

**FRANCISCAN  
EUCCHARISTIC  
SUPPLEMENT  
SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS**

Collects & Readings  
for the Festivals & Lesser Festivals  
of the additional celebrations  
in the Calendar  
of the  
*The Daily Office SSF, 2010*

Dedicated to the memory of SSF Liturgists:

**Brother Tristam SSF,**  
who died on  
the Feast of the Holy Innocents, 2002  
and

**Brother Colin Wilfred SSF,**  
who died on  
the Feast of Saint Mary of the Angels, 2011

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Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, and who repays in their own person those who reject him. He does not delay but repays in their own person those who reject him. Therefore, observe diligently the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that I am commanding you today.

*Deuteronomy 7.6-11*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits. **R**

The Lord executes righteousness  
and judgement for all who are oppressed.  
He made his ways known to Moses  
and his works to the children of Israel. **R**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him. **R**

*Ps 103.1-2,6-7,8,11*

### A Reading from the First Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. *1 John 4.7-17*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

*Matthew 11.25-30*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**YEAR B**

**A Reading from the prophecy of Hosea.**

When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.  
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
I took them up in my arms;  
but they did not know that I healed them.  
I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with bands of love.  
I was to them like those  
who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed them.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?  
How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?  
My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.

## Proper of the Seasons

Friday after Trinity | **The Divine Compassion of Christ**

*Festival, White*

*The date of this feast, in honour of Christ's love and compassion for humanity, has its foundation in the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a devotion which developed in the Church in the eighteenth century. However, the Franciscan saint, Bonaventure, wrote in the thirteenth century at least two treatises on the wound in the side of Christ and extracts from one of them ('de ligno vitae') were incorporated into the propers of the Office for the feast. Julian of Norwich also introduced the theme into her writings. For Anglican Franciscans the celebration is particularly significant, as the dedication served for the title of the first Anglican Franciscan religious community, The Society of the Divine Compassion, founded at Plaistow, in the east end of London, in 1894. The SDC friars were committed to love of the poor and to obtaining social justice for them, perceiving the poor as made in the image of Christ.*

**COLLECT**

Loving God,  
whose Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
was moved with compassion for all who had gone astray  
and with indignation for all who had suffered wrong;  
in flame our hearts with the burning fire of your love,  
that we may seek out the lost,  
have mercy on the fallen  
and stand fast for truth and righteousness;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**YEAR A**

**A Reading from the book Deuteronomy.**

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession.  
It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you—for you were the fewest of all peoples. It was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

I will not execute my fierce anger;  
I will not again destroy Ephraim;  
for I am God and no mortal,  
the Holy One in your midst,  
and I will not come in wrath.

*Hosea 11.1,3-4,8-9*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

‘Behold, God is my salvation;  
I will trust and will not be afraid;  
‘For the Lord God is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.’ **R**

With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

On that day you will say,

‘Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;  
‘Make known his deeds among the nations,  
proclaim that his name is exalted. **R**

‘Sing God’s praises, who has triumphed gloriously;  
let this be known in all the world.

‘Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R** *Isaiah 12.2-6*

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.**

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R The Lord shall refresh my soul**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name’s sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full. **R**

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

*Psalm 23*

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.**

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 his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. *Romans 5.5b-11*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**

Jesus told the Pharisees and the scribes this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

*Luke 15.3-7*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks,  
as, lifted high on the cross,  
Christ gave his life for us  
because of his great love and compassion.  
Through his open heart the Saviour invites  
all humanity into the life of the Trinity,  
to draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

**POST COMMUNION**

Almighty God,  
we rejoice in the share we have in the heavenly  
banquet with your Son, our Saviour:  
open our hearts to share his life,  
and continue to bless us with his love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

*Ephesians 3.8-12,14-19*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

*John 19.31-37*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**YEAR C**

**A Reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel.**

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

*Ezekiel 34.11-16*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## Proper of the Saints

16 January **First Franciscan Martyrs**

*Lesser Festival, Martyrs, Red*

*In 1219, Francis sent five brothers to preach the gospel to the Moslems, namely Berardus, Peter, Adjutus, Accursius and Otto. They worked in Spain and later preached in Morocco, where they were tortured and put to death on this day in 1220, thus becoming the first martyrs of the Franciscan Order. When Francis heard of their deaths, he is reported to have said, 'Now we have real friars minor!' It was the sight of their bodies brought back for Christian burial at Coimbra in Portugal that moved Antony of Padua to join the Order.*

### **COLLECT**

God of our salvation,  
we thank you for the first Franciscan martyrs  
who shared in the passion of your beloved Son.  
May we also persevere until death  
in bearing witness to you  
and share with them in the glory of eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.**

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment will ever touch them.  
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,  
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,  
and their going from us to be their destruction;  
but they are at peace.  
For though in the sight of others they were punished,  
their hope is full of immortality.  
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,  
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;  
like gold in the furnace he tried them,  
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them.  
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,  
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. *Matthew 10.16-22*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks,  
glorified in the assembly of your saints,  
for your martyrs who bless you and praise you,  
confessing before the powers of this world  
the great name of your only Son.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Eternal God,  
who gave this holy meal  
in which we have celebrated the glory of the cross  
and the victory of the first Franciscan martyrs:  
by our communion with Christ  
in his saving death and resurrection,  
give us, with all your saints, the courage to conquer evil  
and so to share the fruit of the tree of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

18 January **Confession of St. Peter**  
*Festival, Apostles and Evangelists, White*

*The beginning of the ministry of the Apostle Peter at Rome has been commemorated in that city from ancient times. Two liturgical feasts, in honour of the 'Chair of St Peter', were celebrated (18 January and 22 February) in the Roman Calendar. It is a reminder of the chair or cathedra on which a bishop sits and teaches. The traditional readings for the day include Peter's acclamation of Jesus, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God', a confession of faith which has given its name to this commemoration now kept in some Provinces of the Anglican Communion. Since 29 June may be observed as the feast of both Peter and Paul, this separate day enables Peter to be commemorated alone, and mirrors the remembrance of Paul a week later.*

*These two days, the Confession of Peter and the Conversion of Paul, bracket the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which began in 1908 at the instigation of Fr. Paul Wattson, co-founder of the Society of the Atonement, Graymoor, New York. It is now kept by many denominations in the northern hemisphere. As Paul's conversion reminds us that we are united in a call to proclaim Jesus among the nations, so Peter's confession reminds us that we are united in proclaiming the divine revelation of Jesus Christ 'the Son of the living God'.*

**COLLECT**

Almighty God,  
you inspired Saint Peter,  
first among the apostles,  
to confess Jesus as the Messiah  
and Son of the living God:  
keep your Church steadfast  
on the rock of this faith,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is  
"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone."

They will govern nations and rule over peoples,  
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.  
Those who trust in him will understand truth,  
and the faithful will abide with him in love,  
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,  
and he watches over his elect.

