

## WEEK OF THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH

### SUNDAY: Consecration

Hebrews 9:1-12 **The Earthly And The Heavenly Sanctuaries**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Even the first covenant had regulations for worship  
and an earthly sanctuary.

For a tent was constructed, the first one,  
in which were the lampstand, the table,  
and the bread of the Presence;  
this is called the Holy Place.

Behind the second curtain was a tent  
called the Holy of Holies.

In it stood the golden altar of incense  
and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold,  
in which there were a golden urn holding the manna,  
and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;  
above it were the cherubim of glory  
overshadowing the mercy seat.

Of these things we cannot speak now in detail.

Such preparations having been made,  
the priests go continually into the first tent  
to carry out their ritual duties;  
but only the high priest goes into the second,  
and he but once a year,

and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself  
and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people.  
By this the Holy Spirit indicates  
that the way into the sanctuary  
has not yet been disclosed  
as long as the first tent is still standing.  
This is a symbol of the present time,  
during which gifts and sacrifices are offered  
that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper,  
but deal only with food and drink and various baptisms,  
regulations for the body imposed  
until the time comes to set things right.  
But when Christ came as a high priest  
of the good things that have come,  
then through the greater and perfect tent  
(not made with hands, that is, not of this creation),  
he entered once for all into the Holy Place,  
not with the blood of goats and calves,  
but with his own blood,  
thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Praise be to God always!

## **MONDAY: Consecration**

Hebrews 10:11-18 **Christ's Sacrifice Once for All**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Praise be to God always!

## **TUESDAY: Consecration**

Hebrews 10:19-25 **A Call to Persevere**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Praise be to God always!

## WEDNESDAY: Consecration

Hebrews 10:26-31 **A Call to Persevere**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If we willfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has violated the law of Moses dies without mercy “on the testimony of two or three witnesses.” How much worse punishment do you think will be deserved by those who have spurned the Son of God, profaned the blood of the covenant by which they were sanctified, and outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know the one who said, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Praise be to God always!

## THURSDAY: Consecration

Hebrews 10:32-39 **A Call to Persevere**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

But recall those earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting. Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet “in a very little while, the one who is coming will come and will not delay; but my righteous one will live by faith. My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back.” But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved.

Praise be to God always!

## FRIDAY: Consecration

Romans 5:12-16 **Results of Justification**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.

Praise be to God always!

## SATURDAY: Consecration

Romans 5:17-21 **Adam and Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Praise be to God always!



## SUNDAY: Renewal of the Church

Hebrews 9:11-15 **Sacrifice of Jesus**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

When Christ came as a high priest  
of the good things that have come,  
then through the greater and perfect tent  
(not made with hands,  
that is, not of this creation),  
he entered once for all into the Holy Place,  
not with the blood of goats and calves,  
but with his own blood,  
thus obtaining eternal redemption.  
For if the blood of goats and bulls,  
with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer,  
sanctifies those who have been defiled  
so that their flesh is purified,  
how much more will the blood of Christ,  
who through the eternal Spirit  
offered himself without blemish to God,  
purify our conscience from dead works  
to worship the living God!  
For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant,  
so that those who are called  
may receive the promised eternal inheritance,  
because a death has occurred

that redeems them  
from the transgressions under the first covenant.

Praise be to God always!

## MONDAY: Renewal of the Church

Hebrews 8:1-6 **Heavenly Priesthood of Jesus**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

The main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one; for Moses, when he was about to erect the tent, was warned, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted through better promises.

Praise be to God always!

## TUESDAY: Renewal of the Church

Hebrews 8:7-13 **Old and New Covenants**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one. God finds fault with them when he says: “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors, on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in my covenant, and so I had no concern for them, says the Lord. This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach one another or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” In speaking of “a new covenant,” he has made the first one obsolete. And what is obsolete and growing old will soon disappear.

Praise be to God always!

## WEDNESDAY: Renewal of the Church

Hebrews 9:15-23 **Sacrifice of Jesus**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant. Where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. Hence not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment had been told to all the people by Moses in accordance with the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the scroll itself and all the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you.” And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was necessary for the sketches of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves need better sacrifices than these.

Praise be to God always!

## THURSDAY: Renewal of the Church

Hebrews 9:24-28 **Sacrifice of Jesus**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Praise be to God always!

