My glory, and I will call out My Name, 'the Lord' before thee; and I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." And again He said, "thou shalt not be able to see My face, for man shall not see My face and live." And again the Lord said, "Behold there is a place by Me; thou shalt stand upon the rock. And when My glory shall pass by, then I will put thee in a cleft of the rock; and I will cover thee with My hand, until I pass by. And I will take away My hand, and then thou shalt see My back; but My face shall not appear to thee." And having risen early in the morning, Moses went up Mount Sinai, as the Lord had told him. And the Lord descended in a cloud, and Moses stood there before Him and called out in the Name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before his face, and called out, "The Lord God, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering, most merciful, and true." And Moses, making haste, stooped down to the earth and worshiped the Lord.

Composite 16: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

(63:15-64:5, 8-9)

TURN, O LORD, FROM HEAVEN, AND look from Thy holy habitation and Thy glory. Where are Thy zeal and Thy strength? Where is the multitude of Thy mercies and Thy compassions that Thou hast endured for us? For Thou art our Father, because Abraham has not known us, nor has Israel known us.

But do Thou, O Lord, our Father, deliver us; from the beginning Thy Name has been on us. Why hast Thou turned us aside, O Lord, from Thy ways, and made hard our hearts that we should not fear Thee? Return for the sake of Thy servants, for the sake of the tribes of Thine inheritance, that, at least, we

may inherit a small part of Thy holy mountain. Our adversaries have trodden down Thy sanctuary. We have become as at the beginning when Thou didst not rule over us, and Thy Name was not called upon us. If Thou wouldst open the heaven, trembling would take hold of the mountains from Thee, and they would melt; like wax melts before the fire. And fire shall burn up the enemies, and Thy Name shall be made manifest to Thine adversaries; the nations shall be troubled at Thy presence. When Thou shalt do glorious

things, trembling shall take hold of the mountains from Thee. From the ages we have not heard, nor have our eyes seen a God beside Thee, or Thy works which Thou shalt perform for them that wait for mercy. For mercy joins them that work righteousness, and they shall remember Thy ways. And now, O Lord, Thou art our Father, and we are clay; Thou art our Fashioner and all of us are the work of Thy hands. Be not very angry with us, O Lord, nor remember our sins forever; but look on us now, for we are all Thy people.

Composite 17: The Reading from Exodus.
(Ch. 40)

THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES, SAYING: “On the first day of the first month thou shalt set up the Tabernacle of the Testimony. And thou shalt put in it the Ark and cover it with the veil. Thou shalt bring in the table and the candle stand; and thou shalt set there a golden altar to burn incense before the Ark of the Testimony. And thou shalt put a covering on the door of the Tabernacle of the Testimony. “Then thou shalt take the oil of anointing and anoint the Tabernacle and all that is in

it, and consecrate it and all its vessels; and it shall be holy. And thou shalt consecrate the altar of Burnt Offerings; it shall be most holy.” And Moses did all that the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel had commanded him. And a cloud covered the Tabernacle of the Testimony and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the Tabernacle of the Testimony, because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.

Composite 18: The Reading from the Third Book of Kings.
(I Kings 7, 8)

AND IT CAME TO PASS WHEN Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord, he assembled all the elders of Israel in Zion, to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord out of the City of David, which is Zion. And the priests took up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, the Tabernacle of the Testimony, and all the holy vessels

that were in the Tabernacle of the Testimony. And the King and all Israel went before the Ark. And the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to its place, into the Oracle of the Temple — into the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the Ark so that the cherubim made

a covering above the Ark and its holy things above. There was nothing in the Ark except the two tablets of the Covenant which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord had made a Covenant. And when the priests came out

from the holy place, a cloud filled the house. And the priests were unable to stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord God Almighty filled the house.

Composite 19: The Reading from the Prophecy of Micah.

