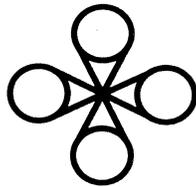


ECCLESIA GNOSTICA

**COLLECTS, LESSONS, AND GOSPELS
TO BE USED THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH YEAR**



LECTIONARY

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An Introduction to the Gnostic Lectionary

It is a time honored practice of sacramental Christendom to make available to its communicants selected passages of sacred scripture, marshaled in accordance with the holidays and seasons of the Church Year. The Roman Missal as well as the Roman Breviary (especially in their pre-Vatican II form) are eminent and admirable examples of such selections. While the Protestant emphasis on a non-selective reading of scripture has robbed some of Christendom of the use of Lectionaries (as such selections are often called) such books retain their value to this day. The Gnostic Church possesses a unique lectionary in the English language which is enjoying an increasing popularity. It is known officially mainly by its descriptive title: The Collects, Lessons and Gospels to be used throughout the Church Year and was issued under the authority of the bishop of the Ecclesia Gnostica in America in 1974.

The Gnostic Church is a Christian church and considers itself as a part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Ecclesia founded by the Logos and His apostles. In view of this, it is evident that the canonical Christian scriptures would be well represented in its Lectionary. The availability of a fairly large number of Gnostic scriptures in our days makes it possible as well as desirable, however, that scriptures of the specifically Gnostic corpus should be included in fair numbers. In addition to the canonical Christian and the Gnostic scriptures, it seemed also desirable to include a certain number of gnostically related writings, such as the Hermetic, the Mandaean and the Cathar scriptures as well as the Chaldean Oracles. The Lectionary is not of a universalistic character and thus it does not include writings from traditions other than the Christian Gnostic, although the closest relatives of this tradition, i.e. the Manichaeism, Mandaean and Hermetic documents are represented also. Contemporary scholarship recognizes that Hermeticism with its texts, such as the Corpus Hermeticum, the Poimandres, and others, is but a non-Christian variant of Gnosticism, as is the Mandaean religion. Manichaeism is

in fact more Christian than the former two schools of thought. The Prophet Mani considered himself a spiritual apostle of Jesus Christ, and the Manichaeans used several known Christian scriptures, such as the Gospel According to Thomas. There exists sufficient justification therefore, for the inclusion of all of these variants of the Gnostic tradition.

The various Sundays and Holidays of the Church Year have ascribed to them special intentions. The collects, lessons (sometimes known as epistles in other lectionaries and liturgies) and gospels have been carefully selected so as to express, as far as possible, the intentions of the Sundays and Holidays. Of the collects, twenty-four are taken from Manichaean sources. (A collect is a prayer manifesting a central keynote or point). The break-down of the sources of the lessons is as follows: Manichaean, 14; Pistis Sophia, 3; other pre-Nag Hammadi scriptures, 14; Hermetic Writings, 4; Mandaean Scriptures, 3; Cathar Scriptures, 1; Chaldean Oracles, 3; other miscellaneous Gnostic sources, 4; Canonical Scriptures (both Old and New Testament), 39. The gospels in the Lectionary are taken from the following scriptures: Manichaean, 1; Pistis Sophia, 3; other Pre-Nag Hammadi scriptures: 4; Gospel According to Thomas: 18; Gospel of Truth, 7; Gospel of Philip, 19; Hermetic Writings, 2; Cathar Scriptures, 2; Canonical Scriptures (both Old and New Testament), 31. The Lectionary comprises one hundred and eighty-eight pages, including seven pages of occasional collects to be used at the discretion of clergy either within or outside of the context of the Eucharist.

Scriptures for Private Study

Gnostic clergy and communicants ought to be particularly aware of what may be called the primary sources of Gnostic teachings. A primary source is a scripture that comes to us directly from the ancient Gnostics themselves. Among these primary sources we find, first the Nag Hammadi Library, and second, the codices and treatises whose discovery precedes the Nag Hammadi find. The latter are: the Askew, Bruce and Berlin Codices, the Acts of Thomas, Acts of John, and a few others. Less reliable because of their anti-Gnostic bias, and no

longer qualifying as primary sources, are the references and quotations of Gnostic content in the writings of certain Church Fathers, Epiphanius, Irenaeus and others, who, for the most part, acted as polemicists against the Gnostic teachers of the early Christian centuries. Although certainly biased and often distorted, the information in these sources is still often quite informative.

