

II. FOR THE CONFERRAL OF HOLY ORDERS

770 READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

FIRST OPTION

(For Deacons)

Summon the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest, as his assistants.

A reading from the Book of Numbers

3:5–9

The LORD said to Moses:

“Summon the tribe of Levi

and present them to Aaron the priest, as his assistants.

They shall discharge his obligations

and those of the whole community

before the meeting tent by serving at the Dwelling.

They shall have custody of all the furnishings of the meeting tent

and discharge the duties of the children of Israel

in the service of the Dwelling.

You shall give the Levites to Aaron and his sons;

they have been set aside from among the children of Israel

as dedicated to me.”

The word of the Lord.

SECOND OPTION

(For Priests)

I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and I will bestow it on them.

A reading from the Book of Numbers

11:11b–12, 14–17, 24–25

Moses asked the LORD:

“Why are you so displeased with me

that you burden me with all this people?

Was it I who conceived all this people?

Or was it I who gave them birth,

that you tell me to carry them at my bosom,

like a foster father carrying an infant,

to the land you have promised under oath to their fathers?

I cannot carry all this people by myself,

for they are too heavy for me.

If this is the way you will deal with me,
then please do me the favor of killing me at once,
so that I need no longer face this distress.”

Then the LORD said to Moses,
“Assemble for me seventy of the elders of Israel,
men you know for true elders and authorities among the people,
and bring them to the meeting tent.

When they are in place beside you,
I will come down and speak with you there.
I will also take some of the Spirit that is on you
and will bestow it on them,
that they may share the burden of the people with you.
You will then not have to bear it by yourself.”

So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said.
Gathering seventy elders of the people,
he had them stand around the tent.
The LORD then came down in the cloud and spoke to him.
Taking some of the Spirit that was on Moses,
he bestowed it on the seventy elders,
and as the Spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied.

The word of the Lord.

THIRD OPTION

(For Bishops and Priests)

*The LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings
to the lowly and to give them the oil of gladness.*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

61:1–3abcd

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly,
to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God,
to comfort all who mourn;
To place on those who mourn in Zion
a diadem instead of ashes,

To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.

The word of the Lord.

FOURTH OPTION

To whomever I send you, you shall go.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

1:4–9

The word of the LORD came to me thus:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

“Ah, Lord GOD!” I said,
“I know not how to speak; I am too young.”

But the LORD answered me,

Say not, “I am too young.”
To whomever I send you, you shall go;
whatever I command you, you shall speak.
Have no fear before them,
because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying,
See, I place my words in your mouth!

The word of the Lord.

771 READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. (For Deacons) *Select from among you seven reputable men.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

6:1–7b

As the number of disciples continued to grow,
the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews
because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.
So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said,
“It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.

Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men,
filled with the Spirit and wisdom,
whom we shall appoint to this task,
whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer
and to the ministry of the word.”

The proposal was acceptable to the whole community,
so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit,
also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas,
and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

They presented these men to the Apostles
who prayed and laid hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread,
and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly.

The word of the Lord.

2. (For Deacons)

Beginning with this Scripture passage, Philip proclaimed Jesus to him.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

8:26–40

The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip,
“Get up and head south on the road
that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert route.”

So he got up and set out.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch,
a court official of the Candace,
that is, the queen of the Ethiopians,
in charge of her entire treasury,
who had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning home.

Seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit said to Philip,
“Go and join up with that chariot.”

Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said,
“Do you understand what you are reading?”

He replied,
“How can I, unless someone instructs me?”

So he invited Philip to get in and sit with him.

This was the Scripture passage he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.*

*Who will tell of his posterity?
For his life is taken from the earth.*

Then the eunuch said to Philip in reply,
 “I beg you, about whom is the prophet saying this?
About himself, or about someone else?”
Then Philip opened his mouth and, beginning with this Scripture passage,
 he proclaimed Jesus to him.
As they traveled along the road
 they came to some water,
 and the eunuch said, “Look, there is water.
What is to prevent my being baptized?”
Then he ordered the chariot to stop,
 and Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water,
 and he baptized him.
When they came out of the water,
 the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away,
 and the eunuch saw him no more,
 but continued on his way rejoicing.
Philip came to Azotus,
 and went about proclaiming the good news
 to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

3.

We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10: 37–43

Peter proceeded to speak and said:
“You know what has happened all over Judea,
 beginning in Galilee after the baptism
 that John preached,
 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
 with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good
 and healing all those oppressed by the Devil,
 for God was with him.
We are witnesses of all that he did
 both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.
This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,
 not to all the people, but to us,

the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
He commissioned us to preach to the people
and testify that he is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.
To him all the prophets bear witness,
that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

4. (For Bishops and Priests)

*Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock
of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers,
in which you tend the Church of God.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

20:17–18a, 28–32, 36

From Miletus Paul had the presbyters
of the Church at Ephesus summoned.
When they came to him, he addressed them,

“Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock
of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers,
in which you tend the Church of God
that he acquired with his own Blood.
I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you,
and they will not spare the flock.
And from your own group,
men will come forward perverting the truth
to draw the disciples away after them.
So be vigilant and remember that for in three years, night and day,
I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears.
And now I commend you to God
and to that gracious word of his that can build you up
and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated.”