(4:2-3, 5; 6:2-5, 8; 5:4, 5)

THUS SAITH THE LORD: "OUT OF ZION shall go forth a law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge between many peoples, and shall rebuke strong nations afar off. For all people will walk every one in his own way, but we will walk in the Name of the Lord our God forever." Thus saith the Lord Almighty: "Hear, O mountains, the complaint of the Lord, and you valleys, even the foundations of the earth; for the Lord will enter into judgment with His people, and will contend with Israel. O My people, what have I done to you? Or in

what have I grieved you? Answer me! For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and out of the house of bondage, I delivered you; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Mariam. O My people, remember now, what the adversaries counseled against you, and who declared against you." I have declared to thee, O man, what is good; or what the Lord doth require of thee, except to do justice, and love mercy, and be ready to walk humbly with the Lord thy God? For the Lord shall be exalted in strength, and shall tend His flock in peace, even to the ends of the earth.

Composite 20: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

(55:1; 12:3-4; 55:2-13)

THUS SAITH THE LORD: "YOU THAT thirst, go to the water, and as many as have no money, go and buy; and eat and drink, without money or price, wine and fat." For thus saith the Lord Almighty to you: "My people, draw water with gladness out of the fountain of salvation." And you shall say in that day, "Sing to the Lord, call aloud upon His Name, proclaim His glorious works among the nations; make known that exalted is His Name." "My people, hearken unto Me and ye shall eat that which is good, and your soul shall delight in good things.

Give heed with your ears, and follow My ways. Hearken unto Me, and your soul shall live in blessedness; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant. And you shall call upon Me. And when you shall draw near to Me, let the impious depart from his ways, and the transgressor his counsels; and you shall return to Me, and I will forgive you and will forgive your sins. "For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. But as the heaven is distant from the earth, so are my ways distant from your ways, and your thoughts from my thoughts.

For as rain shall come down, or snow, from heaven, and shall not return thither until it waters the earth, bring forth and sprout, and give seed to the sower, and bread for food, so shall My word be. Whatever shall proceed out of My mouth, shall not return to Me empty until it has accomplished all that I have purposed; and I will set aright your ways, and effect My commandments. "For you shall go forth with gladness and shall be

taught with joy; for the mountains and the hills shall skip, awaiting you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall clap with their branches. And instead of the bramble shall come up the cypress; and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle. And the Lord shall be for a name, and for an eternal sign, and shall not fail," saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel.

Composite 21: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

(62:10-63:3, 7-9)

THUS SAITH THE LORD: "GO through and enter My gates; prepare My way and make a way for My people. Cast the stones out of the way; lift up an ensign for the nations. For behold, the Lord has made it to be heard even to the ends of the earth, say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, thy Savior cometh, having His reward with Him, and His work before Him.' And they shall call them, The Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord." And thou shalt be called, a City Sought Out, and Not Forsaken. Who is this that cometh from Edom, His garment red, from Bosrah? Beautiful in His apparel, He cried out with great strength, "I speak of righteousness and a judgment of salvation!" Why are Thy garments red, and Thine apparel like

his that treadeth in the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the nations no one was with Me." I remembered the mercy of the Lord, the virtues of the Lord according to all that He has granted us. The Lord is a good judge to the House of Israel; He dealeth with us according to His mercies, and according to the abundance of His righteousness. And He said, "Is it not My people? Children that will not be rejected?" And He became to them salvation out of all their afflictions. Not a mediator, nor an angel, but the Lord Himself saved them, because He loved them and spared them; He Himself redeemed them and accepted them, and lifted them up all the days of the age.

Composite 22: The Reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah.

(14:1, 4, 8-11)

THUS SAITH THE LORD: "BEHOLD, THE days of the Lord shall come, and His feet shall stand in those days on the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem toward

the east. And in those days living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; and so shall it be in

the harvest time and in the spring. And the Lord shall be king over all the earth; in those days there shall be one Lord. His Name shall be one, encompassing all the earth, and the wilderness, from Geba to Rimmon, opposite the crest of Jerusalem. And she shall be lifted

up, and abide in her place; from the gates of Benjamin to the place of the former gates, and to the gate of the corners, and from the Tower of Hananeel to the king's winepresses, they shall dwell in her. And no longer shall there be a curse; but Jerusalem shall dwell securely."