To address ourselves first to the most important primary source, we must turn now to the Nag Hammadi Library of Gnostic writings. There are six separate major categories of writings, when they are analyzed according to subject matter. They are as follows:

1. Alternative versions of creation and salvation. These are: The Apocryphon of John (two versions); The Hypostasis of the Archons; On the Origin of the World; The Apocalypse of Adam; The Paraphrase of Shem.
2. Observations and Writings of creative and redemptive mythology, including Gnostic commentaries on diverse Gnostic themes, such as the nature of reality, the nature of the soul, the relationship of the soul to the world: The Gospel of Truth; The Treatise on the Resurrection; The Tripartite Tractate; The Tractate of Eugnostos the Blessed (two versions); The Second Treatise of the Great Seth; The Teachings of Sylvanus; The Testimony of Truth.
3. Liturgical and initiatory texts. (These may be of special interest to persons of sacramental and initiatic interests): The Treatise on the Eighth and Ninth; The Prayer of Thanksgiving; The Valentinian Exposition; The Three Steles of Seth; The Prayer of the Apostle Paul. (The Gospel of Phillip, listed under category 6, does in part have great relevance to this category also, for it is in effect a treatise on Gnostic sacramental theology).
4. Writings dealing primarily with the feminine deific and spiritual principle, particularly with the Divine Sophia: The Thunder: Perfect Mind; The Thought of Norea; The Sophia of Jesus Christ; The Exegesis of the Soul.
5. Writings pertaining to the lives and experiences of some of the apostles: The Apocalypse of Peter; The Letter of Peter to Phillip;

The Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles; The First and Second Apocalypses of James; The Apocalypse of Paul.

6. Last but certainly not least, the scriptures which contain sayings of Jesus as well as descriptions of incidents in His life: The Dialogue of the Saviour; The Book of Thomas the Contender; The Apocalypse of James; The Gospel of Phillip; The Gospel According to Thomas.

This leaves a small number of scriptures of the Nag Hammadi Library which may be called "unclassifiable." It also must be kept in mind that the passage of time and translation into languages very different from the original have rendered many of these scriptures abstruse in style. Some of them are difficult reading, especially to those not familiar with Gnostic imagery, nomenclature and the like. Lacunae are also present in some of these scriptures. The most readily comprehensible of the Nag Hammadi scriptures is undoubtedly The Gospel According to Thomas, with The Gospel of Phillip and the Gospel of Truth as close seconds in order of easy comprehension. There are various translations of most of these scriptures available; the most complete being the one volume collection The Nag Hammadi Library in English, (edited by J. Robinson) which is readily available.

The Gnostic writings, whose discovery precedes that of the Nag Hammadi Library have been in large part accurately and sympathetically translated by the late scholarly Theosophist, G.R.S. Mead, in such works as Pistis Sophia, Fragments of a Faith Forgotten, and his series of smaller books, entitled Echoes from the Gnosis. Mead's works have been reprinted in recent, albeit probably small, editions. There is also an excellent selection of Gnostic writings of the pre Nag Hammadi variety, entitled The Gospel of the Gnostics, edited by another outstanding scholar and Theosophist, Duncan Greenlees. The same scholar has also edited and published a very fine selection of Manichaean writings under the title, The Gospel of the Prophet Mani. Both of these fine books are out of print, but may be obtained in Libraries of the Theosophical Society for study.

Over two decades have elapsed since the complete translations of the Nag Hammadi Library was completed and published. The exegetical literature based on these writings is slowly growing. Curiously enough, one of the most useful books of this sort is still one which was published very soon after the Nag Hammadi Library: *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels. Some other useful authors in this field are: Bentley Layton, Giovanni Filoramo, Simone Petrement, Dan Merkur, Marvin Meyer and Ioan Couliano. An increasing number of books employing the name "Gnostic" in their titles are being sold. The usefulness and authenticity of such literature need to be evaluated and judged by individual students on a case by case basis. (Visit the [Gnosis Archive reading list](#) for an annotated list of books suitable for further study,)

Conclusion

It is important to remember that later varieties and recensions of Gnostic teachings are present in virtually all transmissions of the occult tradition in the West. Some of these later variations resemble the original model more closely than others. Clergy, members and other persons interested in the Gnostic Church sometimes also possess Martinist, Masonic, Rosicrucian, Theosophical and similar affiliations and dedications. All of these schools of thought, whether they acknowledge it or not, are related not only to each other, but by way of historical and mystical descent also to the matrix of ancient Gnosticism. (Certainly some of the leading figures of these movements have acknowledged their relationship to Gnosticism, as H.P. Blavatsky's numerous writings on the Gnostics exemplify).