When Paul had finished speaking
he knelt down and prayed with them all.

The word of the Lord.

5.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

12:4–8

Brothers and sisters:

As in one body we have many parts,
and all the parts do not have the same function,
so we, though many, are one Body in Christ
and individually parts of one another.

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,
let us exercise them:
if prophecy, in proportion to the faith;
if ministry, in ministering;
if one is a teacher, in teaching;
if one exhorts, in exhortation;
if one contributes, in generosity;
if one is over others, with diligence;
if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

6.

*For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord,
and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus.*

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

4:1–2, 5–7

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have this ministry through the mercy shown us,
we are not discouraged.

Rather, we have renounced shameful, hidden things;
not acting deceitfully or falsifying the word of God,
but by the open declaration of the truth
we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord,
and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus.

For God who said, *Let light shine out of darkness*,
has shone in our hearts to bring to light
the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.

But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.

The word of the Lord.

7.

He has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

5:14–20

Brothers and sisters:

The love of Christ impels us,
once we have come to the conviction that one died for all;
therefore, all have died.

He indeed died for all,
so that those who live might no longer live for themselves
but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh;
even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh,
yet now we know him so no longer.

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.

And all this is from God,
who has reconciled us to himself through Christ
and given us the ministry of reconciliation,
namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
not counting their trespasses against them
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors for Christ,
as if God were appealing through us.

We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

The word of the Lord.

8.

In the work of ministry, in building up the Body of Christ.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

4:1–7, 11–13

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,

with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace:
one Body and one Spirit,
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each of us
according to the measure of Christ's gift.

And he gave some as Apostles, others as prophets,
others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers,
to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry,
for building up the Body of Christ,
until we all attain to the unity of faith
and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood.
to the extent of the full stature of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

9. (For Deacons)

Holding fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

3:8–10, 12–13

Deacons must be dignified, not deceitful,
not addicted to drink, not greedy for sordid gain,
holding fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

Moreover, they should be tested first;
then, if there is nothing against them,
let them serve as deacons.

Deacons may be married only once
and must manage their children and their households well.

Thus those who serve well as deacons gain good standing
and much confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

10. (For Priests)

*Do not neglect the gift you have,
which was conferred on you with the imposition of hands by the presbyterate.*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

4:12–16

Beloved:

Let no one have contempt for your youth,
but set an example for those who believe,
in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

Until I arrive, attend to the reading, exhortation, and teaching.

Do not neglect the gift you have,
which was conferred on you through the prophetic word
with the imposition of hands by the presbyterate.

Be diligent in these matters, be absorbed in them,
so that your progress may be evident to everyone.

Attend to yourself and to your teaching;
persevere in both tasks,
for by doing so you will save
both yourself and those who listen to you.

The word of the Lord.

OR:

(For Bishops)

*Do not neglect the gift you have,
which was conferred on you with the imposition of hands by the presbyterate.*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

4:12b–16

Beloved:

Set an example for those who believe,
in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

Until I arrive, attend to the reading, exhortation, and teaching.

Do not neglect the gift you have,
which was conferred on you through the prophetic word
with the imposition of hands by the presbyterate.

Be diligent in these matters, be absorbed in them,
so that your progress may be evident to everyone.

Attend to yourself and to your teaching;
persevere in both tasks,
for by doing so you will save
both yourself and those who listen to you.

The word of the Lord.

11. (For Bishops)

To stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the laying on of hands.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

1:6–14

Beloved:

I remind you to stir into flame
the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.
For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice
but rather of power and love and self-control.
So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord,
nor of me, a prisoner for his sake;
but bear your share of hardship for the Gospel
with the strength that comes from God.

He saved us and called us to a holy life,
not according to our works
but according to his own design
and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began,
but now made manifest
through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus,
who destroyed death and brought life and immortality
to light through the Gospel,
for which I was appointed preacher and Apostle and teacher.
On this account I am suffering these things;
but I am not ashamed,
for I know him in whom I have believed
and am confident that he is able to guard
what has been entrusted to me until that day.
Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit
that dwells within us.

The word of the Lord.

12.

Christ was acclaimed by God as high priest, in the line of Melchizedek.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

5:1–10

Every high priest is taken from among men
and made their representative before God,
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring,
for he himself is beset by weakness
and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself
as well as for the people.
No one takes this honor upon himself
but only when called by God,
just as Aaron was.
In the same way,
it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest,
but rather the one who said to him:

*You are my son:
this day I have begotten you;*

just as he says in another place:

*You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek.*

In the days when he was in the flesh,
he offered 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 reverence.
Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered;
and when he was made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,
declared by God high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

13.