*Wisdom 3.1-9*

**This is the word of the Lord**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R The Lord apportioned to them great glory  
[and the congregation proclaims their praise].**

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may rest upon your holy hill?  
Whoever leads an uncorrupt life  
and does the thing that is right; **R**

Who speaks the truth from the heart  
and bears no deceit on the tongue;  
Who does no evil to a friend  
and pours no scorn on a neighbour; **R**

In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed,  
but who honours those who fear the Lord.  
Whoever has sworn to a neighbour  
and never goes back on that word;  
Whoever does these things  
shall never fall. **R**

*Psalms 15.1-6,8*

**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honour, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day.

I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

*1 Corinthians 4.9-14*

**This is the word of the Lord**

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.' Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

*Acts 4.8-13*

**This is the word of the Lord**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R The Lord is my shepherd; I can lack nothing.**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full. **R**

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

*Psalm 23*

### **A Reading from the First Letter of Peter**

Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. *1 Peter 5.1-4*

**This is the word of the Lord**

## 20 January **Founders of Anglican Franciscan Communities**

*Festival, White*

*It was on this day in 1894 that the first three members of the Society of the Divine Compassion made their vows in London's East End, marking the foundation of the first Franciscan Order in the Anglican Communion since the Reformation.*

*So, today we give thanks for the witness of that Community, which has now passed into history, as well as for all the various founders of the Community of Saint Francis for women, the Order of St Francis for men in the United States, the Brotherhood of Saint Francis of Assisi and the Brotherhood of the Love of Christ, all of which, along with the remaining members of the Brotherhood of the Holy Cross, eventually affiliated with or amalgamated to become the First Order of the Society of Saint Francis.*

*We also remember the founders of the Community of Saint Clare, the Second Order of the Society of Saint Francis since its foundation, and the Order of Poor Clares of Reparation in the United States, until its demise, affiliated with the sisters of the Second Order.*

*The Third Order for men and women in secular life was always part of the foundation of Franciscan communities in the Anglican Communion. We give thanks especially for the founders of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis which has been in existence since the Society's own inception.*

### **COLLECT**

Everlasting God,  
we praise you for the founders of Anglican Franciscan communities;  
grant that as we commemorate them in thanksgiving and celebration,  
we may know the truth of the gospel in our hearts  
and build well on the foundations they have laid,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.**

Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the Lord, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

*Isaiah 42.5-9*

**This is the word of the Lord**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R They have given freely to the poor;  
their righteousness stands fast for ever.**

Alleluia.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and have great delight in his commandments.  
Their descendants will be mighty in the land,  
a generation of the faithful that will be blest. **R**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous.  
They have given freely to the poor;  
their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
their head will be exalted with honour. **R**

*Psalm 112.1-2,4,9*

**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

*1 Corinthians 3.10-15*

**This is the word of the Lord**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

*Matthew 16.13-19*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
because you formed your Church on the apostles  
to stand firm for ever,  
as a sign on earth of your infinite holiness  
and the living gospel for all to hear.

**POST COMMUNION**

Keep us, O God,  
in this fellowship of faith,  
the Church of your Son Jesus Christ,  
and help us to confess him as Messiah and Lord  
in all we say and do.  
We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke**

'Why do you call me "Lord, Lord", and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.'

*Luke 6.46-49*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
because you raised up our holy father Francis  
to burn as a shining light in your Church;  
that, inflamed with love for you and all creation  
and bearing in his body the marks of your Son's passion,  
he might bring to glory many sons and daughters.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who inspired the founders  
of Anglican Franciscan Communities  
to serve you with singleness of heart;  
help us, whose communion with you and them  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
in the way of Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R May these words of mine please my God;  
[then will I rejoice in the Lord].**

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures. **R**

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.  
May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works. **R**

He looks on the earth and it trembles;  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.  
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will make music to my God while I have my being. **R**

*Psalm 104.26,32-35*

### **A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.**

As it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

*1 Corinthians 2. 9-13*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, 'Then who can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'

*Matthew 19.23-26*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks for Colette  
and all who have consecrated their lives to Christ  
for the sake of the kingdom;  
for in them you show us your saving love  
and call us back to holiness.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Colette  
that she served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

7 February **Colette**, Poor Clare, Founder of the Colettine  
Reform

*Lesser Festival, Members of Religious Communities*  
White

*Colette was born in France in 1391. She joined the Franciscan Third Order and later lived as a recluse. She was admitted to the Poor Clares and was responsible for renewal of many of the communities of the First and the Second Orders. She founded seventeen houses of the reform in France and Flanders. Though untrained and unprepared for any such work, she achieved much by the power of faith and holiness and a determination that no opposition could discourage. Today, many Poor Clare houses throughout the world follow the Rule of the Colettine reform. Colette died on this day in the year 1447.*

### **COLLECT**

God our sustainer,  
who inspired Colette to be an example  
and leader of evangelical perfection for many:  
grant that the spirit of Francis and Clare which she wisely taught  
and wondrously confirmed by her example may ever abide in us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me  
with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a  
garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God  
will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

*Isaiah 61.10-11*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## 24 February **Vocation of Francis**

*Lesser Festival, White*

*In the stages that make up the conversion of Francis, some events stand out. One of these is his response to the gospel read on an apostles' feast day. This is held to be St Matthias day (celebrated in the Church on this date at that time) and, from the response Francis made, it is seen to be the moment when his vocation took on the form that would later characterize the Franciscan movement.*

### **COLLECT**

Most High and glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of our hearts  
and give us a true faith, a certain hope  
and a perfect love.  
Give us a sense of the divine  
and knowledge of yourself,  
so that we may do everything  
in fulfilment of your holy will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from *The Life of Saint Francis* by Thomas of Celano.**

One day the gospel was being read in the Portiuncula church about how the Lord sent out his disciples to preach. The holy man of God, who was attending there, in order to understand better the words of the gospel, humbly begged the priest after celebrating the solemnities of the Mass to explain the gospel to him. The priest explained it all to him thoroughly line by line. When he heard that Christ's disciples should not *possess gold or silver or money, or carry on their journey a wallet or a sack, nor bread nor a staff, nor to have shoes nor two tunics*, but that they should preach *the kingdom of God and penance*, the holy man, Francis, immediately *exulted in the spirit of God*. 'This is what I want,' he said, 'this is what I seek, this is what I desire with all my heart. The holy father, *overflowing with joy*, hastened to implement the words of salvation, and did not delay before he devoutly began to put into effect what he heard.

IC 22

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town. 'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

*Matthew 10.5-16*

### **This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

#### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
because you called your servant Francis  
to embrace a life of poverty, chastity and obedience  
for the sake of the gospel.  
From age to age you call others  
to follow the same path  
of desire for your reign in their hearts.

#### **POST COMMUNION**

All-powerful God,  
may we who are strengthened by the power  
of this sacrament,  
learn from the example of our brother Francis  
to live in this world as your new creation,  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

16 April **Commemoration of the Taking of Vows  
by Francis**

*Lesser Festival, White*

*This event can be dated, as Bernard's distribution of all his worldly goods took place eight days before Giles joined the brothers on St George's Day in 1208. The centrality of the gospel is emphasized and the Order is founded with the first three brothers: Francis, Bernard of Quintavalle and Peter. On this date many Franciscans throughout the world formally renew their commitment to the Franciscan way of life.*

**COLLECT**

Creator God  
rekindle in us your gifts of grace;  
renew our Franciscan life,  
and bring to completion  
all that your calling has begun in us  
through following the teaching and footprints  
of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**A Reading from *The Life of Saint Francis* by Thomas of Celano**

When blessed Francis saw that the Lord God was daily increasing their numbers, he wrote for himself and his brothers present and future, simply and in few words, a form of life and a rule. He used primarily words of the holy gospel, longing only for its perfection. He inserted a few other things necessary for the practice of a holy way of life. Then he went to Rome with all his brothers, since he greatly desired that the Lord Pope Innocent the Third confirm for him what he had written....

When [the Pope] recognised the wish of the men of God, he first considered the matter and then gave his assent to their request. Exhorting and then warning them about many things, he blessed Saint Francis and his brothers and said to them, 'Go with the Lord, brothers, and as the Lord will see fit to inspire you, preach penance to all.'

