

Gospel Readings

1. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1–12
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples.

Then he began to speak.

This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you
and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.

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

2. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:25–30
Come to me, and I will give you rest.

Jesus exclaimed, ‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Every- thing has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

3. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:31–46
Come, you whom my Father has blessed.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry

and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.”

Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.” Next he will say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me any- thing to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.”

Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglect- ed to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.’

4. **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 5:24–29**
Whoever listens to my words and believes has passed from death to life.

Jesus said to the Jews:

‘I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to my words,
and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life;
without being brought to judgement
he has passed from death to life.

I tell you most solemnly, the hour will come
— in fact it is here already —
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and all who hear it will live.
For the Father, who is the source of life,
has made the Son the source of life;
and, because he is the Son of Man,
has appointed him supreme judge.

Do not be surprised at this, for the hour is coming
when the dead will leave their graves at the sound of his voice;
those who did good will rise again to life;
and those who did evil, to condemnation.

I can do nothing by myself;
I can only judge as I am told to judge,
and my judging is just, because my aim is to do not my own will,
but the will of him who sent me.’

5. **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:37–40**
Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life,

and I shall raise him up on the last day.

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘All that the Father gives me will come to me,
and whoever comes to me
I shall not turn him away;
because I have come from heaven, not to do my own will,
but to do the will of the one who sent me.

Now the will of him who sent me
is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me,
and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Yes, it is my Father’s will
that whoever sees the Son and believes in him
shall have eternal life,
and that I shall raise him up on the last day.’

6. **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1–6**
There are many rooms in my Father’s house.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father’s house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going,
so how can we know the way?’

Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.’

7. **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 7:24–26**
I want them to be with me where I am.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

‘Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am,
so that they may always see the glory you have given me
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Father, Righteous One,
the world has not known you, but I have known you,
and these have known that you have sent me.

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