Whatever the other interests and dedications of all of us may be, we are Gnostics. We are Gnostics moreover, not only in the sense of pursuing, or possessing a quality of consciousness that might be called Gnosis, but we are members of a specific tradition. This tradition, the Gnostic tradition, is the one represented by the Gnostic Church. It may be true that the non Gnostic branches of Christendom have or claim a certain kind of Gnosis, which they may call at times "Apostolic" or by any other name. Aspects of the Gnosis have passed into many hands over the centuries. Yet, we must not be satisfied with

that which is in part, for we are heirs of the fullness, the Pleroma itself. And this is the principal reason for our interest in and dedication to the Gnostic Scriptures. These scriptures are one of our chief links with our origins. (The other links are the seven mysteries, or Sacraments and the arcane, oral tradition). It is by way of these scriptures that we may in large measure join ourselves consciously with the Fathers of the Gnosis, great sages like Valentinus, Basilides and their company. It is also thus, that through them, we are joined to the Holy Apostles and through them to their and our Master, Jesus Christ, the most precious flower of the Pleroma, the Logos, the Pansother, the fountainhead of all true Gnosis.

*Stephan A. Hoeller, Ep.Gn.
Tau Stephanus I*

THE LECTIONARY

COLLECTS, LESSONS AND GOSPELS

*In the following readings, “color” indicates
the appropriate liturgical color for the day.
The meditational intention of each day is also noted.*

ADVENT SUNDAY

Color: *Violet* Intent: *Seeking the Light*

THE COLLECT

O Thou, the Heart of Silence, the Hidden Mystery, the inner God: the gods adore Thee, we adore Thee, seated within the Shrine of our hearts. We greet Thee, Thou creator of beings, Thou the One Self. We adore the holy Souls that come forth from Thee, that share Thy being, that are Thyself. O Thou that art hidden, yet everywhere manifest, we worship Thee in greeting each God-soul that cometh forth from Thee and liveth in us. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of Sophia:

Seek, all of you, after the Light, so that the power of your Soul that is in you may live. Do not desist from seeking by day and by night, until you find the purifying mysteries of the Light which refine the body of matter and make it a pure Light very refined. Do to all men who come to you and believe in you and listen to your words what is worthy of the mysteries of the Light, give the mysteries of the Light and do not hide them from them. For he who shall give life to a single soul and liberate it, besides the Light that is in his own soul, he shall receive other glory in return for the soul he has liberated.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: Whoever finds the meaning of these words will not taste death. Let him who seeks, not cease seeking until he finds, and when he finds, he will be troubled, and when he has been troubled, he will marvel, and he will reign over the All. Jesus said: If those who lead you, say to you, "See, the Kingdom is in heaven", then the birds of heaven will precede you. If they say to you, "See, it is in the sea", then the fish will precede you. But the Kingdom is within you and it is without you. If you know yourselves, then you will be known and you will know that you are the sons of the Living Father. But if you do not know yourselves, then you are in poverty and you are poverty.

Here endeth the Gospel.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Color: *Violet* **Intent:** *The God Within*

THE COLLECT

Show us Thy face, O holy undefiled radiance, our true gracious physician, Thou healer of our souls! Come to us, for we are Thy sheep, and Thou art our good shepherd! O Light of our soul, the sun of our heart who givest our being the things of the Light, Thou art our witness that we have no comfort save in Thee. We have heard every voice but no other voice save Thine can please us; for it is Thou alone whom we have loved from the beginning to the end. Come to us, and abide with us, O redeeming Light, Thou who art the cross of light that gives life to the universe. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the writings of the Gnostic Fathers:

Cease to seek God in created things on the outside, but seek Him within thyself; and thus learn who it is that takes possession of thee and says: “My God, my consciousness, my understanding, my soul, my body.” Then learn whence is sorrow, and rejoicing, and love, and hate, and being awake, and being asleep, and getting angry against one’s will. Now if thou inquire into these things thou shalt find Him in thyself, one and many, like the atom, and thus thou shalt find the way out from thy lesser self.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

Those who sow in the winter reap in summer. The winter is the world, the summer the other aeon. What comes out of the winter is the summer. Let us sow in the world that we may reap in summer. But if any man reap in winter, he will not reap but pluck out.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Color: *Violet or Rose* **Intent:** *Recognition of the Messenger*

THE COLLECT

O Christ, our Light, come to us and take us unto Thee! We have trusted to the knowledge of Thy hope which called us unto Thee; take us up to Thine abode, O our celestial Spouse! We are trees in the orchard of Thy Light; our Light shines like the sun; for we have lit it with Thy fire, and nourished it with the good oil of purity. O Thou who art our eternal saving power, cleanse us in Thy waters, that we may become divine again as we once were. And come to us, O Thou dearly awaited One, come to those who await Thee today and forever. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of the Holy Prophet Mani:

The Messenger of Light, who comes at the right time and assumes the form of the true church and human flesh, and acts as leader within righteousness, chooses the personalities of his disciples and then frees them, both those of the Elect and those of the Hearers; he dives down into the deep oceans of the waters of the world, and draws them out from the jaws of the deep. And they do not stray again, but after other rebirths and toil for the Light, they come to the hands of the Angels; and the Angels carry them to the places where they shall be refined as pure gold.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the secret sayings of Jesus:

Jesus said: Pay no heed to the multitude; and think little on those outside of the mystery; for know that I am wholly with the Father, and the Father with me. Therefore I have suffered nothing of what they are going to say about me. For what thou seest, this I have shown thee; but what I am, this alone I know, no other. Let me then keep what is mine, and see what is thine through me. But see me truly, not what I said I am, but what thou being akin to me, canst fully realize, and wilt know in the fullness of thy time.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Color: *Violet* **Intent:** *Nature of the Redeemer*

THE COLLECT

O, Thou our Redeeming Power, our mind has not ceased thinking of Thy wonders; our thought has not swerved from searching Thy secrets. Our insight has not moved from aspiring to Thy mysteries; nor has our counsel ever moved from seeking Thy marvels. Our wills have sent up desiring to comprehend Thee, our lord. We long to see Thy brilliant countenance, O ever coming Lord! Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of the Holy prophet Mani:

When men asked for the Redeemer, and the Mother of Life, and the first Man and the Spirit of Life decided to send to their children One who should free them and save them, to show them the knowledge and the righteousness and rescue them from evil. Being kindly, and filled with pity, the Good Father sent from His bosom His beloved Son into the heart of the earth and into its lowest parts for the saving of souls. While coming, the Son changed himself into the form of man, and He appeared to men as a man, being no man, and men fancied him to have been born.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Book of the Gnosis of the Light:

The ever coming Redeemer gave us glory and joy, and jubilation, happiness and peace and hope, and faith and love and truth which changes not. And we have become blessed and perfect, we have come to know God as truth, and we have become gods and perfected ones. And he also gave us the law: to love one another, and to honor God and bless Him, and seek Him — who He is and what He is — that we should wonder at the place whence we have come, and not return to evil again but follow after Him who has given us the Law of Love.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE NATIVITY OF THE DIVINE LIGHT: CHRISTMAS DAY

Color: *White* **Intent:** *Incarnation of the Redeemer*

THE COLLECT

O Father, true God, Who leadest us out of the darkness, we bless Thee, the adored of souls granting us blessed vision and instruction. Thou, our Father, art the root of all wisdom; through Thy will, the beloved Logos has spread out over us the mighty gift of the knowledge of holy things; he has taught us what used to be, what are, and what shall be; he has rescued us from darkness. We thank Thee Father, for all the great messengers of the Light Thou hast sent to us, in whom Thy holy Word had been made flesh. All the mysteries are fulfilled in Thee, our Father, and Thou fulfilllest them in us. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of the Holy Prophet Mani:

Jesus, Thy burden is light for him who can carry it. Many are the marvels of Thy nativity, O Jesus; yet when we say “Thy nativity,” who could have created Thee, O Lord Jesus, Thou who art eternally life from life? The Son of God cast into a humble womb; he who is the all, in whom the all exists. He came down to the flesh, he put on the vesture of humanity. God became man; he went about in the land, he took a man’s likeness, the raiment of a slave. He came for all the sheep of his flock, because he knew there was no other to rescue them. He had come without a body, yet his apostles declared of him that he took the form of a boy, an appearance like that of us, men; he came down and manifested in the world among the people of the Jews.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the second chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke:

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David: to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of goodwill."

Here endeth the gospel.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Color: *White* **Intent:** *Renewal of Life*

THE COLLECT

O omnipotent God, who fillest and dost govern the immensity of worlds which have come forth from Thee; Thou verily art the eternal new-born Child, and yet Thou art the Ancient of Days! Thou hast veiled Thy ineffable glory and splendor in the garment of time and the cloak of space; Thou wilt transform all things so that they might return to Thee, to Thy timeless essence. We dedicate our lives to Thee, and we resolve to so live throughout this year, that Thy glory might increase and fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Revelation of St. John the Divine:

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and their shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. Behold, I make all things new.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the words of Hermes the Thrice Great Lord:

Your consciousness is in God; draw it into yourself, and it will appear; will, and it takes birth; suspend the senses of the body and the birth of the Godhead takes place. But first you must purify yourselves from the mindless torments of matter, one of which is ignorance, though there are many others, which force the man who is confined to the prison of the body to suffer by way of the passions. But these at once depart from him on whom God has had mercy, and so the body of Gnosis in man is built. This is the way of true rebirth. And now my child be still, and keep solemn silence; and thus will the grace from God not cease to come upon us.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE EPIPHANY

Color: *White* **Intent:** *Divine Guidance*

THE COLLECT

Holy Father of the Light, who dost ever show Thyself to the wise men in every age, we ask for such zeal in the pursuit of Gnosis as may help us to lead all longing souls to Thy Light; O Thou ever shining and guiding star of wisdom and holiness, to Whom we present our gifts of devotion and adoration now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the writings of the Gnostic Fathers:

When the Christ appeared among the Aeons of Light, and the chaos was dispersed and perfectly pacified, all the sons and daughters of wisdom sang hymns with great joy to the Father, sharing much delight. With one will and purpose the entire Fullness of the Aeons — Christ and the Spirit were well pleased and the Father imposed His seal upon all. And this is the most perfect beauty and Star of the Pleroma, a perfect fruit, Jesus who was also named Savior and Christ and Word and All, because he is from all.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Book of the Gospel of Truth:

Therefore he who is Gnostic is truly a being from above. When he is called he hears; he answers; he directs himself to Him who calls him and returns to Him; he apprehends how he is called. By possessing Gnosis, he carries out the will of Him who called him and seeks to do what pleases Him. He receives the repose. He who thus possesses knowledge knows whence he comes and whither he goes. He understands as someone who makes himself free and awakens from the drunkenness wherein he lived and returns to himself.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Desire for Liberation*

THE COLLECT

O great 'Call' who has awakened our soul from slumber; O Merciful One filled with mercy, the savior of those who are his own. We worship thee; we have called upon thee with an innocent voice, because we know that thou art the rescuer of souls. Stretch out thy right hand to us, and we shall leave all darkness behind us, and serve only thy Light, now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Psalms of Light:

O Soul, thou art the sheep that has wandered in the desert; thy Father seeks thee, thy shepherd looks for thee. O despised noble, thy king searches after thee! Where are thy angel garments, thine unaging robes? Where are thy gay garlands, thy crowns that do not fall? Who has changed thy fair beauty, the fashion of thy kinsmen, the seal of thy fathers? Move thyself, O soul watching in the enduring chains, and remember the ascent into the joyful air, for a dangerous lure is the sweetness of this flesh, the body of darkness. Drink of the water of memory, throw away thy forgetfulness! The wounded one who desires healing, let him come to the physician! O soul, do not forget thy Self, nor faint, nor eat out thy heart! See, the ships are moored for thee, the boats are in the harbor; take thy burden aboard and sail away to thy true home.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: The old man will not hesitate to ask a little child of seven days about the place of Life, and he will live. For many who are first shall become last, and they shall become a single one. Jesus said: Know what is in thy sight, and what is hidden from thee will be revealed to thee. For there is nothing hidden which will not be manifest. His disciples asked him, they said to him: Wouldst thou that we fast and how should we pray and should we give alms and what diet should we observe? Jesus said: Do not lie; and do not do what you hate, for all things are manifest before Heaven. For there is nothing hidden that shall not be revealed and there is nothing covered that shall remain without being uncovered.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Sincerity*

THE COLLECT

O Indwelling Lord, who art ever opposed to injustice and hypocrisy, we pray that we may be just and true of heart in all our dealings with our brethren, that we may recognize within them Thy indwelling presence and holy light. O Thou great King of Righteousness, to whom be praise and adoration for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of Sophia:

Preach to the whole world: fight yourselves and receive the mysteries of the Light in this afflicted time, and go into the kingdom of the Light. Do not add day to day or cycle to cycle, hoping to come to receive the mysteries when we come to the world in another cycle. Now such people do not know when the number of the Perfect Souls will be complete, and I shall shut the Gates of Light, and from that time no one shall go in, because the mystery of the first mystery has been accomplished, for whose sake the universe has come into being.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

When the pearl is cast down into the mud it does not become dishonored the more, nor if its anointed with balsam oil will it become more precious. But it has its worth in the eyes of its owner at all times. So with the Sons of God wherever they may be. For they have the value in the eyes of their Father.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *The Overcoming of Sorrow*