*1C 32,33*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R You will show me the path of life;  
[in your presence is the fullness of joy].**

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;  
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
all my good depends on you.'  
The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;  
in your hands alone is my fortune. **R**

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.  
I have set the Lord always before me;  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall. **R**

Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;  
my flesh also shall rest secure.  
You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. **R**

*Psalm 16.1,4,6-8,10*

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians**

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 3.7-14*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.**

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;  
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
all my good depends on you.'  
The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;  
in your hands alone is my fortune. **R**

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.  
I have set the Lord always before me;  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall. **R**

Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;  
my flesh also shall rest secure.  
You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. **R**

*Psalm 16.1,4,6-8,10*

## A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

*Galatians 6.14-18*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'

15 May

**Pachomius, Abbot, Founder of Monasticism**  
*Lesser Festival, Members of Religious Communities*  
White

*Pachomius is said to have been born about 292 in Upper Egypt, of pagan parents, and to have been a conscript in the imperial army. Upon discharge, he was converted and baptized. He became a disciple of a hermit and then, in about the year 320, founded a monastery at Tabennisi near the Nile and subsequently he established several others. He wrote the first cenobitical Rule, thus departing from the then common type of eremitical monasticism. He used his military experience to organise his growing number of followers and, by the time of his death in 346, he was ruling as abbot-general over nine monasteries for men and two for women. He is honoured, therefore, as the founder of community monasticism.*

## COLLECT

Everliving God,  
who called your servant Pachomius  
to live the evangelical counsels  
dedicated to the common life:  
grant to all Christians living in community  
the spirit of forgiveness, acceptance and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A Reading from the Book of Proverbs.

My child, if you accept my words  
and treasure up my commandments within you,  
making your ear attentive to wisdom  
and inclining your heart to understanding;  
if you indeed cry out for insight,  
and raise your voice for understanding;  
if you seek it like silver,  
and search for it as for hidden treasures—  
then you will understand the fear of the Lord  
and find the knowledge of God.  
For the Lord gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. *Proverbs 2.1-6*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R Incline your heart to understanding Wisdom,  
[and so find the knowledge of God].**

You only are my portion, O Lord;  
I have promised to keep your words.  
I entreat you with all my heart,  
be merciful to me according to your promise. **R**

I have considered my ways  
and turned my feet back to your testimonies.  
At midnight I will rise to give you thanks,  
because of your righteous judgements. **R**

I am a companion of all those who fear you,  
those who keep your commandments.  
The earth, O Lord, is full of your faithful love;  
instruct me in your statutes. **R** *Psalm 119.57-59,62-64*

## A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.  
*1 Corinthians 3.10-11*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

A certain ruler asked Jesus, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother." ' He replied, 'I have kept all these since my youth.' When Jesus heard this, he said to him, 'There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'  
*Luke 18.18-22*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'  
*Matthew 11.25-30*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

## PROPER PREFACE

And now we give you thanks  
because you called your servant Francis  
to embrace a life of poverty, chastity and obedience  
for the sake of the gospel.  
From age to age you call others  
to follow the same path  
of desire for your reign in their hearts.

## POST COMMUNION

Generous God,  
you have fed your people in this sacrament  
with the fruits of creation made holy by your Spirit:  
by your grace raise up among us faithful men and women  
to work for the increase of your kingdom  
by following the teaching and footprints  
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks for Pachomius  
and all who have consecrated their lives to Christ  
for the sake of the kingdom;  
for in them you show us your saving love  
and call us back to holiness.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Pachomius  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you has been  
renewed in this sacrament  
to forsake all that holds us back from following Christ  
and to grow in his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R Arise, O God, and judge the earth,  
[for you shall take all nations for your possession].**

God has taken his stand in the council of heaven;  
in the midst of the gods he gives judgement:  
'How long will you judge unjustly  
and show such favour to the wicked? **R**

'You were to judge the weak and the orphan;  
defend the right of the humble and needy;  
'Rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked. **R**

*Psalm 82.1-4*

### **A Reading from the Letter of James.**

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. *James 2.14-17*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

Jesus said, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."  
*Matthew 25.31-40*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
that your glory is revealed in Margaret and all the saints.  
In their lives you have given us an example of faithfulness to Christ.  
In their holiness we find encouragement and hope.  
In our communion with them we share the unity of your kingdom.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Margaret  
that she served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

16 May

**Margaret of Cortona**, Penitent, Franciscan  
Tertiary

*Lesser Festival, Any Saint; Holy Men and Women*  
*White*

*Born in Tuscany, the daughter of a farmer, Margaret suffered as a child from an unsympathetic step-mother. She became the mistress of a knight for nine years and bore him a son. When the knight was murdered, and after her rejection by her father, she turned to the Franciscans for help. She began to live a life of extreme penitence and was later admitted to the Third Order (her son becoming a First Order friar). She devoted herself to nursing the sick and the poor, first in her own home and later in a community she founded in Cortona. She died at the age of fifty on this day in 1297.*

### **COLLECT**

God of mercy,  
give us grace that we may truly repent of our sins  
following the example of your servant, Margaret of Cortona;  
and that, by a living faith,  
we may obtain full forgiveness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the Book of Tobit.**

Bless God and acknowledge him in the presence of all the living for the good things he has done for you. Bless and sing praise to his name. With fitting honour declare to all people the deeds of God. Do not be slow to acknowledge him. It is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to acknowledge and reveal the works of God, and with fitting honour to acknowledge him. Do good, and evil will not overtake you. Prayer with fasting is good, but better than both is almsgiving with righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than wealth with wrongdoing. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold. For almsgiving saves from death and purges away every sin. Those who give alms will enjoy a full life.

*Tobit 12.6b-9*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

20 May **Bernardine of Siena**, Franciscan Friar  
*Lesser Festival, Members of Religious Communities*  
White

*Bernadine has been described as one of the most original personalities and one of the greatest preachers of the Italian Renaissance. He was born in the year 1380 and studied at Siena, becoming a Franciscan friar at the age of twenty two. After some years in solitude, he began preaching in 1418. His success was prodigious and crowds came to hear him preach for hours at a time –miracles were attributed to the Holy Name of Jesus, a devotion to which he promoted and nurtured. Banners bearing the symbol of the Latinized-Greek text of the first three letters of the name of Jesus (IHS) surrounded by the flames of the sun, became widespread and the object of popular devotion. In 1438, Bernardine became Minister General of the Observant Franciscans, whose numbers increased dramatically. He returned to preaching in the last two years of his life, and died 'on the road' on this day in 1444.*

**COLLECT**

God of glory,  
who gave your servant Bernardine  
a most tender love of the Holy Name of Jesus:  
grant that we may always be alive  
with the spirit of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.**

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Isaiah 9.6-7*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

*John 14.12-17*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks for Bernardine  
and all who have consecrated their lives to Christ  
for the sake of the kingdom;  
for in them you show us your saving love  
and call us back to holiness.

**POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Bernardine  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

13 June

**Antony of Padua, Franciscan Friar**  
*Lesser Festival, Members of Religious Communities*  
White

*Born in Lisbon in the year 1195, Antony was a Canon Regular at Holy Cross Coimbra when, in 1220, the mortal remains of the first Franciscan friars to be martyred were brought back from Morocco to be buried in his church. Soon afterwards, Antony left his Order and journeyed to the General Chapter of the Friars Minor, being held in Assisi. As a Franciscan friar, Antony preached the gospel throughout Portugal and Italy; both as a theologian and as a preacher, he fought vigorously against heresy. Inspired by the love of God and of souls, his preaching had great conviction and, filled with biblical content as it was, it earned him (after his death) the title 'arca testamenti' – storehouse of the holy scriptures. As a friar, Antony lived for a while in France but chiefly in Italy, where he died in Padua on this day in the year 1231, aged just thirty-six years.*

**COLLECT**

Grant, O God,  
that as your servant Antony of Padua  
proclaimed your gospel both in word and deed,  
so may we bear witness  
to the eternal kingdom of your Son;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.**

Therefore I prayed, and understanding was given me;  
I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.  
I preferred her to sceptres and thrones,  
and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her.  
Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem,  
because all gold is but a little sand in her sight,  
and silver will be accounted as clay before her.  
I loved her more than health and beauty,  
and I chose to have her rather than light,  
because her radiance never ceases.  
All good things came to me along with her,  
and in her hands uncounted wealth.  
I rejoiced in them all, because wisdom leads them;  
but I did not know that she was their mother.  
I learned without guile and I impart without grudging;

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world.**

Your majesty above the heavens is praised  
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.  
You have founded a stronghold against your foes,  
that you might still the enemy and the avenger. **R**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,  
What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them;  
mere human beings, that you should seek them out? **R**

You have made them little lower than the angels  
and crown them with glory and honour.  
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands  
and put all things under their feet, **R**

All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,  
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea  
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea. **R** *Psalm 8*

**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is  
"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone."  
There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

*Acts 4.8-12*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

I do not hide her wealth,  
for it is an unfailing treasure for mortals;  
those who get it obtain friendship with God,  
commended for the gifts that come from instruction.

*Wisdom 7.7-14*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R Do not fear for I have redeemed you;  
[I have called you by name, you are mine].**

His foundation is on the holy mountains.  
The Lord loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the dwellings of Jacob. **R**

Glorious things are spoken of you,  
Zion, city of our God.  
And of Zion it shall be said, 'Each one was born in her,  
and the Most High himself has established her.' **R**

The Lord will record as he writes up the peoples,  
'This one also was born there.'  
And as they dance they shall sing,  
'All my fresh springs are in you.' **R**

*Psalm 87.1-2,4-6*

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.**

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.  
The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

*Ephesians 4.7,11-15*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

15 July

**Bonaventure, Franciscan Friar, Bishop,  
Teacher**

*Lesser Festival, Members of Religious Communities*

*White*

*Born at Bagnoreggio in Italy in about the year 1218, Bonaventure became a Franciscan friar in 1243 and his intellectual ability was soon recognised by his Order and by the Church. At the age of thirty-six he was elected Minister General of the Franciscans and virtually re-founded the Order, giving it stability in training and administration previously unknown. He upheld all the teachings of Francis except in the founder's attitude to study, since Francis felt the Order should possess no books. He clearly saw, with Francis, that the role of the friars was to support the Church through its contemporary structures rather than to be an instrument for reform. He also believed that the best conversions came from the good example of those anxious to renew the Church, rather than by haranguing or passing laws. He was appointed a cardinal-bishop against his will, and kept the papal messengers waiting while he finished the washing up. He brought about a temporary reunion of the churches in the east and the west but, before it was repudiated, he died on this day at Lyons in the year 1274.*

### **COLLECT**

God our Father  
we thank you for the blessings given to your Church  
through the holiness and wisdom  
of your servant Bonaventure:  
grant that we may follow him  
in the way that leads to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.**

I loved her and sought her from my youth;  
I desired to take her for my bride,  
and became enamoured of her beauty.  
She glorifies her noble birth by living with God,  
and the Lord of all loves her.  
For she is an initiate in the knowledge of God,  
and an associate in his works.  
If riches are a desirable possession in life,  
what is richer than wisdom, the active cause of all things?

And if understanding is effective,  
who more than she is fashioner of what exists?  
And if anyone loves righteousness,  
her labours are virtues;  
for she teaches self-control and prudence,  
justice and courage;  
nothing in life is more profitable for mortals than these.  
When I enter my house, I shall find rest with her;  
for companionship with her has no bitterness,  
and life with her has no pain, but gladness and joy.  
When I considered these things inwardly,  
and pondered in my heart  
that in kinship with wisdom there is immortality,  
and in friendship with her, pure delight,  
and in the labours of her hands, unfailing wealth,  
and in the experience of her company, understanding,  
and renown in sharing her words,  
I went about seeking how to get her for myself. *Wisdom 8.2-7,16-18*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart, O God,  
[I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation].**

Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.  
How great your designs for us!  
There is none that can be compared with you. **R**

If I were to proclaim them and tell of them  
they would be more than I am able to express.  
Sacrifice and offering you do not desire  
but my ears you have opened; **R**

I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation;  
behold, I did not restrain my lips,  
and that, O Lord, you know.  
Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;  
O Lord, make haste to help me. **R** *Psalm 40.5-7,10,14*

#### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.**

Jesus said to the eleven, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.'

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

*Mark 16.15-20*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

#### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks for Antony  
and all who have consecrated their lives to Christ  
for the sake of the kingdom;  
for in them you show us your saving love  
and call us back to holiness.

#### **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Antony  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.**

I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him'—  
these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

'For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?'

But we have the mind of Christ.

*1 Corinthians 2.2-16*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

*Matthew 5.13-16*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

2 August

## **St Mary of the Angels**

*Lesser Festival, The Blessed Virgin Mary, White*

*It was in the spring of 1211 that Francis and his friars left their first home at Rivo Torto. More numerous than in the past, they now had need of a more permanent shelter and especially a little chapel. Francis saw it as a gift from God when the Benedictines of Monte Subasio granted them, in perpetuity, the use of 'the little portion', or Portiuncula, a mile or so from the city of Assisi. An early life of Francis tells us that 'in olden days, there had been built in this little portion a church in honour of the Virgin Mother, who by her unique humility was worthy to become the highest of all the saints after her Son. In this place, the Order of Friars Minor began and here, as on a firm foundation, arose their noble structure in its vast array'. The origin of the dedication to St Mary of the Angels as such is obscure. However, Mary received the good news of Christ's coming by the message of an angel and then she was the first to share that message with humanity. So Mary is the chief patron of Franciscans.*

## **COLLECT**

Loving God,  
by the message of an angel  
Mary received your word  
and by her willing obedience  
brought forth him who is the world's redemption:  
may we, like her, share the good news of his coming  
and with the angels and archangels  
give praise and glory to you for ever:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **A Reading from the Book Ecclesiasticus.**

Wisdom praises herself,  
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
and covered the earth like a mist.

I dwelt in the highest heavens,  
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.

'Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,  
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.

He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance."

Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.  
In the holy tent I ministered before him,  
and so I was established in Zion.  
Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting-place,  
and in Jerusalem was my domain.  
I took root in an honoured people,  
in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.  
'Come to me, you who desire me,  
and eat your fill of my fruits.  
For the memory of me is sweeter than honey,  
and the possession of me sweeter than the honeycomb.  
Those who eat of me will hunger for more,  
and those who drink of me will thirst for more.  
Whoever obeys me will not be put to shame,  
and those who work with me will not sin.'

*Ecclesiasticus 24.1,3-4,8-12,19-22*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R God shall give his angels charge over you  
[to keep you in all your ways].**

Alleluia.

Blessèd are those who fear the Lord  
and have great delight in his commandments.  
Their descendants will be mighty in the land,  
a generation of the faithful that will be blest. **R**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous  
For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance. **R**

They will not be afraid of any evil tidings;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.  
Their heart is sustained and will not fear. **R**

They have given freely to the poor;  
their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
their head will be exalted with honour. **R**

*Psalm 112.1-2,4,6-8a,9*

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks for Bonaventure  
and all who have consecrated their lives to Christ  
for the sake of the kingdom;  
for in them you show us your saving love  
and call us back to holiness.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Bonaventure  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

*Romans 8.28-30*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

*Luke 1.26-38*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
because in choosing the blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son  
you have exalted the humble and meek,  
your angel hailed her as most highly favoured;  
with all generations we call her blessed  
and with her we rejoice and magnify your holy name.