## FRIDAY: Renewal of the Church

Hebrews 10:1-10 **One Sacrifice instead of Many**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered year after year, make perfect those who approach. Otherwise, would they not have ceased being offered, since the worshipers, cleansed once for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sin? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin year after year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Praise be to God always!

## **SATURDAY: Renewal of the Church**

Hebrews 3:1-6 **Jesus, Superior to Moses**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also “was faithful in all God’s house.” Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. Christ, however, was faithful over God’s house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope.

Praise be to God always!



# SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH

## WEEK OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH

### SUNDAY: Zechariah

Romans 4:13-25 **God's Promise Realized through Faith**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

The promise that he would inherit the world  
did not come to Abraham  
or to his descendants through the law  
but through the righteousness of faith.

If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs,  
faith is null and the promise is void.

For the law brings wrath;  
but where there is no law,  
neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith,  
in order that the promise may rest on grace  
and be guaranteed to all his descendants,  
not only to the adherents of the law  
but also to those who share the faith of Abraham  
(for he is the father of all of us,  
as it is written,

“I have made you the father of many nations”)  
— in the presence of the God in whom he believed,

who gives life to the dead  
and calls into existence the things that do not exist.  
Hoping against hope,  
he believed that he would become  
“the father of many nations,”  
according to what was said,  
“So numerous shall your descendants be.”  
He did not weaken in faith  
when he considered his own body,  
which was already as good as dead  
(for he was about a hundred years old),  
or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.  
No distrust made him waver  
concerning the promise of God,  
but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,  
being fully convinced that God was able to do  
what he had promised.  
Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”  
Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,”  
were written not for his sake alone,  
but for ours also.  
It will be reckoned to us  
who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,  
who was handed over to death for our trespasses  
and was raised for our justification.

Praise be to God always!

## MONDAY: Zechariah

Romans 4:1-12 **The Example of Abraham**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin.” Is this blessedness, then, pronounced only on the circumcised, or also on the uncircumcised? We say, “Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness.” How then was it reckoned to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the ancestor of all who believe without being circumcised and who thus have righteousness reckoned to them, and likewise the ancestor of the circumcised who are not only circumcised but who also follow the example of the faith that our ancestor Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Praise be to God always!

## TUESDAY: Zechariah

### Romans 2:1-8 **The Righteous Judgment of God**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. You say, “We know that God’s judgment on those who do such things is in accordance with truth.” Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. For he will repay according to each one’s deeds: to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the truth but wickedness, there will be wrath and fury.

Praise be to God always!

## WEDNESDAY: Zechariah

Romans 2:9-16 **The Righteous Judgment of God**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

There will be anguish and distress for everyone who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous in God's sight, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles, who do not possess the law, do instinctively what the law requires, these, though not having the law, are a law to themselves. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, to which their own conscience also bears witness; and their conflicting thoughts will accuse or perhaps excuse them on the day when, according to my gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

Praise be to God always!

## THURSDAY: Zechariah

Romans 2:17-29 **The Jews and the Law**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast of your relation to God and know his will and determine what is best because you are instructed in the law, and if you are sure that you are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth, you, then, that teach others, will you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You that forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? You that abhor idols, do you rob temples? You that boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? For , as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” Circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law; but if you break the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. So, if those who are uncircumcised keep the requirements of the law, will not their uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then those who are physically uncircumcised but keep the law will condemn you that have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical. Rather, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart — it is spiritual and not literal. Such a person receives praise not from others but from God.

Praise be to God always!

## FRIDAY: Zechariah

Romans 3:1-12 **The Jews and the Law**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

What advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much, in every way. For in the first place the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Will their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Although everyone is a liar, let God be proved true, as it is written, “So that you may be justified in your words, and prevail in your judging.” But if our injustice serves to confirm the justice of God, what should we say? That God is unjust to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my falsehood God’s truthfulness abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not say (as some people slander us by saying that we say), “Let us do evil so that good may come”? Their condemnation is deserved! What then? Are we any better off? No, not at all; for we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under the power of sin, as it is written: “There is no one who is righteous, not even one; there is no one who has understanding, there is no one who seeks God. All have turned aside, together they have become worthless; there is no one who shows kindness, there is not even one.”

Praise be to God always!

## SATURDAY: Zechariah

Romans 3:21-31 **Righteousness through Faith**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Praise be to God always!