As good stewards of God's varied grace.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

4:7b–11

Beloved:
Be serious and sober-minded
so that you will be able to pray.
Above all, let your love for one another be intense,
because love covers a multitude of sins.
Be hospitable to one another without complaining.
As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another

as good stewards of God=s varied grace.
Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God;
whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies,
so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,
to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

14.

Tend the flock of God in your midst.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

5:1–4

Beloved:

I exhort the presbyters among you,
as a fellow presbyter and witness to the sufferings of Christ
and one who has a share in the glory to be revealed.

Tend the flock of God in your midst,
overseeing it not by constraint but willingly,
as God would have it,
not for shameful profit but eagerly.

Do not lord it over those assigned to you,
but be examples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd is revealed,
you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

The word of the Lord.

772 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

1.

23:1–3, 4, 5, 6

℟ (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

℟ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths
for his name=s sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

℞ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

℞ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

℞ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2.

84:3–4, 5, 11

℞ (5a) Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

My soul yearns and pines
for the courts of the LORD.
My heart and my flesh
cry out for the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest
in which she puts her young—
Your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my king and my God!

℞ Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Blessed they who dwell in your house!
continually they praise you.

℞ Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

I had rather one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;

I had rather lie at the threshold of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

℟ Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

3.

89:21–22, 25 and 27

℟ (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

“I have found David, my servant;
with my holy oil I have anointed him,
That my hand may be always with him,
and that my arm may make him strong.”

℟ For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

“My faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him,
and through my name shall his horn be exalted.
He shall say of me, ‘You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my savior.’”

℟ For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

4.

96:1–2a, 2b–3, 10

℟ (see Matthew 28:19) Go out to the world and teach all nations, alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

℟ Go out to the world and teach all nations, alleluia.

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

℟ Go out to the world and teach all nations, alleluia.

Say among the nations: The LORD is king.
He has made the world firm, not to be moved;
he governs the peoples with equity.

℞ Go out to the world and teach all nations, alleluia.

5. 100:1b–2, 3, 4, 5

℞ (John 15:14) You are my friends, says the Lord, if you do what I command you.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
serve the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful song.

℞ You are my friends, says the Lord, if you do what I command you.

Know that the LORD is God;
he made us, his we are;
his people, the flock he tends.

℞ You are my friends, says the Lord, if you do what I command you.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

℞ You are my friends, says the Lord, if you do what I command you.

For he is good:
the LORD, whose kindness endures forever,
and his faithfulness, to all generations.

℞ You are my friends, says the Lord, if you do what I command you.

6. 110:1, 2, 3, 4

℞ Christ the Lord, a priest for ever in the line of Melchizedek, offered bread and wine.

or:

℞ (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The LORD said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand
till I make your enemies your footstool.”

℞ Christ the Lord, a priest for ever in the line of Melchizedek, offered bread and wine.

or:

℞ (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The scepter of your power the LORD will stretch forth from Zion:

“Rule in the midst of your enemies.”

℞ Christ the Lord, a priest for ever in the line of Melchizedek, offered bread and wine.

or:

℞ (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

“Yours is princely power in the day of your birth, in holy splendor;
before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you.”

℞ Christ the Lord, a priest for ever in the line of Melchizedek, offered bread and wine.

or:

℞ (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The LORD has sworn, and he will not repent:

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

℞ Christ the Lord, a priest for ever in the line of Melchizedek, offered bread and wine.

or:

℞ (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

7.

116:12–13, 17–18

℞ (see 1 Corinthians 10:16) Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

or:

℞ Alleluia.

How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good has done for me?

The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

℟̕ (see 1 Corinthians 10:16) Our blessing–cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

or:

℟̕ Alleluia.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.
My vows to the LORD I will pay
in the presence of all his people.

℟̕ (see 1 Corinthians 10:16) Our blessing–cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

or:

℟̕ Alleluia.

8.

117:1, 2

℟̕ (Mark 16:15) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

or:

℟̕ Alleluia.

Praise the LORD, all you nations,
glorify him, all you peoples!

℟̕ (Mark 16:15) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

or:

℟̕ Alleluia.

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.

℟̕ (Mark 16:15) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

or:

℟̕ Alleluia.

773 ALLELUIA VERSE AND VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

1. Matthew 28:19a, 20b

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

2. **Luke 4:18**

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor
and to proclaim liberty to captives.

3. **John 10:14**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

4. **John 15:15b**

I call you my friends, says the Lord,
for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me.

774 **GOSPEL**

1.

You are the light of the world.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:13–16

Jesus said to his disciples:
“You are the salt of the earth.
But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?
It is no longer good for anything
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;
it is set on a lampstand,
where it gives light to all in the house.
Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

2.

Ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

9:35–38

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages,
teaching in their synagogues,
proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom,
and curing every disease and illness.
At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them
because they were troubled and abandoned,
like sheep without a shepherd.
Then he said to his disciples,
“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;
so ask the master of the harvest
to send out laborers for his harvest.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

3.