## **4 August John Vianney, Curé d'Ars, Franciscan Tertiary**

*Lesser Festival, Bishops and Other Pastors, White*

*Jean-Baptist Marie Vianney was born in Dardilly near Lyons in 1786, the son of a farmer, and he spent much of his childhood working as a shepherd on his father's farm. He had little formal education but, at the age of twenty, he began studying for the priesthood which he found extremely difficult. Despite his poor academic performance, he was ordained in 1815, mainly because of his devotion and holiness. He served as assistant priest at Ecully and in 1818, was appointed curé, or parish priest, of the remote, unimportant village of Ars-en-Dombes. From this backwater, his fame was to spread world-wide. His skills in preaching and spiritual counsel earned him a reputation as a discerning and wise priest. His visiting penitents soon numbered three hundred a day. He would preach at eleven o'clock each morning and then spend up to sixteen hours in the confessional. A Franciscan tertiary who reflected the spirituality of Francis, his compassion and understanding of human weakness often brought him to tears. His love of God and his people ensured that he remained in Ars the rest of his life, despite a call to the religious life and many offers of promotion in the Church. He died on this day in the year 1859.*

### **COLLECT**

God of love  
who filled your servant John Vianney  
with zeal as a priest, pastor and confessor:  
help us, by your grace,  
to win all our brothers and sisters for Christ  
and to share with them in eternal glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **A Reading from the Book Deuteronomy.**

So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being.

*Deuteronomy 10.12-13*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
[slow to anger and of great kindness].**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits; **R**

Who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your infirmities;  
Who redeems your life from the Pit  
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion; **R**

Who satisfies you with good things,  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.  
The Lord executes righteousness  
and judgement for all who are oppressed. **R**

He will not always accuse us,  
neither will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **R**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him. **R**

*Psalm 103.1-6,9-11,13*

## **A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.**

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

*1 Peter 4.7-11*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## **POST COMMUNION**

God, Most High,  
whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh:  
we thank you that in this sacrament of redemption  
you visit us with your Holy Spirit  
and overshadow us with your power;  
strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience  
and so to bring forth the fruit of holiness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

*Matthew 16.24-28*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
for the work of your grace in the life of John Vianney.  
As a shepherd of your flock he imitated your Son,  
inspired us by his life  
and taught us by his preaching.

**POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant John Vianney  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow in his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul.**

On God alone my soul in stillness waits;  
from him comes my salvation.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken. **R**

In God is my strength and my glory;  
God is my strong rock; in him is my refuge.  
Put your trust in him always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge. **R**

God spoke once, and twice have I heard the same,  
that power belongs to God.  
Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. **R**

*Psalm 62.1-2,7-8,11-12*

**A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.**

For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. *2 Corinthians 4.6-10*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.'

*John 15.4-10*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
as we honour Saint Clare, humble servant of Christ,  
the tender plant of Saint Francis  
set in the garden of poverty.  
In joyful obedience  
she was faithful to her calling;  
devoted in prayer and aflame with your love,  
inspiring us to follow her in purity of heart.

**POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Clare  
that she served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back from following Christ  
and to grow in his likeness from glory to glory:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

11 August **Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Second Order,  
the Poor Clares,**

*Principal Feast, Gold or White*

*Born in 1193 in Assisi of a wealthy family, Clare caught the joy of a new vision of the gospel from Francis' preaching. Escaping from home, first to the Benedictines and then to a Béguine-style group, she chose a contemplative way of life when she founded her own community, which lived in corporate poverty understood as dependence on God, with a fresh, democratic lifestyle. Clare became the first woman to write a religious Rule for women, and in it showed great liberty of spirit in dealing with earlier prescriptions. During the long years after Francis' death, she supported his earlier companions in their desire to remain faithful to his vision, as she did. Some of her last words were: 'Blessèd be God, for having created me.'*

**COLLECT**

God of peace,  
who in the poverty of the blessed Clare  
gave us a clear light to shine in the darkness of this world:  
give us grace so to follow in her footsteps  
that we may, at the last, rejoice with her  
in your eternal glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the prophecy of Hosea.**

Therefore, I will now persuade her,  
and bring her into the wilderness,  
and speak tenderly to her.  
From there I will give her her vineyards,  
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.  
There she shall respond as in the days of her youth,  
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

And I will take you for my wife for ever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord.

*Hosea 2.14-15,19-20*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

14 August **Maximilian Kolbe**, Franciscan Friar, Martyr  
*Lesser Festival, Martyrs, Red*

*Maximilian Kolbe was born in Poland in 1894. His parents were Franciscan tertiaries. He joined the Conventual Friars in 1910 and after studying in Rome and ordination he taught in a seminary. He began the publication of a magazine for the propagation of his idea of a 'Militia of Mary Immaculate' and this soon gained a huge circulation. After a period in Japan he was recalled to be Guardian of a large friary in Niepokalanów in Poland. At the outbreak of the Second World War he dispersed the friars and turned the friary into a refugee camp for Poles and Jews. After the capture of his country by the Germans he was arrested and taken to Auschwitz in February 1941. He volunteered to take the place of a prisoner who had been randomly picked to die, after an escape, knowing that it would mean his own death. He supported others in the group in their dying and was himself put to death on this day in 1941.*

**COLLECT**

God of life and hope,  
we praise you that you can turn our weakness into your strength.  
As you called Maximilian Kolbe to give his life for a brother,  
and always to have faith in the final victory of the good,  
grant us the grace to bear witness to your love  
and to serve our brothers and sisters even to death,  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.**

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*John 15.12-17*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
that in the witness of your martyr Maximilian,  
who followed Christ even to death,  
you reveal your power made perfect in our human weakness.

**POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Maximilian  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow in his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

25 August **Louis Capet**, Christian Monarch, Patron of  
the Third Order  
*Festival, Any Saint; Holy Men and Women, White*

*Born in the year 1214 at Poissy in France, Louis became King Louis IX at the age of twelve. He had been religiously raised by his mother, Blanche of Castille. Throughout his life, he remained deeply devout and, as a king, his conduct was said to be that of a real saint. He was, said Bousset, 'the holiest and the most just king who ever wore the crown'. Louis devoted himself to the affairs of his kingdom and to those of Christendom, always with the concern of a peacemaker; kings and princes constantly sought his aid in settling disputes. He was humble, helpful to the sick and needy and nursed leprosy sufferers in person. Louis gave to all the example of a life overflowing with charity. It has long been believed that he was a member of the Franciscan Third Order, though there is no original evidence to support this. Following an illness, he made a vow to undertake a crusade for the deliverance of the 'Holy Places': the city of Jerusalem and the surrounding lands mainly now known as Israel, Palestine and Jordan. He was at first victorious but later fell captive into the hands of the Saracens. He was released and returned to France but, a few years later, he set out on a new crusade. An epidemic of typhus decimated his army in north Africa and Louis himself fell victim to the disease, dying on this day near Tunis in the year 1270.*

**COLLECT**

Sovereign God,  
who raised your servant Louis  
from the cares of earthly rule  
to the glory of your heavenly Kingdom:  
grant, we pray, that with him  
we may have fellowship with the King of kings,  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.**

Wisdom rescued from troubles those who served her.  
When a righteous man fled from his brother's wrath,  
she guided him on straight paths;  
she showed him the kingdom of God,  
and gave him knowledge of holy things;  
she prospered him in his labours,  
and increased the fruit of his toil.  
When his oppressors were covetous,  
she stood by him and made him rich.