Composite 23: The Reading from the Third Book of Kings.
(I Kings 19:3-9, 11-13, 15, 16)

IN THOSE DAYS, ELIJAH WENT TO BEERSHEBA, in the land of Judah. And he left his servant there and went a days journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree. And he lay down and slept under the tree. And behold, someone touched him and said to him, "Arise, eat and drink." And Elijah looked, and behold, at his head there was a cake of barley and a cruse of water. And he arose, and ate and drank, and lay down again and slept. And the angel of the Lord returned a second time, and touched him, and said to him, "Arise, eat and drink, for the journey will be too much for thee." And he arose, and ate and drank. And he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb. And he entered there into a cave, and lodged there. And behold, the word of the Lord came to

him, and the Lord said to him, "Thou shalt go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountain, and broke in pieces the rock before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire the voice of a gentle breeze, and the Lord was there. And it came to pass when Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his mantle and went out and stood before the cave. And the Lord said unto him, "Go, return on thy way, and thou shalt come on the way of the wilderness of Damascus; and thou shalt anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat to be prophet in thy place."

Composite 24: The Reading from Leviticus
(Ch. 26)

THE LORD SPOKE TO THE SONS OF Israel, saying: "If you will walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them, then will I give you the rain in its season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

And the time of your threshing shall reach unto the gathering of the vine, and the gathering of the vine shall reach unto the sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and you shall dwell securely in your land. And I will give peace in your land, and you shall sleep,

and none shall make you afraid; and I will destroy the cruel beasts out of your land, and war shall not go through your land. And you shall pursue your enemies, and they shall fall before you with slaughter. And five of you shall pursue a hundred, and a hundred of you shall pursue ten thousand; and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. And I will look upon you and bless you; I will increase you and multiply you, and establish My covenant with you. You shall eat the old stores, and the oldest of the old; and you shall carry off the old to make way for the new. And I will establish My covenant with you, and My soul shall not be disturbed with you. And I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. “But if you will not hearken unto Me, nor do these My commandments, nor submit yourselves to them, and your soul should abhor My judgments, so that you should not keep all My commandments,

so as to break My covenant, then will I do thus to you: I will bring want upon you; you shall sow your seed vainly, and your enemies shall eat up the fruit of your labors. And I will set My face against you, and you shall fall before your enemies and be made subject to them that hate you; you shall flee when no one pursues you. And I will break down the haughtiness of your pride; I will make your heaven like iron and your earth like brass. And your strength shall be in vain, for your land shall not yield its seed, nor shall the tree of your field yield its fruit. And I will send upon you the wild beasts of the land, and they shall devour you and lay waste to your cattle; and I will make you few in number, and the sword falling upon you shall destroy you. And your land shall be desolate and your gates deserted, for you walked perversely before Me; and I will walk contrary to you in fury,” saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel.

PALM SUNDAY

I. The Reading from Genesis. (49:1-2, 8-12)

JACOB CALLED HIS SONS AND SAID unto them, “Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days. Gather yourselves together and hear me, O sons of Jacob; hear Israel, hear your father. Judah, thy brothers shall praise thee; thy hands shall be on the shoulders of thine enemies; thy father’s sons shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion’s whelp; from a tender sprout, my son, thou hast sprung up; having couched, thou hast fallen asleep like a lion, like a whelp. Who shall rouse him up? “A prince shall not fail from Judah, nor a ruler from his loins, until

there comes the things stored up for him; he is the expectation of the nations. Binding his foal to the vine, and the foal of his ass to its branches, he shall wash his robe in wine and his garment in the blood of the grape. His eyes shall bring joy more than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk.”

2. The Reading from the Prophecy of Zephaniah. (3:14–19)

THUS SAITH THE LORD: “REJOICE EXCEEDINGLY, O daughter of Zion! Proclaim aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Rejoice and delight thyself with all thy heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away thine unrighteousness and delivered thee from the hand of thine enemies. The Lord reigns within thy midst, and thou shalt not see evil any more.” At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, “Take courage, O Zion; let not thy hands grow weak. The Lord your God

is in thee; the Mighty One shall save thee. He shall bring joy upon thee and shall renew thee with his love; and he shall rejoice over thee with delight, as in a day of festival. And I will gather thine afflicted. Alas! Who hath taken up a reproach against her? Behold, at that time I will work in you for your sake, saith the Lord; and I will save her that was oppressed and accept her that was rejected; and I will make them a praise, and glorious in all the earth.”