Jesus chose twelve Apostles and sent them out.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

10:1–5a

Jesus summoned his Twelve disciples
and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out
and to cure every disease and every illness.
The names of the Twelve Apostles are these:
first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew;
James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John;
Philip and Bartholomew,
Thomas and Matthew the tax collector;
James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus;
Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot
who betrayed him.

Jesus sent out these Twelve after instructing them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

4.

Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

20:25b–28

Jesus summoned his disciples and said to them:
“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,
and the great ones make their authority over them felt.
But it shall not be so among you.
Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.
Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served
but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

5.

The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

10:1–9

The Lord Jesus appointed seventy–two other disciples
whom he sent ahead of him in pairs
to every town and place he intended to visit.
He said to them,
“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;
so ask the master of the harvest
to send out laborers for his harvest.
Go on your way;
behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves.
Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals;
and greet no one along the way.
Into whatever house you enter,
first say, ‘Peace to this household.’
If a peaceful person lives there,
your peace will rest on him;
but if not, it will return to you.
Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you,
for the laborer deserves payment.
Do not move about from one house to another.
Whatever town you enter and they welcome you,
eat what is set before you,
cure the sick in it and say to them,
‘The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

6.

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake on his arrival.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

12:35–44

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Gird your loins and light your lamps
and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding,
ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those servants
whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.

Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,
have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.

And should he come in the second or third watch
and find them prepared in this way,
blessed are those servants.

Be sure of this:

if the master of the house had known the hour
when the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.”

Then Peter said,

“Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?”

And the Lord replied,

“Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward
whom the master will put in charge of his servants
to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?

Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so.

Truly, I say to you, he will put the servant
in charge of all his property.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

7.

Do this in memory of me. I am among you as the one who serves.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

22:14–20, 24–30

When the hour came,

Jesus took his place at table with the Apostles.
He said to them,
 “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer,
 for, I tell you, I shall not eat it again
 until there is fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.”
Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said,
 ‘Take this and share it among yourselves;
 for I tell you that from this time on
 I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine
 until the Kingdom of God comes.’
Then he took the bread, said the blessing,
 broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
 “‘This is my Body, which will be given for you;
 do this in memory of me.’”
And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,
 “‘This cup is the new covenant in my Blood,
 which will be shed for you.’”

Then an argument broke out among them
 about which of them should be regarded as the greatest.

He said to them,
 “‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them
 and those in authority over them are addressed as ‘Benefactors’;
 but among you it shall not be so.

Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest,
 and the leader as the servant.

For who is greater:
 the one seated at table or the one who serves?

Is it not the one seated at table?

I am among you as the one who serves.

It is you who have stood by me in my trials;
 and I confer a kingdom on you,
 just as my Father has conferred one on me,
 that you may eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom;
 and you will sit on thrones
 judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

8.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

10:11–16

Jesus said:

“I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

A hired man, who is not a shepherd

and whose sheep are not his own,

sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,

and the wolf catches and scatters them.

This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd,

and I know mine and mine know me,

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;

and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.

These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,

and there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

9.

Whoever serves me must follow me.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

12:24–26

Jesus answered Andrew and Philip, saying:

“Amen, amen, I say to you,

unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,

it remains just a grain of wheat;

but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it,

and whoever hates his life in this world

will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,

and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

10.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

15:9–17

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments
and remain in his love.

As I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love 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 no longer call you slaves,
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

This I command you: love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

11.

*I consecrate myself for them,
so that they also may be consecrated in truth.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

17:6, 14–19

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, saying:

“Holy Father, I revealed your name
to those whom you gave me out of the world.

They belonged to you and you gave them to me,
and they have kept your word.

I gave them your word, and the world hated them,
because they do not belong to the world
any more than I belong to the world.

I do not ask that you take them out of the world
but that you keep them from the Evil One.

They do not belong to the world
any more than I belong to the world.

Consecrate them in the truth.

Your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world,
so I sent them into the world.
And I consecrate myself for them,
so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

12.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

20:19–23

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

13.

Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

21:15–17

After Jesus had revealed himself to his disciples
and eaten breakfast with them, he said to Simon Peter,
“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”
Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”
Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”
He then said to Simon Peter a second time,
“Simon, son of John, do you love me?”
Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”
He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

He said to him the third time,
 “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”
Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time,
 “Do you love me?” and he said to him,
 “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”
Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

III. FOR THE ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY FOR THE DIACONATE AND THE PRIESTHOOD

775 READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

FIRST OPTION

*Choose wise, intelligent, and experienced men from each of your tribes,
that I may appoint them as your leaders.*

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

1:9–14

Moses summoned all of Israel and said to them:
“Alone, I am unable to carry you.
The LORD, your God, has so multiplied you
 that you are now as numerous as the stars in the sky.
May the LORD, the God of your fathers,
 increase you a thousand times over,
 and bless you as he promised!
But how can I alone bear the crushing burden that you are,
 along with your bickering?
Choose wise, intelligent, and experienced men from each of your tribes,
 that I may appoint them as your leaders.”
They answered, “We agree to do as you have proposed.”