## WEEK OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN

### SUNDAY: Announcement to the Virgin

Galatians 3:15-22 **The Promise to Abraham**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I give an example from daily life:

once a person's will has been ratified,  
no one adds to it or annuls it.

Now the promises were made to Abraham  
and to his offspring;

it does not say, "And to offsprings," as of many;  
but it says, "And to your offspring,"  
that is, to one person, who is Christ.

My point is this:

the law, which came four hundred thirty years later,  
does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God,  
so as to nullify the promise.

For if the inheritance comes from the law,  
it no longer comes from the promise;  
but God granted it to Abraham through the promise.

Why then the law?

It was added because of transgressions,  
until the offspring would come  
to whom the promise had been made;  
and it was ordained through angels by a mediator.

Now a mediator involves more than one party;  
but God is one.

Is the law then opposed to the promises of God?

Certainly not!

For if a law had been given that could make alive,  
then righteousness would indeed come through the law.

But the scripture has imprisoned all things  
under the power of sin,

so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ  
might be given to those who believe.

Praise be to God always!

## **MONDAY: Announcement to the Virgin**

Galatians 3:1-6 **Law or Faith**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing? — if it really was for nothing. Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Praise be to God always!

## TUESDAY: Announcement to the Virgin

Galatians 3:7-14 **Law or Faith**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

So, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed. For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, “Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” — in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Praise be to God always!

## **WEDNESDAY: Announcement to the Virgin**

Galatians 3:23-29 **The Purpose of the Law**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Praise be to God always!

## THURSDAY: Announcement to the Virgin

Galatians 4:1-7 **No Longer a Slave**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Praise be to God always!

## **FRIDAY: Announcement to the Virgin**

Galatians 4:8-12 **Paul Reproves the Galatians**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again? You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted. Friends, I beg you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong.

Praise be to God always!

## **SATURDAY: Announcement to the Virgin**

Galatians 4:13-20 **Paul Reproves the Galatians**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the gospel to you; though my condition put you to the test, you did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. What has become of the goodwill you felt? For I testify that, had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Praise be to God always!



## WEEK OF THE VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN TO ELIZABETH

### SUNDAY: Visitation

Ephesians 1:1-14 **Salutation / Spiritual Blessings in Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
to the saints who are in Ephesus  
and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,  
just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world  
to be holy and blameless before him in love.

He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ,  
according to the good pleasure of his will,  
to the praise of his glorious grace  
that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,  
the forgiveness of our trespasses,  
according to the riches of his grace  
that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight  
he has made known to us the mystery of his will,  
according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,

as a plan for the fullness of time,  
to gather up all things in him,  
things in heaven and things on earth.  
In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,  
having been destined  
according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things  
according to his counsel and will,  
so that we,  
who were the first to set our hope on Christ,  
might live for the praise of his glory.  
In him you also,  
when you had heard the word of truth,  
the gospel of your salvation,  
and had believed in him,  
were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;  
this is the pledge of our inheritance  
toward redemption as God's own people,  
to the praise of his glory.

Praise be to God always!

## MONDAY: Visitation

Ephesians 1:15-23 **Paul's Prayer**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Praise be to God always!

## TUESDAY: Visitation

Ephesians 2:1-10 **From Death to Life**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Praise be to God always!

## WEDNESDAY: Visitation

Ephesians 2:11-16 **One in Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” — a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands — remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

Praise be to God always!

## THURSDAY: Visitation

Ephesians 2:17-22 **One in Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Jesus came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Praise be to God always!

## FRIDAY: Visitation

Ephesians 3:14-21 **Prayer for the Readers**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

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. 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. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Praise be to God always!

## **SATURDAY: Visitation**

Ephesians 4:1-7 **Unity in the Body of Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Praise be to God always!



## WEEK OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

### SUNDAY: Birth of John

Galatians 4:21-5:1 **The Allegory of Hagar and Sarah**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Tell me,

you who desire to be subject to the law,  
will you not listen to the law?

For it is written that Abraham had two sons,  
one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman.

One, the child of the slave,  
was born according to the flesh;

the other, the child of the free woman,  
was born through the promise.

Now this is an allegory:

these women are two covenants.

One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai,  
bearing children for slavery.

Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia  
and corresponds to the present Jerusalem,  
for she is in slavery with her children.

But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above;  
she is free,

and she is our mother.