3. The Reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah. (9:9–15)

THUS SAITH THE LORD: REJOICE greatly O daughter of Zion! Proclaim aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King is coming to thee, Just and Saving; He is Meek and riding on an ass, upon a young foal. And He shall destroy the chariots out of Ephraim, and the horses out of Jerusalem, and the bow of war shall be utterly destroyed; and there shall be abundance and peace out of the nations. And He shall rule over the waters from sea to sea, and from the rivers to the ends of the earth. And thou, by the blood of thy covenant, have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit that has no water. You

shalt sit in strongholds, you prisoners of the assembly; and for one day of your sojourning I will recompense you double. For I have bent you for Myself like a bow, O Judah, I have filled it with Ephraim; and I will raise up your children, O Zion, against the children of the Greeks, and handle you like the sword of a warrior. And the Lord shall be over them, and his arrow shall go forth like lightning. And the Lord God Almighty shall sound the trumpet and go forth in the noise of His threatening. The Lord Almighty shall defend them!

HOLY FRIDAY

The Reading from Job. (42:12–17 — LXX Ending)

THE LORD BLESSED THE LATTER DAYS of Job more than the former; and his livestock were fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand she-asses of the pastures. And there were born to him seven sons and three daugh-

ters. And he called the first Day, the second Cassia, and the third Amáltheia’s Horn. And there were not found under heaven any like in magnificence to Job’s daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. Job lived after his affliction

a hundred and seventy years; all the years he lived were two-hundred and forty-eight. And Job saw his sons and his sons' sons, even unto the fourth generation. And Job died, an old man — full of days, and it is written that he will rise again with those whom the Lord raises up. This man is described in the Syriac Book as living in the land of Ausitis

on the borders of Idumea and Arabia. And his name before was Jobab. And having taken an Arabian wife, he begot a son whose name was Ennon. And he was the son of Zareh, his father, a son of the sons of Esau, and of his mother Bosorrha, so that he was the fifth from Abraham.

The Lenten Readings

Presented below are a number of Readings during Lent that either begin or end on a partial verse. Because of the general lack of translations of the official Church Lectionary (which utilizes the Septuagint (LXX) verses of Scripture—the primary ecclesiastical translation of the Old Testament for some 2,000 years) the readings given below are according to the Revised Standard Version (RSV).

First Week of Lent

TUESDAY, 6TH HOUR (*Is. 1:19–2:3—ending*): ...that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.

FRIDAY, 6TH HOUR (*Is. 3:1–15—ending*): The Lord shall enter into judgment with the elders and princes of His people.

Second Week of Lent

MONDAY, 6TH HOUR (*Is. 4:2–5:7—ending*): For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant planting.

FRIDAY, 6TH HOUR (*Is. 7:1–14—ending*): Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign.

Third Week of Lent

FRIDAY, VESPERS (*Gen. 8:4–21—ending*): And the Lord smelled the pleasing fragrance.

Fifth Week of Lent

TUESDAY, 6TH HOUR (*Is. 40:18–31—ending*): ...but they who wait for God shall renew their strength.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH HOUR (*Is. 41:4–14—beginning*): I, the Lord, the first, and too all eternity: I Am. The nations saw, and feared...

Sixth Week of Lent

MONDAY, VESPERS (*Gen. 27:1–41—ending*): And Esau was angry with Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him.

TUESDAY, 6TH HOUR (*Is. 49:6–10—beginning and ending*): I have given thee as a light to the nations...for He that has pity on them shall comfort them.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH HOUR (*Is. 58:1–11—ending*): And the Lord shall be with thee continually.

WEDNESDAY, VESPERS (*Gen. 43:26-31—ending; 45:1-16*): Then he washed his face and came out, controlling himself. (43:31)

THURSDAY, 6TH HOUR (*Is. 65:8-16—ending*): ...and they that bless upon the earth shall bless by the True God.