

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ELIJAH

The Anthem of the Chancel

Praise the Lord in the heights.

O Cross, you who dwell on high, who brought peace to the depths below, for the height had no need to be pacified, bring peace, O my Lord, to men.

Bring wars to an end from the ends of the earth.

O Cross, you who dwell on high, who brought peace to the depths below, for the height had no need to be pacified, bring peace, O my Lord, to men.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever.

Amen.

Your worshippers stand in your courts and take refuge in prayer. Supply them with blessings from your house full of helps.

The Lections

Deuteronomy 8:11-end

"Take heed lest you forget the LORD your God, by not keeping his commandments and his ordinances and his statutes, which I command you this day: lest, when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna which your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth; that he may confirm his covenant which he swore to your fathers, as at this day. And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you this day that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God."

Isaiah 33:13-end

Hear, you who are far off, what I have done;
and you who are near, acknowledge my might.
The sinners in Zion are afraid;
trembling has seized the godless:
"Who among us can dwell with the devouring fire?"

Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?"
He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly,
 who despises the gain of oppressions,
who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe,
 who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed
 and shuts his eyes from looking upon evil,
he will dwell on the heights;
 his place of defense will be the fortresses of rocks;
 his bread will be given him, his water will be sure.

Your eyes will see the king in his beauty;
 they will behold a land that stretches afar.

Your mind will muse on the terror:

"Where is he who counted, where is he who weighed the tribute? Where is he who
counted the towers?"

You will see no more the insolent people,
 the people of an obscure speech which you cannot comprehend, stammering in a
tongue which you cannot understand.

Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts!

Your eyes will see Jerusalem,
 a quiet habitation, an immovable tent,
whose stakes will never be plucked up,
 nor will any of its cords be broken.

But there the LORD in majesty will be for us
 a place of broad rivers and streams,
where no galley with oars can go,
 nor stately ship can pass.

For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our ruler,
 the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Your tackle hangs loose;
 it cannot hold the mast firm in its place,
 or keep the sail spread out.

Then prey and spoil in abundance will be divided;
 even the lame will take the prey.

And no inhabitant will say, "I am sick";
 the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.

The Shuraya

Do not envy the man who does evil and prospers in his way!
Be at rest from anger, and cease from wrath!
Do not long to work evil.
For the wicked shall come to an end;
But those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

The Apostle

Philippians 1:27-2:11

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear omen to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict which you saw and now hear to be mine.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Zumara

The LORD reigns; he clothes himself in majesty; the LORD clothes himself with power and waxes mighty. (2)
He establishes the world so that it cannot be moved; your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. (3)

The Gospel

St. Matthew 4:12-5:16

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
toward the sea, across the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

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

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

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

The Anthem of the Gospel

Text: *With the good things which are to come and do not pass away.*

Blessed are those who are spotless in the way.

The great good which is promised to those who are led by your commandments has departed from me, and instead of good I have gotten woe and miseries, for I have left you and forgotten you. O my Lord, do not forget me and do not turn away from me, but search for me in your compassion, for it was not by request that I was fashioned, nor was it through your wrath that I was formed in the womb. O Good One who fashioned me, have pity upon me. O Lord who created me, purify me. Extend to me a helping hand that I may stand and struggle with the Evil One who led me away captive from you.

I remembered these things, and my soul was disquieted.

The great good which is promised to those who are led by your commandments has departed from me, and instead of good I have gotten woe and miseries, for I have left you and forgotten you. O my Lord, do not forget me and do not turn away from me, but search for me in your compassion, for it was not by request that I was fashioned, nor was it through your wrath that I was formed in the womb. O Good One who fashioned me, have pity upon me. O Lord who created me, purify me. Extend to me a helping hand that I may stand and struggle with the Evil One who led me away captive from you.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever.
Amen.*

You gave the promise of life, O our Savior, to the friends of your love, and enriched them with its knowledge. You filled them with the wisdom of its power, and taught them to pray at every moment, "Our Father in Heaven, may your name be hallowed. May your Kingdom come to us. May your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us our necessary bread, and do not lead us to temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One; for yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory.

The Anthem of the Mysteries

Text: *There shall be an Altar, a Holy of Holies, to tell of the Mystery of Christ.*

High in all the earth: great and fearful to all surrounding it.

The Altar is a symbol of the tomb in which the body of our Savior was placed, and the bread and wine which are set forth are a type of our Lord in the tomb. The Priest, like the soul of Jesus, battles with the Evil One, and then he represents a type of the Resurrection.

How good and how lovely.

The Altar is a symbol of the tomb in which the body of our Savior was placed, and the bread and wine which are set forth are a type of our Lord in the tomb. The Priest, like the soul of Jesus, battles with the Evil One, and then he represents a type of the Resurrection.

The Anthem of the Bema

On this Feast of the Finding of the Cross of Christ the King let us sing glory with the spiritual ones to him who by his Cross attained the victory and made peace in the height and in the depth, and gave to his Church his Body and Blood. Hallelujah!

Verses:

The Cross of Light shone forth in creation and banished the darkness of idolatry. Constantine saw it in the heavens, the same which rules over all false worship, the same which reconciles the height and the depth with the One who sent him to our race. Hallelujah!

Teshbokhta

O our Lord Jesus, worshipful King, who conquered by your passion the tyrant death,
Son of God who promised us new life in the Kingdom on high,
Remove from us all harm, and make tranquillity and mercy to dwell in our land,
That on the day of your appearance we may live before you and go out to meet you, according to your will.

We will confess your name with hosannas for your goodness to our race,
For your mercies have been multiplied to our humanity, and your love has shone forth upon our mortality.

You have canceled our debts through your atonement; glory be to your name for your gift.
Blessed is your honor from within your place, you who forgive debts because of your mercies.
By your grace make us all worthy to confess and worship your Godhead,
And we will lift up glory to your Lordship at every hour, amen and amen.