The word of the Lord.

SECOND OPTION

He will give his heart early to the LORD, his maker.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

39:1b, 5–8

The one who studies the law of God
 explores the wisdom of the men of old
 and occupies himself with the prophecies.
He travels among the peoples of foreign lands

to learn what is good and evil among men.

He will give his heart early to the LORD, his Maker,
to petition the Most High,
to open his lips in prayer,
to ask pardon for his sins.
Then, if it pleases the LORD Almighty,
he will be filled with the spirit of understanding.

The word of the Lord.

THIRD OPTION

Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

6:1–2a, 3–8

In the year King Uzziah died,
I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne,
with the train of his garment filling the temple.
Seraphim were stationed above.

They cried one to the other,
“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!
All the earth is filled with his glory!”
At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook
and the house was filled with smoke.
Then I said, “Woe is me, I am doomed!
For I am a man of unclean lips,
living among a people of unclean lips;
yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”
Then one of the seraphim flew to me,
holding an ember which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

He touched my mouth with it,
“See,” he said, “now that this has touched your lips,
your wickedness is removed, your sin purged.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”
“Here I am,” I said; “send me!”

The word of the Lord.

FOURTH OPTION

To whomever I send you, you shall go.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

1:4–9

The word of the LORD came to me thus:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

“Ah, Lord GOD!” I said,
“I know not how to speak; I am too young.”

But the LORD answered me,

Say not, “I am too young.”
To whomever I send you, you shall go;
whatever I command you, you shall speak.
Have no fear before them,
because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying,
See, I place my words in your mouth!

The word of the Lord.

776 READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

FIRST OPTION

They appointed presbyters for them in each Church.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

14:21–23

Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and to Iconium
and to Antioch.

They strengthened the spirits of the disciples
and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying,
“It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships
to enter the Kingdom of God.”

They appointed presbyters for them in each Church and,
with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord
in whom they had put their faith.

The word of the Lord.

SECOND OPTION

Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

9:16–19, 22–23

Brothers and sisters:

If I preach the Gospel, this is no reason for me to boast,
for an obligation has been imposed on me,
and woe to me if I do not preach it!

If I do so willingly, I have a recompense,
but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

What then is my recompense?

That, when I preach,
I offer the Gospel free of charge
so as not to make full use of my right in the Gospel.

Although I am free in regard to all,
I have made myself a slave to all
so as to win over as many as possible.

To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak.

I have become all things to all, to save at least some.

All this I do for the sake of the Gospel,
so that I too may have a share in it.

The word of the Lord.

THIRD OPTION

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

12:4–11

Brothers and sisters:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for some benefit.

To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;
to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

to another faith by the same Spirit;
to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit;
to another mighty deeds;
to another prophecy;
to another discernment of spirits;
to another varieties of tongues;
to another interpretation of tongues.
But one and the same Spirit produces all of these,
distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

The word of the Lord.

FOURTH OPTION

Remain faithful to what you have learned.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

3:10–12, 14–15

Beloved:

You have followed my teaching, way of life,
purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions,
and sufferings, such as happened to me
in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra,
persecutions that I endured.

Yet from all these things the Lord delivered me.

In fact, all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus
will be persecuted.

But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed,
because you know from whom you learned it,
and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures,
which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

777 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

FIRST OPTION

16:1b–2a and 5, 7–8, 11

℟̕ (see 5a) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;
I say to the LORD, “My Lord are you.”
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,

you it is who hold fast my lot.

ℝ You are my inheritance, O Lord.

I bless the LORD who counsels me;
even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the LORD ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

ℝ You are my inheritance, O Lord.

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

ℝ You are my inheritance, O Lord.

SECOND OPTION

24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

ℝ (see 6) Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The LORD=s are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

ℝ Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
or who may stand in his holy place?
He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

ℝ Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

ℝ Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

℟̕ (see 2b) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm.

℟̕ The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel.

℟̕ The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

All the ends of the earth have seen,
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise.

℟̕ The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

℟̕ The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

778 ALLELUIA VERSE AND VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

1. **Mark 1:17**

Come after me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of men.

2. **Luke 4:18**

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
and to proclaim liberty to captives.

3. **John 12:26**

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will my servant be.

779 **GOSPEL**

1.

Ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

9:35–38

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages,
teaching in their synagogues,
proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom,
and curing every disease and illness.
At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them
because they were troubled and abandoned,
like sheep without a shepherd.
Then he said to his disciples,
“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;
so ask the master of the harvest
to send out laborers for his harvest.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

2.

I will make you fishers of men.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

1:14–20

After John the Baptist had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God:
“This is the time of fulfillment.
The Kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the Gospel.”

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea;
they were fishermen.