I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

*Isaiah 43.1-7*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R Precious in the sight of the Lord  
Is the death of his faithful ones.**

I believed that I should perish  
for I was sorely troubled;  
and I said in my alarm, 'Everyone is a liar.' **R**

How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the benefits he has given to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the name of the Lord. **R**

O Lord, I am your servant,  
your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.  
I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord. **R**

*Psalms 116.9-11, 14-15*

**A Reading from the First Letter of John.**

Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

*1 John 3.13-18*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

She protected him from his enemies,  
and kept him safe from those who lay in wait for him;  
in his arduous contest she gave him the victory,  
so that he might learn that godliness is more powerful than anything else.  
When a righteous man was sold, wisdom did not desert him,  
but delivered him from sin.  
She descended with him into the dungeon,  
and when he was in prison she did not leave him,  
until she brought him the sceptre of a kingdom  
and authority over his masters.  
Those who accused him she showed to be false,  
and she gave him everlasting honour.

*Wisdom 10.9-14*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R O Lord save the king  
and answer us when we call.**

May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble,  
the name of the God of Jacob defend you;  
Send you help from his sanctuary  
and strengthen you out of Zion; **R**

Now I know that the Lord will save his anointed;  
he will answer him from his holy heaven,  
with the mighty strength of his right hand. **R**

Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we will call only on the name of the Lord our God.  
They are brought down and fallen,  
but we are risen and stand upright. **R**

*Psalm 20.1-2,6-8*

### **A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy.**

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness,  
faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take  
hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made  
the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of  
God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony  
before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the  
commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time - he who is the  
blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Louis  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow in his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 10 September **Agnellus of Pisa and the Coming of the Friars Minor to England**

*Lesser Festival, [Principal Feast at Canterbury]  
Members of Religious Communities, White*

*Agnellus was born in Pisa in northern Italy and was received into the Friars Minor in 1211, probably by St Francis himself. In 1224, Francis sent him and eight other friars (English, French and Italian) to England and they arrived in Dover on 10 September, 1224. They walked to Canterbury and soon established the first friary on an island in the River Stour, the present Greyfriars. Agnellus was the first Minister Provincial in this country and founded friaries from Canterbury in London and Oxford – the ecclesiastical, political and economic, and intellectual centres of England. At Oxford he established a school for the friars which rapidly grew into a major centre for theology and it was there that he died on 7 May, 1236, aged 41 years.*

### **COLLECT**

Maker of all,  
you helped blessed Agnellus  
and the first Franciscans who came to this land  
to reflect the image of Christ,  
through a life of poverty and humility.  
By walking in their footsteps  
and imitating their joyful love,  
may we follow faithfully the pattern of your Son  
Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the Song of Solomon.**

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is strong as death,  
passion fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame.  
Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.  
If one offered for love  
all the wealth of one's house,  
it would be utterly scorned.

*Song of Solomon 8.6-7*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

*1 Timothy 6.11-16*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.''

*Matthew 25.31-40*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
for the hope to which you call us in your Son,  
that following in the faith of all your saints,  
we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us,  
and with them receive the unfading crown of glory.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### R The law of their God is in their heart.

The little that the righteous have  
is better than great riches of the wicked.  
For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,  
but the Lord upholds the righteous. **R**

The Lord knows the days of the godly,  
and their inheritance shall stand for ever.  
They shall not be put to shame in the perilous time,  
and in days of famine they shall have enough. **R**

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,  
and their tongue speaks the thing that is right.  
The law of their God is in their heart  
and their footsteps shall not slide. **R**

The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;  
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.  
The Lord shall stand by them and deliver them;  
he shall deliver them from the wicked and shall save them,  
because they have put their trust in him. **R**

*Psalm 37.16-19,31-32,40,41*

### A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul,  
and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything  
they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave  
their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was  
upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as  
owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was  
sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any  
had need.

*Acts 4.32-35*

### This is the word of the Lord.

### Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in  
the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and  
said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will  
never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this  
child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one  
such child in my name welcomes me.'

*Matthew 18.1-5*

### This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## 15 September St Mary at the Cross

*Lesser Festival, [Principal Feast at Glasshampton]*

*The Blessed Virgin Mary, White*

*The festival of Mary at the Cross records the event in the gospel of John, when Mary, the mother of Jesus, stands near the cross with other of his disciples. Jesus commends his mother to the care of 'the disciple Jesus loved', and he to her; and it is recorded that the disciple –believed by many to be the apostle John – took her to his home. The feast also recalls the words of Simeon to Mary at the time of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple when he was but forty days old, prophesying that Mary was destined to share the heartfelt passion in her Son's life.*

*Known as the feast of 'Our Lady of Sorrows' in the Roman Catholic Calendar this date was fixed by the Pope in 1913. As such it focusses on Mary's intense suffering during the passion and death of Jesus, her Son.*

### COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when you were raised upon the cross,  
your mother Mary stood beside you in your passion:  
may your Church, as it shares in your suffering and death,  
come to share more deeply in your risen life:  
for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
you are alive and reign, one God,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

### A Reading from the book Genesis

The Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He  
said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I  
was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked?  
Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The  
man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit  
from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is  
this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I  
ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent,  
'Because you have done this,

cursed are you among all animals  
and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.’  
The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all who live.  
*Genesis 3.9-15,20*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
[deliver me in your righteousness].**

Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.  
Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,  
for you are my rock and my stronghold;  
guide me, and lead me for your name’s sake. **R**

Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.  
I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy,  
for you have seen my affliction  
and known my soul in adversity. **R**

But my trust is in you, O Lord.  
I have said, ‘You are my God.  
‘My times are in your hand;  
‘Make your face to shine upon your servant,  
and save me for your mercy’s sake.’ **R**

How abundant is your goodness, O Lord,  
which you have laid up for those who fear you;  
which you have prepared in the sight of all  
for those who put their trust in you. **R**

*Psalms 31.2-3,5,7,14,16,19*

### **A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.**

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with  
loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and  
he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son,  
he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made  
perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.  
*Hebrews 5.7-9*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
for Agnellus and his companions;  
for their love of poverty and humility,  
and that in following the gospel of your Son  
they saw and served Christ  
in the poor and rejected,  
and so opened the gate of your kingdom.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Lord our God,  
may the sacrament we have received  
help us to grow in holiness,  
that, following the example of Agnellus and his companions,  
we may seek the true riches of this world  
and share them with all your children,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*John 19.25b-27*

### **This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

#### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
because he shared our life in human form  
from the warmth of Mary's womb  
to the stillness of the grave.