THE COLLECT

O our Father, our God, our Savior, our Ruler, allow us to be Thy champions, allow us to do battle for Thee! O Maiden, our Beloved, the Living fire, we shall give ourselves to Thee, we shall give our body to death for the sake of Thy body, and give our beauty for the sake of Thy fair beauty! Allow us to untie the knot of worldly attachments, to break the bond of action; allow us to lead the one gone astray, heal the long incurable disease of the passions of this world, and open our eyes to Wisdom! Give us grace so that on every side we may become bestowers of joy on those who have come to sorrow! Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the writings of the Holy Prophet Mani:

It is good for us to be silent; let us not think in our heart that our God is forgetful of us, for before us all hardships will disappear like gloomy shadows before the glorious Sun. Our Father's Covenant, the profit and the loss, is shared among us, we are true sons, the heirs of their fathers! There is nothing at all that is free from suffering that will rest in the end; even the very seed that is sown finds no way to live unless it dies, but through its death it lives and gives life also. Let us too strengthen ourselves, my brothers, for see, the Rest has come to us that we may receive the blessing of all these things we have spoken of, and dwell together in the glorious Land of the Light!

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

And Jesus said: Ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A little while, and ye shall not see Me; and again a little while, and ye shall see Me. Ye now therefore have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your hearts shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. Hitherto have you asked nothing in My Name; ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants, for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you my friends, for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you. These things I have spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Here endeth the gospel.

SEPTUAGESIMA THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *The Gift of Wisdom*

THE COLLECT

O Mind that conquers matter, spread thy mercy over our spirit. Mind of light, who art the Awakener of those who sleep, the Gatherer of those scattered abroad, Father of all the messengers of Light, Thou who choosest the communities who are to serve the Light, Physician of the souls; sprinkle the precious tree of our being with the water of thy wisdom and the dew of immortality, so that our lives on this earth may produce fruits which produce goodness, truth, and beauty. O Thou great consoler of men, to whom there be adoration now and forever. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Wisdom of Solomon:

Wisdom, which is the worker of all things, taught me; for in her is an understanding spirit, holy, one only, manifold, subtle, clear, undefiled, plain, not subject to hurt, loving the thing that is good, quick, which cannot be letted, ready to good, kind to man, steadfast, sure, free from care, having all power, overseeing all things, and going through all spirits, understanding, pure and most subtle. For wisdom is more moving than any motion; she passeth and goeth through all things by reason of her pureness. For she is the breath of the power of God, and a pure effluence from the glory of the Almighty; therefore can nothing defiled enter into her. For she is the brightness of the everlasting light, the unspotted mirror of the power of God, and the image of His goodness. And, being but one, she can do all things; remaining in herself, she maketh all things new; and in all ages entering into holy souls, she maketh them friends of God, and prophets. For God loveth him that dwelleth with Wisdom. For she is more beautiful than the sun, and above all the order of the stars. Being compared with the light, she is found before it. He that loveth her loveth life, and they that seek her early shall be filled with joy. He that holdeth her fast shall inherit glory; and wheresoever she entereth, the Lord will bless. They that serve her shall minister to the Holy One; and them that love her the Lord doth love.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

There are animals which are subject to man, like the bull and the ass and others of this kind. There are others which are not subject and live apart in the deserts. Man ploughs the field by means of the beasts which are subject and from this he feeds himself and the beasts, whether those that are subject or those which are not subject. So is it with the perfect man. Through powers which are subject he ploughs, preparing for everything to come into being. For because of this the whole place stands, whether the good or the evil, and the right and the left. The Holy Spirit tends everything and rules all the powers which are subject and those which are not subject, with those which are separate.

Here endeth the gospel.

SEXAGESIMA
THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *The Holy Spirit as Sanctifier*

THE COLLECT

Hail to thee, immensity of subtle Spirit! Hail to thee, O spirit extending from heaven to earth, and amidst the Cosmic Sphere from the earth even to the end of the Abyss! Hail to thee, Spirit that enters into us, that clings to us or separates from us according to God's will in the goodness of His heart! Hail to thee, Beginning and End of Nature none can move! Hail to thee, unwearying Liturgy of Nature's elements! Hail to thee, Brightness of the Sun-beam that shines to serve the world! Hail to thee, Disk of the night-shining Moon that shines unequally! Hail to thee, and blessing and glory, who givest us grace and sanctification. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Epistle of St. James:

For the Word is the first of all the origin of faith, secondly of love, and thirdly of works. For herein life consists. For the Word is like a grain of wheat. If anyone has sown it, he has faith in it, and if it has germinated he loves it, since he sees many grains in the place of one and while he works he is being saved, since he can prepare it for a meal and further has enough over in order to sow. This is the way whereby it is possible for you to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. If you do not receive it by Gnosis, you will not find it.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Book of the Gospel of Truth:

But those who are to accept the instruction, namely the living ones who are inscribed in the book of the living, are taught apart, alone, receiving themselves from the Father. They turn to Him again. Since the completion of the Totality is in the Father, it is necessary for the Totality to go upward to Him. When one knows, then one can receive those things that are his own and will draw them to Himself. For he who is not Gnostic is lacking much indeed, for he lacks that which would complete him.