For it is written,

“Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children,  
burst into song and shout,

you who endure no birth pangs;  
for the children of the desolate woman  
are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.”

Now you, my friends,  
are children of the promise, like Isaac.

But just as at that time  
the child who was born according to the flesh  
persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit,  
so it is now also.

But what does the scripture say?

“Drive out the slave and her child;  
for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance  
with the child of the free woman.”

So then, friends, we are children,  
not of the slave but of the free woman.

For freedom Christ has set us free.

Stand firm, therefore,  
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Praise be to God always!

## MONDAY: Birth of John

Romans 9:1-5 **God's Election of Israel**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I am speaking the truth in Christ — I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit — I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Praise be to God always!

## TUESDAY: Birth of John

Romans 9:6-13 **God's Election of Israel**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

It is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all Israelites truly belong to Israel, and not all of Abraham's children are his true descendants; but "It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you." This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as descendants. For this is what the promise said, "About this time I will return and Sarah shall have a son." Nor is that all; something similar happened to Rebecca when she had conceived children by one husband, our ancestor Isaac. Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might continue, not by works but by his call) she was told, "The elder shall serve the younger." As it is written, "I have loved Jacob, but I have hated Esau."

Praise be to God always!

## WEDNESDAY: Birth of John

Romans 9:14-18 **God's Election of Israel**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

What then are we to say? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy. For the scripture says to Pharaoh, "I have raised you up for the very purpose of showing my power in you, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he chooses, and he hardens the heart of whomever he chooses.

Praise be to God always!

## THURSDAY: Birth of John

Romans 9:19-29 **God's Free Choice/  
Witness of the Prophets**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You will say to me then, “Why then does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will what is molded say to the one who molds it, “Why have you made me like this?” Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction; and what if he has done so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory — including us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? As indeed he says in Hosea, “Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’” “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they shall be called children of the living God.” And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “Though the number of the children of Israel were like the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved; for the Lord will execute his sentence on the earth quickly and decisively.” And as Isaiah predicted, “If the Lord of hosts had not left survivors to us, we would have fared like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah.”

Praise be to God always!

## FRIDAY: Birth of John

Romans 9:30-33 **Israel's Unbelief**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

What then are we to say? Gentiles, who did not strive for righteousness, have attained it, that is, righteousness through faith; but Israel, who did strive for the righteousness that is based on the law, did not succeed in fulfilling that law. Why not? Because they did not strive for it on the basis of faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, "See, I am laying in Zion a stone that will make people stumble, a rock that will make them fall, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Praise be to God always!

## SATURDAY: Birth of John

Romans 10:1-13 **Righteousness Based on Faith**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I can testify that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Praise be to God always!



## WEEK OF THE REVELATION TO JOSEPH

### SUNDAY: Revelation to Joseph

Ephesians 3:1-13 **Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

This is the reason that I Paul  
am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles  
— for surely you have already heard of  
the commission of God's grace  
that was given me for you,  
and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation,  
as I wrote above in a few words,  
a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding  
of the mystery of Christ.

In former generations this mystery  
was not made known to humankind,  
as it has now been revealed to his  
holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:  
that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs,  
members of the same body,  
and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.  
Of this gospel I have become a servant  
according to the gift of God's grace  
that was given me by the working of his power.  
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.  
I pray therefore that you may not lose heart  
over my sufferings for you;  
they are your glory.

Praise be to God always!

## MONDAY: Revelation to Joseph

Romans 10:14-21 **Salvation Is for All**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.” Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.” Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, “I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.” But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”

Praise be to God always!

## TUESDAY: Revelation to Joseph

Romans 11:1-12 **Israel's Rejection Is Not Final**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life.” But what is the divine reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace. What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, as it is written, “God gave them a sluggish spirit, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.” And David says, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and keep their backs forever bent.” So I ask, have they stumbled so as to fall? By no means! But through their stumbling salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their stumbling means riches for the world, and if their defeat means riches for Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

Praise be to God always!

## WEDNESDAY: Revelation to Joseph

Romans 11:13-24 **The Salvation of the Gentiles**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead! If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; and if the root is holy, then the branches also are holy. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree, do not boast over the branches. If you do boast, remember that it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you. You will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand only through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will not spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness toward you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. And even those of Israel, if they do not persist in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you have been cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree.