#### **POST COMMUNION**

God, Most High,  
whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh  
and who stood at the Cross of Christ,  
her Son and Saviour:  
we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption  
your love and compassion pierce our own hearts;  
strengthen us to stand with Mary at the Cross  
and then with her to follow the path of joyful obedience  
that leads to eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

*Exodus 24.12-18*

### **This is the word of the Lord.**

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

#### **R I will remember the works of the Lord.**

I cry aloud to God;  
I cry aloud to God and he will hear me.  
In the day of my trouble I have sought the Lord;  
by night my hand is stretched out and does not tire;  
my soul refuses comfort. **R**

I think upon God and I groan;  
I ponder, and my spirit faints.  
You will not let my eyelids close;  
I am so troubled that I cannot speak. **R**

Your way, O God, is holy;  
who is so great a god as our God?  
You are the God who worked wonders  
and declared your power among the peoples. **R**

The voice of your thunder was in the whirlwind;  
your lightnings lit up the ground;  
the earth trembled and shook. **R**

*Psalm 77.1-4,13-14,18*

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.**

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen. *Galatians 6.14-18*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

*Either:*

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

*Matthew 16.24-27*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

*or:*

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**

Jesus said to the disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

*Luke 9.23-26*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **17 September Stigmata of St Francis**

*Festival, White*

*On this day Franciscans commemorate an event in the life of St Francis when, in the year 1224, whilst on a prayer retreat on Mt Alverna in upper Umbria, Francis underwent a profound mystical experience, returning with the scars of Christ's Passion, or stigmata, imprinted on his body. It is believed that he received the stigmata on the Feast of the Holy Cross, 14 September. The 'Fioretti', 'The Major Legend of Saint Francis' by Saint Bonaventure and other writings give detailed descriptions of the event.*

### **COLLECT**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who when the world was growing cold,  
to the inflaming of our hearts by the fire of your love  
raised up blessed Francis  
bearing in his body the marks of your passion:  
mercifully grant to us, your people,  
true penitence and grace to bear the Cross for love of you;  
who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Either:*

### **A Reading from *The Major Legend of Saint Francis* by Bonaventure**

On a certain morning about the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, while Francis was praying on the mountainside, he saw a seraph having six wings, fiery as well as brilliant. . . . There appeared between the wings the likeness of a man crucified, with his hands and feet extended in the form of a cross and fastened to a cross. . . . Seeing this [Francis] was overwhelmed and his heart was flooded with a mixture of joy and sorrow. . . . Immediately the marks of nails began to appear in [Francis'] hands and feet. . . . Also his right side, as if pierced with a lance, was marked with a red wound from which his sacred blood often flowed.

*LMj 13:3*

*or:*

### **A Reading from the book of the Exodus**

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
because you raised up our brother Francis  
to burn as a shining light in your Church;  
that, inflamed with love for God and all creation  
and bearing in his body the marks of your Son's passion,  
he might bring to glory many sons and daughters.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Lord God,  
you made your Church rich  
through the poverty of blessed Francis:  
help us, like him, not to trust in earthly things  
but to seek your heavenly gifts;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R The Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting.**

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song. **R**

Know that the Lord is God;  
it is he that has made us and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. **R**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and bless his name. **R**

*Psalms 100.1-3*

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.**

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

*Galatians 6.14-18*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!

And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

Luke 12.22-34

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
because you raised up our holy father Francis  
to burn as a shining light in your Church;  
that, inflamed with love for you and all creation  
and bearing in his body the marks of your Son's passion,  
he might bring to glory many sons and daughters.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Lord God,  
you made your Church rich  
through the poverty of blessed Francis:  
help us, like him, not to trust in earthly things  
but to seek your heavenly gifts;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4 October **Francis of Assisi, Deacon, Founder of the First Order**

*Principal Feast, Gold or White*

*Francis was born in Assisi in central Italy either in 1181 or the following year. He was baptised Giovanni but given the name Francesco by his father, a cloth merchant who traded in France and had married a French wife. There was an expectation that he would eventually take over his father's business but Francis had a rebellious youth and a difficult relationship with his father. After suffering the ignominy of imprisonment following capture whilst at war with the local city of Perugia, he returned a changed man. He took to caring for disused churches and for the poor, particularly those suffering from leprosy. Whilst praying in the semi-derelict church of St Damian, he distinctly heard the words: Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down. Others joined him and he prepared a simple, gospel-based Rule for them all to live by. As the Order grew, it witnessed to Christ through proclaiming the gospel of repentance and emphasizing the poverty of Christ as an example for his followers. Two years before his death, his life being so closely linked with that of his crucified Saviour, he received the Stigmata, the marks of the wounds of Christ, on his body. By his death, on the evening of 3 October 1226, his Order had spread throughout western Christendom.*

### **COLLECT**

O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself  
to the childlike and lowly of heart:  
grant that, following the example of the blessed Francis,  
we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness  
and know only Jesus Christ and him crucified,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the prophecy of Micah.**

'With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

*Micah 6.6-8*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

22 October **Peter of Alcantara**, Franciscan Friar,  
Reformer  
*Lesser Festival, Members of Religious Communities*  
White

*Peter of Alcantara was a friar dedicated to the reform of the church. He joined the discalced (barefoot) Friars Minor in 1515 and was soon given positions of responsibility in the community, first as the guardian of a new house and then as Minister Provincial. He slept and ate little, but was tireless in preaching on parish missions. In 1554 he received permission to form a group of friars who would follow the Rule of St Francis with greater rigour, later known as the Alcantarines. For some years he offered spiritual direction to St Teresa of Jesus, encouraging her in the reform of the Carmelite Order.*

### **COLLECT**

God of peace,  
who gave blessed Peter of Alcantara  
great gifts of penitence and prayer:  
may we follow his example  
and casting aside all that is the enemy of the Spirit  
lay hold upon your heavenly treasure,  
which you give us  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the prophecy of Micah.**

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and bow myself before God on high?  
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with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

*Micah 6.6-8*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

*Luke 12.22-31*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks for Peter of Alcantara  
and all who have consecrated their lives to Christ  
for the sake of the kingdom;  
for in them you show us your saving love  
and call us back to holiness.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Peter  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

30 October **Dedication of all Franciscan Chapels**  
*Principal Feast, Gold or White*

*On this day, in solidarity with our Roman Catholic Franciscan brothers and sisters worldwide, we celebrate the dedication of our house chapels as places of prayer and worship. 'Our prayer as a local community unites us with the whole Body of Christ as we seek to express not only our own prayer but the prayer of the whole Church, conscious always of the promise and presence of Christ in us and among us.' (The Daily Office SSF)*

**COLLECT**

Almighty God,  
to whose glory we celebrate  
the dedication of this house of prayer:  
we praise you for the many blessings  
you have given to those who worship here;  
and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you,  
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,  
may become a living temple acceptable to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the First Book of Kings.**

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, 'O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me." Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. 'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R Lord, I entreat you with all my heart.**

You only are my portion, O Lord;  
I have promised to keep your words.  
I entreat you with all my heart,  
be merciful to me according to your promise. **R**

Though the cords of the wicked entangle me,  
I do not forget your law.  
At midnight I will rise to give you thanks,  
because of your righteous judgements. **R**

I am a companion of all those who fear you,  
those who keep your commandments.  
The earth, O Lord, is full of your faithful love;  
instruct me in your statutes. **R**

*Psalm 119.57-58,61-64*

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.**

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 3.7-14*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there", that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive. *1 Kings 8.22-30*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts.**

My soul has a desire and longing  
to enter the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. **R**

The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. **R**

Blessèd are they who dwell in your house:  
they will always be praising you.  
Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion. **R**

For one day in your courts  
is better than a thousand.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness. **R** *Psalms 84.1-4,9-10*

### **A Reading from the Revelation to John.**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;

## **18 November Elizabeth of Hungary, Franciscan Tertiary, Patron of the Third Order Festival, Any Saint; Holy Men and Women, White**