Jesus said to them,
 “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Then they left their nets and followed him.
He walked along a little farther
 and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They too were in a boat mending their nets.
Then he called them.
So they left their father Zebedee in the boat
 along with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

3.

At your command I will lower the nets.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

5:1–11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God,
 he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.
He saw two boats there alongside the lake;
 the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets.
Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon,
 He asked him to put out a short distance from the shore.
Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.
After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,
 “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”
Simon said in reply,
 “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing,
 but at your command I will lower the nets.”
When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish
 and their nets were tearing.
They signaled to their partners in the other boat
 to come to help them.
They came and filled both boats
 so that they were in danger of sinking.
When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said,
 “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.”
For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him
 and all those with him,
 and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
 who were partners of Simon.
Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid;
 from now on you will be catching men.”
When they brought their boats to the shore,

they left everything and followed him.

The word of the Lord.

4.

Behold the Lamb of God. We have found the Messiah.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

1:35–42

John was standing with two of his disciples,
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God.”

The two disciples of John heard what he said and followed Jesus.

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,

“What are you looking for?”

They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher),

“where are you staying?”

He said to them “Come, and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying,

and they stayed with him that day.

It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter,

was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

He first found his own brother Simon and told him,

“We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Christ).

Then he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said,

“You are Simon the son of John;

you will be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

5.

Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

1:45–51

Philip found Nathanael and told him,

“We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law,
and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth.”

But Nathanael said to him,

“Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

Philip said to him, "Come and see."
Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him,
 "Here is a true child of Israel.
There is no duplicity in him."
Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?"
Jesus answered and said to him,
 "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree."
Nathanael answered him,
 "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."
Jesus answered and said to him,
 "Do you believe
 because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?
You will see greater things than this."
And he said to him,
 "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see heaven opened
 and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

2. INSTITUTION OF ACOLYTES

785 READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1.

Melchizedek brought out bread and wine.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

14:18–20

Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine,
and being a priest of God Most High,
he blessed Abram with these words:

 "Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
 the creator of heaven and earth;
And blessed be God Most High,
 who delivered your foes into your hand."

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

The word of the Lord.

2.

I will rain down bread from heaven for you.

A reading from the Book of Exodus

16:2–4, 12–15

The whole assembly of the children of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

The children of Israel said to them,

“Would that we had died at the LORD’s hand in the land of Egypt,
as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread!

But you had to lead us into this desert

to make the whole community die of famine!”

Then the LORD said to Moses,

“I will now rain down bread from heaven for you.

Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion;

thus will I test them,

to see whether they follow my instructions or not.”

“I have heard the grumbling of the children of Israel.

Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh,

and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread,

so that you may know that I, the LORD, am your God.’

In the evening quail came up and covered the camp.

In the morning a dew lay all about the camp,

and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert
were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground.

On seeing it, the children of Israel asked one another, “What is this?”

for they did not know what it was.

But Moses told them,

“This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.”

The word of the Lord.

3.

This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you.

A reading from the Book of Exodus

24:3–8

When Moses came to the people

and related all the words and ordinances of the LORD,

they all answered with one voice,

“We will do everything that the LORD has told us.”

Moses then wrote down all the words of the LORD and,

rising early the next day,

he erected at the foot of the mountain an altar

and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Then, having sent certain young men of the children of Israel
to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice young bulls
as peace offerings to the LORD,
Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls;
the other half he splashed on the altar.
Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people,
who answered, "All that the LORD has said, we will heed and do."
Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying,
"This is the blood of the covenant
that the LORD has made with you
in accordance with all these words of his."

The word of the Lord.

4.

He fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers.

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

8:2–3, 14b–16a

Moses said to the people:

"Remember how for forty years now the LORD, your God,
has directed all your journeying in the desert,
so as to test you by affliction
and find out whether or not it was your intention
to keep his commandments.

He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger,
and then fed you with manna,
a food unknown to you and your fathers,
in order to show you that not by bread alone does man live,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD.

"Do not forget the LORD, your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
that place of slavery;
who guided you through the vast and terrible desert
with its saraph serpents and scorpions,
its parched and waterless ground;
who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock
and fed you in the desert with manna,
a food unknown to your fathers."

The word of the Lord.

5.

He walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God.

A reading from the first Book of Kings

19:4–8

Elijah went a day's journey into the desert,
 until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it.
He prayed for death:
 "This is enough, O LORD!
Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."
He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree,
 but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat.
He looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water.
After he ate and drank, he lay down again,
 but the angel of the LORD came back a second time,
 touched him, and ordered,
 "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!"
He got up, ate, and drank;
 then strengthened by that food,
 he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

The word of the Lord.

6.

Come, eat my food, and drink the wine I have mixed.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

9:1–6

Wisdom has built her house,
 she has set up her seven columns;
She has dressed her meat, mixed her wine,
 yes, she has spread her table.
She has sent out her maidens; she calls
 from the heights out over the city:
"Let whoever is simple turn in here;
 to him who lacks understanding, I say,
come, eat of my food,
 and drink of the wine I have mixed!
Forsake foolishness that you may live;
 advance in the way of understanding."