Praise be to God always!

## THURSDAY: Revelation to Joseph

Romans 11:25-36 **All Israel Will Be Saved**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

So that you may not claim to be wiser than you are, I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, “Out of Zion will come the Deliverer; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.” “And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.” As regards the gospel they are enemies of God for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved, for the sake of their ancestors; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all. O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

Praise be to God always!

## FRIDAY: Revelation to Joseph

Romans 12:1-8 **The New Life in Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I appeal to you therefore, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Praise be to God always!

## SATURDAY: Revelation to Joseph

Romans 12:9-21 **Marks of the True Christian**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Praise be to God always!



## WEEK OF THE GENEALOGY

### SUNDAY: Genealogy

Romans 1:1-12 **Salutation / Prayer of Thanksgiving**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,  
called to be an apostle,  
set apart for the gospel of God,  
which he promised beforehand through his prophets  
in the holy scriptures,  
the gospel concerning his Son,  
who was descended from David according to the flesh  
and was declared to be Son of God with power  
according to the spirit of holiness  
by resurrection from the dead,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
through whom we have received grace and apostleship  
to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles  
for the sake of his name,  
including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,  
To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you,  
because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.  
For God, whom I serve with my spirit

by announcing the gospel of his Son,  
is my witness that without ceasing  
I remember you always in my prayers,  
asking that by God's will  
I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you.  
For I am longing to see you  
so that I may share with you  
some spiritual gift to strengthen you —  
or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged  
by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Praise be to God always!

## MONDAY: Genealogy

Hebrews 11:1-6 **The Meaning of Faith**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Praise be to God always!

## TUESDAY: Genealogy

Hebrews 11:7-10 **The Examples of Abel, Enoch, and Noah**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Praise be to God always!

## WEDNESDAY: Genealogy

Hebrews 11:11-16 **The Faith of Abraham**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Praise be to God always!

## THURSDAY: Genealogy

Hebrews 11:17-22 **The Faith of Abraham**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.” He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead — and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, “bowing in worship over the top of his staff.” By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial.

Praise be to God always!

## FRIDAY: Genealogy

Hebrews 11:23-31 **The Faith of Moses**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

Praise be to God always!

## SATURDAY: Genealogy

Hebrews 11:32-40 **The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

What more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Praise be to God always!



## BIRTH OF THE LORD TO EPIPHANY

### FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH

Hebrews 1:1-12 **God Has Spoken by His Son**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.

**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Long ago

God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways  
by the prophets,

but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,  
whom he appointed heir of all things,  
through whom he also created the worlds.

He is the reflection of God's glory  
and the exact imprint of God's very being,  
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

When he had made purification for sins,  
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,  
having become as much superior to angels  
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world,  
he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,

and his servants flames of fire.”

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God,

has anointed you with the oil of gladness  
beyond your companions.”

And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;

like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will never end.”

Praise be to God always!

## DECEMBER 26TH: PRAISES TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

### Ephesians 1:3-14 **The Father's Plan of Salvation**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Praise be to God always!

## DECEMBER 27TH: MARTYRDOM OF STEPHEN

### 2Corinthians 11:1-9 **Preaching without Charge**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by its cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you submit to it readily enough. I think that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. I may be untrained in speech, but not in knowledge; certainly in every way and in all things we have made this evident to you. Did I commit a sin by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I proclaimed God's good news to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for my needs were supplied by the friends who came from Macedonia. So I refrained and will continue to refrain from burdening you in any way.

Praise be to God always!

## DECEMBER 28TH: VISIT OF THE MAGI

Revelation 21:9-10, 21-27 **The New Jerusalem**

A Reading from the Book of Revelation. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. And the twelve gates are twelve pearls, each of the gates is a single pearl, and the street of the city is pure gold, transparent as glass. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day — and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Praise be to God always!

## DECEMBER 29TH: FLIGHT INTO EGYPT / HOLY INNOCENTS

Hebrews 11:23-31 **Faith of the Ancients**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

Praise be to God always!

## DECEMBER 30TH: RETURN FROM EGYPT TO NAZARETH

Acts 7:2, 30-37 **Stephen's Discourses**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Stephen replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. “Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush. When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight; and as he approached to look, there came the voice of the Lord: ‘I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’ Moses began to tremble and did not dare to look. Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I have surely seen the mistreatment of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them. Come now, I will send you to Egypt.’ “It was this Moses whom they rejected when they said, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’ and whom God now sent as both ruler and liberator through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. He led them out, having performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the wilderness for forty years. This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up a prophet for you from your own people as he raised me up.’”

