

Scripture Readings

from the

Holy Gospels

(select one Gospel reading)

# *Table of Contents*

## *The Gospels*

1	Matthew 5:1 – 12a	<i>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.</i>
2*	Matthew 11:25-30	<i>Come to me . . . and I will give you rest.</i>
3	Matthew 25:1 – 13	<i>Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.</i>
4	Matthew 25:31-46	<i>Come, you whom my Father has blessed.</i>
5L	Mark 15:33 – 39, 16:1 – 6	<i>Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.</i>
5S	Mark 15:33 – 39	<i>Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.</i>
6	Luke 7:11 – 17	<i>Young man, I say to you, arise.</i>
7	Luke 12:35 – 40	<i>Be prepared.</i>
8	Luke 23:33, 39 – 43	<i>Today you will be with me in paradise.</i>
9L	Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52 – 53; 24:1 – 6a	<i>Father, I put my life in your hands.</i>
9S	Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52 – 53	<i>Father, I put my life in your hands.</i>
10L	Luke 24:13-35	<i>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?</i>
10S	Luke 24:13 – 16, 28 – 35	<i>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?</i>
11L	John 5:24 – 29	<i>Whoever hears my word and believes, has passed from death to life.</i>
11S	John 5:24 – 27	<i>Whoever hears my word and believes, has passed from death to life.</i>
12*	John 6:37 – 40	<i>All who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day.</i>
13*	John 6:51 – 58	<i>All who eat this bread will live for ever; and I will raise them up on the last day.</i>
14L	John 11:17 – 27	<i>I am the resurrection and the Life.</i>
14S	John 11:21 - 27	<i>I am the resurrection and the Life.</i>
15L	John 11:32 – 45	<i>Lazarus, come out.</i>

- 15S John 11:32 – 38, 40 *If you believe, you will see the glory of God.*
- 16L John 12:23 – 28 *If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*
- 16S John 12:23 – 26 *If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*
- 17 John 14:1 – 6 *There are many rooms in my Father's house.*
- 18 John 17:24 – 26 *Father, I want those you have given me to be with me.*
- 19L John 19:17 – 18, 25 - 30 *There will be no more death*
- 19S John 19:25 - 30 *This is your mother.*
- 20\* Mark 10:13 - 16 *The kingdom of heaven belongs to little children.*
- 21 Luke 15:11 – 32 *He was lost and has been found.*

\* Readings marked with \* are suitable for the funeral of a child

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When he saw the crowds, Jesus went up the mountain,  
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

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

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

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.

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

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

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus,

"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
for although you have hidden these things  
from the wise and the learned  
you have revealed them to the childlike.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father,  
and no one knows the Father except the Son  
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am meek and humble of heart;  
and you will find rest for your selves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins

who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,

brought no oil with them,

but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.

Since the bridegroom was long delayed,

they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry,

'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise,

'Give us some of your oil,

for our lamps are going out.'

But the wise ones replied,

'No, for there may not be enough for us and you.

Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'

While they went off to buy it,

the bridegroom came

and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.

Then the door was locked.

Afterwards the other virgins came and said,

'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'

But he said in reply,

'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Therefore, stay awake,

for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory  
and all the angels with him,  
he will sit upon his glorious throne,  
and all the nations will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them one from another,  
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right,

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father.

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you  
from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
a stranger and you welcomed me,  
naked and you clothed me,  
ill and you cared for me,  
in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say,

'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,  
or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,  
or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply,

'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did  
for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left,

'Depart from me, you accursed,  
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food,

I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
a stranger and you gave me no welcome,  
naked and you gave me no clothing,  
ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'  
Then they will answer and say,  
'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty  
or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison,  
and not minister to your needs?'  
He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you,  
what you did not do for one of these least ones,  
you did not do for me.'  
And these will go off to eternal punishment,  
but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G5L - Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 (long version)*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated,  
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the bystanders who heard it said,  
"Look, he is calling Elijah."

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine,  
put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying,  
"Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him  
saw how he breathed his last he said,  
"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene,  
Mary, the mother of James, and Salome  
bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.

Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week,  
they came to the tomb.

They were saying to one another,  
"Who will roll back the stone for us  
from the entrance to the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back;  
it was very large.

On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side,  
clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed.

He said to them,

"Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.  
He has been raised; he is not here.  
Behold the place where they laid him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G5S - Mark 15:33-39 (short version)*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated,  
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saw how he breathed his last he said,  
"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain,  
and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.

As he drew near to the gate of the city,  
a man who had died was being carried out,  
the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.

A large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her,  
he was moved with pity for her and said to her,  
"Do not weep."

He stepped forward and touched the coffin;  
at this the bearers halted,  
and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!"

The dead man sat up and began to speak,  
and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming,  
"A great prophet has arisen in our midst,"  
and "God has visited his people."

This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in  
all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place called the Skull,  
they crucified him and the criminals there,  
one on his right, the other on his left...

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,

"Are you not the Messiah?

Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,

"Have you no fear of God,

for you are subject to the same condemnation?

And indeed, we have been condemned justly,

for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,

but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said,

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

He replied to him,

"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G9L - Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a (long version)*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.  
Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.  
Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit";  
and when he had said this he breathed his last.  
Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who,  
though he was a member of the council...  
He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.  
After he had taken the body down,  
he wrapped it in a linen cloth  
and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb  
in which no one had yet been buried.  
But at daybreak on the first day of the week  
they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.  
They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;  
but when they entered,  
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.  
While they were puzzling over this, behold,  
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.  
They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.  
They said to them,  
"Why do you seek the living one among the dead?  
He is not here, but he has been raised."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G9S - Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53 (short version)*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.

Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit";  
and when he had said this he breathed his last.

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he wrapped it in a linen cloth  
and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb  
in which no one had yet been buried.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Now that very day, the first day of the week,  
two of the disciples were going  
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,  
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 Messiah 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.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Now that very day, the first day of the week,  
two of the disciples were going  
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,  
and they were conversing about all the things  
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And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,  
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,  
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Then the two recounted  
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and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews:

“Amen, amen, I say to you,  
whoever hears my word  
and believes in the one who sent me  
has eternal life and will not come to condemnation,  
but has passed from death to life.

Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here  
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,  
and those who hear will live.

For just as the Father has life in himself,  
so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself.

And he gave him power to exercise judgment,  
because he is the Son of Man.

Do not be amazed at this,  
because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs  
will hear his voice and will come out,  
those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life,  
but those who have done wicked deeds  
to the resurrection of condemnation.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,  
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,  
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will  
but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me,  
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,  
but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,  
that everyone who sees the Son  
and believes in him may have eternal life,  
and I shall raise him on the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

“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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus  
had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.

And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary  
to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,  
she went to meet him;  
but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus,  
"Lord, if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,  
God will give you."

Jesus said to her,  
"Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him,  
"I know he will rise,  
in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her,  
"I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord.

I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God,  
the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,  
she fell at his feet and said to him,  
"Lord, if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come  
with her weeping,  
he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,  
"Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."

But some of them said,

"Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man  
have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him,  
"Lord, by now there will be a stench;  
he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her,

"Did I not tell you that if you believe  
you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said,  
"Father, I thank you for hearing me.

I know that you always hear me;  
but because of the crowd here I have said this,  
that they may believe that you sent me."

And when he had said this,  
he cried out in a loud voice,

"Lazarus, come out!"  
The dead man came out,  
    tied hand and foot with burial bands,  
    and his face was wrapped in a cloth.  
So Jesus said to them,  
    "Untie him and let him go."  
Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary  
and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G15L – cont'd*

*G15S – John 11:32 – 38, 40 (short version)*

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,  
she fell at his feet and said to him,  
"Lord, if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come  
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he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,  
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have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said to her,

"Did I not tell you that if you believe  
you will see the glory of God?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G16L - John 12:23-28 (long version)*

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus told his disciples:

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

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.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?

'Father, save me from this hour'?

But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G16S - John 12:23-26 (short version)*

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus told his disciples:

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you,

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

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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.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare  
a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,  
so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him,

"Master, we do not know where you are going;  
how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him,

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"Father, they are your gift to me.

I wish that where I am they also may be with me,  
that they may see my glory that you gave me,  
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father,  
the world also does not know you,  
but I know you,  
and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name  
and I will make it known,  
that the love with which you loved me may be in them  
and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G19L - John 19:17-18, 25-30 (long version)*

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus, carrying the cross himself went out to what  
is called the Place of the Skull,  
in Hebrew, Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others,  
one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus  
were his mother and his mother's sister,  
Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother  
and the disciple there whom he loved,

he said to his mother,  
"Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple,  
"Behold, your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished,  
in order that the scripture might be fulfilled,

Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine.

So they put a sponge soaked in wine  
on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine,  
he said, "It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G19S – John 19:25 – 30 (short version)*

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Standing by the cross of Jesus

were his mother and his mother's sister,  
Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother

and the disciple there whom he loved,  
he said to his mother,

"Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple,

"Behold, your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished,  
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on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine,

he said, "It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark.

People were bringing children to him  
that he might touch them,  
but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them,  
"Let the children come to me;  
do not prevent them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Amen, I say to you,  
whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child  
will not enter it."

Then he embraced them and blessed them,  
placing his hands on them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said,

"A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father,  
'Father, give me the share of your estate  
that should come to me.'"

So the father divided the property between them.

After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings  
and set off to a distant country

where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.

When he had freely spent everything,

a severe famine struck that country,  
and he found himself in dire need.

So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens  
who sent him to his farm to tend the swine.

And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed,  
but nobody gave him any.

Coming to his senses he thought,

'How many of my father's hired workers  
have more than enough food to eat,  
but here am I, dying from hunger.

I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him,

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

I no longer deserve to be called your son;

treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.'"

So he got up and went back to his father.

While he was still a long way off,  
his father caught sight of him,  
and was filled with compassion.

He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.

His son said to him,

'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you;  
I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

But his father ordered his servants,

'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him;

put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.  
Take the fattened calf and slaughter it.  
Then let us celebrate with a feast,  
because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again;  
he was lost, and has been found.'

Then the celebration began.  
Now the older son had been out in the field  
and, on his way back, as he neared the house,  
he heard the sound of music and dancing.  
He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean.  
The servant said to him,  
'Your brother has returned  
and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf  
because he has him back safe and sound.'

He became angry,  
and when he refused to enter the house,  
his father came out and pleaded with him.  
He said to his father in reply,  
'Look, all these years I served you  
and not once did I disobey your orders;  
yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on  
with my friends.  
But when your son returns  
who swallowed up your property with prostitutes,  
for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'

He said to him,  
'My son, you are here with me always;  
everything I have is yours.  
But now we must celebrate and rejoice,  
because your brother was dead and has come to life again;  
he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.