The word of the Lord.

1.

They devoted themselves to meeting together and breaking bread.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:42–47

The disciples devoted themselves
to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life,
to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.
Awe came upon everyone,
and many wonders and signs were done through the Apostles.
All who believed were together and had all things in common;
they would sell their property and possessions
and divide them among all according to each one's need.
Every day they devoted themselves
to meeting together in the temple area
and to breaking bread in their homes.
They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart,
praising God and enjoying favor with all the people.
And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

2.

To us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34a, 37–43

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:
“You know what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the Devil,
for God was with him.
We are witnesses of all that he did
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.
This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,

not to all the people, but to us,
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
He commissioned us to preach to the people
and testify that he is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.
To him all the prophets bear witness,
that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

3.

Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one Body.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

10:16–17

Brothers and sisters:
The cup of blessing that we bless,
is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ?
The bread that we break,
is it not a participation in the Body of Christ?
Because the loaf of bread is one,
we, though many, are one Body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.

The word of the Lord.

4.

As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

11:23–26

Brothers and sisters:
I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over,
took bread, and, after he had given thanks,
broke it and said, “This is my Body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my Blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

5.

The Blood of Christ will cleanse our conscience.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

9:11–15

When Christ came as high priest
of the good things that have come to be,
passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle
not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation,
he entered once for all into the sanctuary,
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
and the sprinkling of a heifer=s ashes
can sanctify those who are defiled
so that their flesh is cleansed,
how much more will the Blood of Christ,
who through the eternal spirit offered himself unblemished to God,
cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.

For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant:
since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions
under the first covenant,
those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

The word of the Lord.

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1.

23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6

℟ (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

℞ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

℞ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

℞ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

℞ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2.

34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11

℞ (9a) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

℞ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify the LORD with me,
let us together extol his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

℞ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.

Ṛ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the LORD is;
blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

Ṛ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for nought is lacking to those who fear him.
The great grow poor and hungry;
but those who seek the LORD want for no good thing.

Ṛ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

3.

78:3 and 4bc, 23–24, 25, 54

Ṛ (24b) The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

What we have heard and know,
and what our fathers have declared to us,
we will declare to the generation to come
The glorious deeds of the LORD and his strength
and the wonders that he wrought.

Ṛ The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Yet he commanded the skies above
and the doors of heaven he opened;
He rained manna upon them for food
and gave them heavenly bread.

Ṛ The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Man ate the bread of angels,
food he sent them in abundance.

Ṛ The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

He brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain his right hand had won.

Ṛ The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

4.

110:1bc, 2, 3, 4

Ṛ (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The LORD said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand
till I make your enemies your footstool.”

Ṛ You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The scepter of your power the LORD will stretch forth from Zion:
“Rule in the midst of your enemies.”

Ṛ You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

“Yours is princely power in the day of your birth, in holy splendor;
before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you.”

Ṛ You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The LORD has sworn, and he will not repent:
“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Ṛ You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

5.

116:12–13, 15 and 16bc, 17–18

Ṛ (13) I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

℞ I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.

℞ I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.
My vows to the LORD I will pay
in the presence of all his people.

℞ I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

6. 145:10–11, 15–16, 17–18

℞ (see 16) You open your hand to feed us, Lord; you answer all our needs.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your Kingdom
and speak of your might.

℞ You open your hand to feed us, Lord; you answer all our needs.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you and
you give them their food in due season;
You open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

℞ You open your hand to feed us, Lord; you answer all our needs.

The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

℞ You open your hand to feed us, Lord; you answer all our needs.

℟ (John 6:58c) Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion.
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
he has blessed your children within you.

℟ Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

He has granted peace in your borders;
with the best of wheat he fills you.
He sends forth his command to the earth;
swiftly runs his word!

℟ Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

He has proclaimed his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
He has not done thus for any other nation;
his ordinances he has not made known to them. Alleluia.

℟ Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

1. John 6:35

I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
whoever comes to me will never hunger,
and whoever believes in me will never thirst.

2. John 6:51

I am the living bread that came down from heaven,
says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live forever.

3. John 6:56

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

4. John 6:57

Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father,
so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.

1.

This is my Body. This is my Blood.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

14:12–16, 22–26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,
when they sacrificed the Passover Lamb,
his disciples said to him,

“Where do you want us to go
and prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

He sent two of his disciples and said to them,

“Go into the city and a man will meet you,
carrying a jar of water.

Follow him.

Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house,
‘The Teacher says, “Where is my guest room
where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”’

Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready.

Make the preparations for us there.”

The disciples then went off, entered the city,
and found it just as he had told them;
and they prepared the Passover.

While they were eating,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said,
“Take it; this is my Body.”

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them,
and they all drank from it.

He said to them,

“This is my Blood of the covenant,
which will be shed for many.

Amen, I say to you,

I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine
until the day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.”