*Elizabeth was born in 1207, the daughter of a king of Hungary, and was given in marriage, at the age of fourteen years, to Louis IV, Landgrave of Thuringia, with whom she had three children. Elizabeth served the needs of the sick and the poor personally and was lavishly generous in almsgiving, activities which Louis allowed. On hearing about Francis of Assisi she recognised a kindred spirit and sent for friars for Thuringia, whom she endowed generously. Theirs was a happy marriage but her husband of six years died of the plague en route to a crusade to the Holy Land. Elizabeth was driven from the court and she settled in Marburg, where her confessor was Conrad of Marburg, whose domineering and almost sadistic ways exemplified one who had himself been a successful inquisitor of heretics. She suffered mental and physical abuse from him, in the name of religious austerity, but bore it all humbly. Elizabeth became a member of the Franciscan Third Order, which reflected her life of caring for the poor, even cooking and cleaning for them. Due to the severe regime under which she lived, her weakened body gave way under the pressure and she died on this day, just twenty-four years old, in the year 1231.*

### **COLLECT**

Merciful God,  
who taught Elizabeth of Hungary  
to recognize and reverence Christ in the poor of this world:  
by her example  
strengthen us to love and serve the afflicted and the needy  
and so to honour your Son, the servant king,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the book of Tobit.**

Bless God and acknowledge him in the presence of all the living for the good things he has done for you. Bless and sing praise to his name. With fitting honour declare to all people the deeds of God. Do not be slow to acknowledge him. It is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to acknowledge and reveal the works of God, and with fitting honour to acknowledge him. Do good, and evil will not overtake you. Prayer with fasting is good, but better than both is almsgiving with righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than wealth with wrongdoing. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold. For almsgiving saves from death and purges away every sin. Those who give alms will enjoy a full life.

*Tobit 12.6b-9*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R Arise, O God, and judge the earth,  
[take all nations for your possession].**

God has taken his stand in the council of heaven;  
in the midst of the gods he gives judgement:  
'How long will you judge unjustly  
and show such favour to the wicked? **R**

'You were to judge the weak and the orphan;  
defend the right of the humble and needy;  
'Rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked. **R**

'They have no knowledge or wisdom;  
they walk on still in darkness:  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken. **R**

Therefore I say that though you are gods  
and all of you children of the Most High,  
'Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals  
and fall like one of their princes.' **R**

*Psalm 82*

### **A Reading from the Letter of James.**

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

*James 2.14-17*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

Jesus said, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'

*Revelation 21.1-5*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'

*John 4.19-24*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
for your blessing on this house of prayer,  
where through your grace we offer you the sacrifice of praise  
and are built by your Spirit into a temple made without hands,  
even the body of your Son Jesus Christ.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Father in heaven,  
whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace,  
an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem:  
grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage  
that, fed with the living bread of heaven,  
and united in the body of your Son,  
we may be the temple of your presence,  
the place of your glory on earth,  
and a sign of your peace in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

*Matthew 25.31-40*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
that your glory is revealed in Elizabeth of Hungary and all the saints.  
In their lives you have given us an example of faithfulness to Christ.  
In their holiness we find encouragement and hope.  
In our communion with them we share the unity of your kingdom.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Faithful God,  
who called your servant Elizabeth to serve you  
and gave her joy in walking the path of holiness:  
by this eucharist  
in which you renew within us the vision of your glory,  
strengthen us all to follow the way of perfection  
until we come to see you face to face;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R Praised be you, my Lord, for our Sister Bodily Death,  
[from whom no one living can escape].**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full. **R**

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

*Psalm 23*

### **A Reading from the First Letter of John.**

See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. *1 John 3.1-2*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.' *John 6.37-40*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
In him who rose from the dead  
our hope of resurrection dawned.  
The sting of death has been removed  
by the glorious promise of his risen life.

### **POST COMMUNION**

God of love,  
may the death and resurrection of Christ  
which we have celebrated in this eucharist  
bring us, with all our departed brothers and sisters,  
into the peace of your eternal home.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our rock and our salvation,  
to whom be glory for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

### **24 November All Departed Franciscans**

*Lesser Festival, The Departed, Purple, Black or White*

*On this day we remember with thanksgiving all departed members of the many Franciscan communities either founded by Francis of Assisi or inspired by him. We remember particularly all departed members of the three Orders of the Society of Saint Francis.*

### **COLLECT**

Lord God, creator of all,  
you have made us creatures of this earth,  
but have also promised us a share in life eternal.  
According to your promises,  
may our Franciscan brothers and sisters,  
with all who have died in the peace of Christ,  
come with your saints to the joys of your kingdom,  
where there will be neither sorrow nor pain,  
but life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the book of Wisdom.**

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment will ever touch them.  
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,  
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,  
and their going from us to be their destruction;  
but they are at peace.  
For though in the sight of others they were punished,  
their hope is full of immortality.  
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,  
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;  
like gold in the furnace he tried them,  
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them.  
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,  
and will run like sparks through the stubble.  
They will govern nations and rule over peoples,  
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.  
Those who trust in him will understand truth,  
and the faithful will abide with him in love,  
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,  
and he watches over his elect.

*Wisdom 3.1-9*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## 29 November **All Franciscan Saints**

*Lesser Festival, Members of Religious Communities, White*

*There have been many saints who have followed the Franciscan way in one of the three Orders. Traditionally, they are all remembered together on the eve of St Andrew's day, at the end of the month which began with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. On this day we give thanks for the lives of many faithful followers of Francis, those known to many and those known to few. The Church also recognised this day as appropriate for intercession and thanksgiving for the missionary work of the Church. Francis, as a preacher and a witness to a new way of Christian life, gave a new impetus to the missionary work of the Church; the Franciscan Orders have, since their beginnings, been involved in that part of Christ's ministry. The life of prayer of all Franciscan communities, the prayer of living and departed members, is what still sustains the life in Christ of all who are walking with Francis on the way that leads to salvation through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all.*

### **COLLECT**

Everlasting God,  
you have adorned your Church  
with the splendours of the saintly followers  
of our holy brother Francis:  
grant that as we commemorate their holiness  
we may come at last with all the pure of heart  
to share the vision of your eternal glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the book Ecclesiasticus.**

Let us now sing the praises of the famous,  
our ancestors in their generations.  
Some of them have left behind a name,  
so that others declare their praise.  
But of others there is no memory  
they have perished as though they had never existed.  
But these also were godly,  
whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten;  
their wealth will remain with their descendants,  
and their inheritance with their children's children.  
Their descendants stand by the covenants;  
their children also, for their sake.

They cried out in a loud voice, saying,  
'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,  
'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honour  
and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

*Revelation 7.2-4,9-12*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

*Either:*

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Matthew 5.1-12*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

or:

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.**

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'

*Mark 10.17-21*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks for all Franciscan Saints and all who have consecrated their lives to Christ for the sake of the kingdom; for in them you show us your saving love and call us back to holiness.

**POST COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to all Franciscan Saints  
that they served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back  
from walking with our brother Francis  
on the Way that leads to Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Their offspring will continue for ever,  
and their glory will never be blotted out.  
Their bodies are buried in peace,  
but their name lives on generation after generation.  
The assembly declares their wisdom,  
and the congregation proclaims their praise.

*Ecclesiasticus 44.1,8-9a,10-15*

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R With my whole heart I seek you, O God.**

Blessèd are those whose way is pure,  
who walk in the law of the Lord.  
Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies  
and seek him with their whole heart, **R**

Those who do no wickedness,  
but walk in his ways.  
You, O Lord, have charged  
that we should diligently keep your commandments. **R**

O that my ways were made so direct  
that I might keep your statutes.  
Then should I not be put to shame,  
because I have regard for all your commandments. **R**

I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,  
when I have learned your righteous judgements.  
I will keep your statutes;  
O forsake me not utterly. **R**

*Psalms 119.1-8*

**A Reading from the Revelation of John.**

I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to damage earth and sea, saying, 'Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have marked the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads.'

And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the people of Israel: After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

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