Praise be to God always!

## DECEMBER 31ST: THE WORD BECAME FLESH

### Colossians 1:9b-20 **Prayer for Continued Progress**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Praise be to God always!



## SUNDAY: FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

Hebrews 7:11-19 **Melchizedek, a Type of Christ**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If perfection had been attainable through the levitical priesthood — for the people received the law under this priesthood —

what further need would there have been

to speak of another priest

arising according to the order of Melchizedek, rather than one according to the order of Aaron?

For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

Now the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe,

from which no one has ever served at the altar.

For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe

Moses said nothing about priests.

It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek,

one who has become a priest,

not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent, but through the power of an indestructible life.

For it is attested of him,

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

There is, on the one hand,

the abrogation of an earlier commandment  
because it was weak and ineffectual  
(for the law made nothing perfect);  
there is, on the other hand,  
the introduction of a better hope,  
through which we approach God.

Praise be to God always!

## JANUARY 1ST: THE CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

Ephesians 2:11-22 **One in Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth,  
called “the uncircumcision”

by those who are called “the circumcision”

— a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—

remember that you were at that time without Christ,

being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,

and strangers to the covenants of promise,

having no hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus

you who once were far off

have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace;

in his flesh he has made both groups into one

and has broken down the dividing wall,

that is, the hostility between us.

He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances,

that he might create in himself

one new humanity in place of the two,

thus making peace,

and might reconcile both groups

to God in one body through the cross,

thus putting to death that hostility through it.

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off  
and peace to those who were near;  
for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.  
So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,  
but you are citizens with the saints  
and also members of the household of God,  
built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.  
In him the whole structure is joined together  
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;  
in whom you also are built together spiritually  
into a dwelling place for God.

Praise be to God always!

## JANUARY 2ND: WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Hebrews 7:1-10 **Melchizedek, a Type of Christ**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

This “King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him”; and to him Abraham apportioned “one-tenth of everything.” His name, in the first place, means “king of righteousness”; next he is also king of Salem, that is, “king of peace.” Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. See how great he is! Even Abraham the patriarch gave him a tenth of the spoils. And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their kindred, though these also are descended from Abraham. But this man, who does not belong to their ancestry, collected tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had received the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. In the one case, tithes are received by those who are mortal; in the other, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

Praise be to God always!

## JANUARY 3RD: PRESENTATION—SIMEON

Hebrews 7:20-28 **Melchizedek, a Type of Christ**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

This was confirmed with an oath; for others who became priests took their office without an oath, but this one became a priest with an oath, because of the one who said to him, “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever’” — accordingly Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant. Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Praise be to God always!

## JANUARY 4TH: PRESENTATION—PROPHETESS ANNA

### Hebrews 6:9-12 **Exhortation to Spiritual Renewal**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.  
**Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Even though we speak in this way, beloved, we are confident of better things in your case, things that belong to salvation. For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. And we want each one of you to show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end, so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Praise be to God always!

## JANUARY 5TH

### Romans 5:1-11 Faith, Hope, and Love

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

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

Praise be to God always!



THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 6TH

Titus 2:11-3:7 Transformation of Life

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus. Father, give your blessing.  
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

The grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all,  
training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,  
and in the present age  
to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
while we wait for the blessed hope  
and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior,  
Jesus Christ.

He it is who gave himself for us  
that he might redeem us from all iniquity  
and purify for himself  
a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Declare these things;  
exhort and reprove with all authority.

Let no one look down on you.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities,  
to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,  
to speak evil of no one,  
to avoid quarreling, to be gentle,  
and to show every courtesy to everyone.

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray,  
slaves to various passions and pleasures,

passing our days in malice and envy, despicable,  
hating one another.

But when the goodness  
and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,  
he saved us,  
not because of any works of righteousness that we had done,  
but according to his mercy,  
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.  
This Spirit he poured out on us richly  
through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
so that, having been justified by his grace,  
we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Praise be to God always!

## JANUARY 7TH: PRAISES TO JOHN THE BAPTIST

Colossians 1:24-29 **Christ in Us**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Praise be to God always!