Then, after singing a hymn,

they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

2.

They all ate and were satisfied.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

9:11b–17

Jesus spoke to the crowds about the Kingdom of God,
and he healed those who needed to be cured.
As the day was drawing to a close,
the Twelve approached him and said, ‘Dismiss the crowd
so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms
and find lodging and provisions;
for we are in a deserted place here.’
He said to them, ‘Give them some food yourselves.’
They replied, ‘Five loaves and two fish are all we have,
unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people.’
Now the men there numbered about five thousand.
Then he said to his disciples,
‘Have them sit down in groups of about fifty.’
They did so and made them all sit down.
Then taking the five loaves and the two fish,
and looking up to heaven,
he said the blessing over them, broke them,
and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.
They all ate and were satisfied.
And when the leftover fragments were picked up,
they filled twelve wicker baskets.

The Gospel of the Lord.

3.

He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

24:13–35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were going
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.
He asked them,
‘What are you discussing as you walk along?’
They stopped, looking downcast.
One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,
‘Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem

who does not know of the things
that have taken place there in these days?”
And he replied to them, “What sort of things?”
They said to him,
“The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over
to a sentence of death and crucified him.
But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;
and besides all this,
it is now the third day since this took place.
Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:
they were at the tomb early in the morning
and did not find his Body;
they came back and reported
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.
Then some of those with us went to the tomb
and found things just as the women had described,
but him they did not see.”
And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are!
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into his glory?”
Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them what referred to him
in all the Scriptures.
As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, “Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.”
So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.
Then they said to each other,
“Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?”
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the Eleven and those with them who were saying,
“The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”
Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way

and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

4.

Jesus distributed to those who were reclining, as much as they wanted.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:1–15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd followed him,

because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick.

Jesus went up on the mountain,

and there he sat down with his disciples.

The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes

and saw that a large crowd was coming to him,

he said to Philip,

“Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?”

He said this to test him,

because he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him,

“Two hundred days’ wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little bit.”

One of his disciples,

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him,

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?”

Jesus said, “Have the people recline.”

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place.

So the men reclined, about five thousand in number.

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks,

and distributed them to those who were reclining,

and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

When they had their fill, he said to his disciples,

“Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.”

So they collected them,

and filled twelve wicker baskets

with fragments from the five barley loaves

that had been more than they could eat.

When the people saw the sign he had done, they said,

“This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.”

Since Jesus knew that they were going to come

and carry him off to make him king,
he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

5.

*Whoever comes to me will never hunger,
and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:24–35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there,
they themselves got into boats
and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

And when they found him across the sea they said to him,
“Rabbi, when did you get here?”

Jesus answered them and said,

“Amen, amen, I say to you,
you are looking for me not because you saw signs
but because you ate the loaves and were filled.

Do not work for food that perishes
but for the food that endures for eternal life,
which the Son of Man will give you.

For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.”

So they said to him,

“What can we do to accomplish the works of God?”

Jesus answered and said to them,

“This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.”

So they said to him,

“What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you?

What can you do?

Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written:

He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”

So Jesus said to them,

“Amen, amen, I say to you,
it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven;
my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.”

So they said to him,

“Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them,
“I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me will never hunger,
and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

6.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:41–51

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said,
“I am the bread that came down from heaven,”
and they said,
“Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph?
Do we not know his father and mother?
Then how can he say,
‘I have come down from heaven?’”
Jesus answered and said to them,
“Stop murmuring among yourselves.
No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him,
and I will raise him on the last day.
It is written in the prophets:

They shall all be taught by God.”

Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.
Not that anyone has seen the Father
except the one who is from God;
he has seen the Father.
Amen, amen, I say to you,
whoever believes has eternal life.
I am the bread of life.
Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died;
this is the bread that comes down from heaven
so that one may eat it and not die.
I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

7.

My Flesh is true food and my Blood true drink.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:51–59

Jesus said to the crowds of Jews:

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give
is my Flesh for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,
“How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them,

“Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood,
you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood
has eternal life,
and I will raise him on the last day.

For my Flesh is true food,
and my Blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood
remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me
and I have life because of the Father,
so also the one who feeds on me
will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven.

Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,
whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

These things he said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

The Gospel of the Lord.

8.

Jesus took the bread and gave it to them.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

21:1–14

Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias.

He revealed himself in this way.

Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus,

Nathanael from Cana in Galilee,
Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples.
Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."
They said to him, "We also will come with you."
So they went out and got into the boat,
but that night they caught nothing.
When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore;
but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.
Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?"
They answered him, "No."
So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat
and you will find something."
So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in
because of the number of fish.
So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord."
When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord,
he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad,
and jumped into the sea.
The other disciples came in the boat,
for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards,
dragging the net with the fish.
When they climbed out on shore,
they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread.
Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught."
So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore
full of one hundred fifty-three large fish.
Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.
Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast."
And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?"
because they realized it was the Lord.
Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them,
and in like manner the fish.
This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples
after being raised from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.