Here endeth the gospel.

QUINQUAGESIMA THE NEXT SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *The Holy Spirit as the Fire of Love*

THE COLLECT

O mighty Power, Wisdom full of Life, first great commander of the hosts of light and love! God of our life, Lord of dear kindness, perfect living Word, we pray thee to clothe us in the robe of light! The heavenly luminous wheels glorify thee, the Wind, and the Water and the fire, which daily ascend from the Abyss. O Love, that drawest forth the sparks of holiness from the earth, lead us to the rose upon the cross of gold! O Love, that art the lifeblood of the universe and the sustainer of our souls, give us strength to ascend unto thee. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the first Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians:

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of Angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing. Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth: but where there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part, but then shall I know even as I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, love these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel of the Cathars:

The Son of God said when he returned to heaven: “My little ones, be not sad on this account because you who stand in truth and justice and not as other men shall return otherwise to my Father’s Kingdom.” And having said the above, the Son of God said to bar Yona: “Let no one put his hand to my plough unless he wishes to grasp it firmly. For he who shall give a cup of water to my little ones shall be blessed, because he shall receive a hundredfold more. See, therefore, if the holy Father promises us much, yet he who shall deceive my little ones in the matter of a single penny, his soul shall not be worth another penny. Where there is one who is my little one, I myself shall be with him, and where there are two, likewise, and where there are three, in the same way.”

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FIRST DAY OF LENT ANCIENTLY CALLED ASH WEDNESDAY

Color: *Violet* **Intent:** *Purification*

Before the celebration of the Holy Eucharist the celebrant, or a ranking prelate in choir, blesses the ashes with the following prayer and blessing:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

Eternal and Immortal God, who hast deigned to ordain that Thy children should purify themselves in preparation for the ineffable mystery of the passion and resurrection of the Logos, we pray Thee to bless and hallow these ashes, that they may serve as an outer symbol of our inward humility and repentance from the ways of imperfection and darkness. Through Christ our Indwelling Lord. Amen.

The celebrant then shall call for the members of the congregation to receive the signing with ashes in the following manner:

P: Let those who are to receive the symbol of Lenten purification come forward.

The priest signs the forehead of each person with the ashes in the form of a cross while saying to each:

P: Remember, O soul, that thy body is dust, and unto dust it shall return.

The Eucharist is that ordained for the first Sunday in Lent.

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Color: *Violet* **Intent:** *Self-examination*

THE COLLECT

O loving God, look upon Thy children who have answered Thy call! Come to us with Thy mighty aid in our time of need. Cleanse us of all darkness and ignorance, let our tears be turned to jubilation, let Thy most glorious power watch over us until we enter Thy light. Let Thy great brightness come and cause the path to be lit before us, let Thy angels bring to us Thy garments, Thy crowns and Thy garlands; let our way be restful, let the door open before us into the column of glory, let us cross over in the ships of Light and rest for evermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of the Holy Prophet Mani:

The man whose mind is full of light is the one to whom belongs wisdom; as soon as he hears truth he welcomes it to himself; but he whose mind is without light, who is alien to it, does not take it to himself, nor does he listen to it. And every weak soul which has not learned the truth belonging to her is doomed to remain without any rest or happiness. God's enlightening word is sweet when it finds ears to hear it; it does not lodge in a closed mind, makes not its way into a polluted shrine. Let us therefore examine our shrines, so that in cleanliness they may receive the Light.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus saw children who were being suckled. He said to his disciples: These children who are being suckled are like those who enter the kingdom. They said to Him: Shall we then, being children, enter the Kingdom? Jesus said to them: When you make the two one, and when you make the inner as the outer and the outer as the inner and the above as the below, and when you make the male and the female into a single one, so that the male will not be male and the female not be female, when you make eyes in the place of an eye, and a hand in the place of a hand, and a foot in the place of a foot, and an image in the place of an image then shall you enter the Kingdom.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Color: *Violet* **Intent:** *Yearning for God*

THE COLLECT

O gracious father, kindly prince, countless myriads of years have now passed since we were separated from Thee! We yearn and long to see Thy luminous and living face! Unstained we roam forth in Thy power, unstained we come again to stand before Thee! It is true we have not altogether been able to fulfill Thy will, but now be merciful to us, O gracious and royal God; we would forget our sorrows, we would live in the joy of eternal love! Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Great Book of the Mandaeans:

From the day when I came to love the Life, from the day when my heart came to love the Truth, I no longer have trust in anything in the world. In father and mother, I have no trust in the world. In brothers and sisters I have no trust in the world. In what is made and created I have no trust in the world. After my soul alone I go searching about, which to me is worth generations and worlds. I went and found my soul — What are to me all the worlds? I went and found Truth, as she stands at the outer rim of the worlds.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Book of the Pistis Sophia:

And Mary, the mother of Jesus according to matter, said: When Thou my Master wert a child, before the Spirit had descended upon Thee, when Thou wert in the vineyard with Joseph, the Spirit came down from the height, and came unto me in the house, like unto Thee, and I knew him not, but thought that he was Thou. And he said unto me, ‘Where is Jesus, my brother, that I may go to meet him?’ And when he had said this unto me I was in doubt, and thought it was a phantom tempting me. I seized him and bound him to the foot of the bed which was in my house, until I had gone to find you in the field — Thee and Joseph. It came to pass, therefore, when Thou didst hear me saying this thing unto Joseph, that Thou didst understand, and Thou wert joyful and saidest, ‘Where is he, that I may see him? Nay I am expecting him in this place.’ And it came to pass, when Joseph heard Thee say these words, that he was disturbed. We went together, we entered into the house, we found the spirit bound on the bed, and we gazed upon Thee and him, and found that Thou wert like unto him. And he that was bound to the bed was unloosed; he embraced Thee and kissed thee, and Thou didst kiss him; and ye became one and the same being.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Color: *Violet* **Intent:** *Understanding*

THE COLLECT

O repose of the all, we give Thee glory, the Father of Greatness, the glorious King, the Sun in His Aeons, the mighty Crown-bearer, the Father of all our race, the God of all the Gods, the good tree that has given no evil fruit, the Father whose children are many, the Watcher who guards His tower, the sleepless shepherd, the helmsman who does not swoon from the drink of the world, the king and god of Truth, He of the unfading crown, who is Himself all wisdom and love, and who fills our hearts with understanding and compassion. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of the Holy Prophet Mani:

You are the sons of the day and the sons of Light; fight yet a little while, O sons of Light, and you will be victorious; he who evades his burden will lose his bedchamber! Support one another, my brothers, do not flinch at all; we have a God who cares for us, He will help us in His compassion. Be yourselves refiners and saviors for your soul which abides in every place, that you may lead it to the dwelling of the fathers of the Light in the New Aeon in the place of Joy. The many have erred because they look to a distant day, but let us today do good so that our way may be radiant once again, and we may be fearless wherever we may go! Let us not slumber and sleep, until our Lord changes us, his garland on his head and his palm leaf in his hand, wearing the robe of his glory — and all of us enter the bridechamber and reign together with him!

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

The Pharisees brought unto Jesus a woman taken in adultery, and when they had set her in the midst they said unto him: Master this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act; now Moses in the Law commanded us that such should be stoned; but what sayest Thou? This they said, tempting Him, that they might have wherewith to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not. So when they continued asking Him, He lifted Himself up, and said unto them: He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. And they who heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last; and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus lifted up Himself, and saw none but the woman, He said unto her: Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said: No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her: Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Color: *Violet or Rose* **Intent:** *Spiritual Refreshment*

THE COLLECT

O Thou supreme Life-Spirit, cause of every change throughout creation, origin of all, and single source of every living soul, of Thee alone is our beginning, and in Thee alone have we no ending. As Thy sacred symbol of the seed is sown in Springtime, set Thou likewise in our hearts and souls the sacred spark of Thine immortal light. Grant us we pray a peaceful and refreshing season of progression. Let us receive fresh light upon our paths and follow this with faith throughout Thy plans for our perfection. May this truly be Thy will in us and our true will in Thee, that we may ultimately unify in everlasting love. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Philippians:

I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me. Brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do; and the God of peace shall be with you. Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

The light and the darkness, life and death, the right and the left, are brothers one to another. It is not possible to separate them from one another. Because of this, neither are the good good, nor the evil evil, nor is life a life, nor death a death. Because of this each one will be resolved into its origin from the beginning. But those who are exalted above the world are indissoluble and eternal.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT PASSION SUNDAY

Color: *Violet* **Intent:** *Mystery of the Cross*

Altar Cross veiled in Violet

THE COLLECT

O Word of Life, now called the cross, thou ever upright, ever raised on high, eternally above! O Cross, most skillfully devised instrument of salvation, given to us by the Highest! O Cross, invincible trophy of Christ's conquest of his foes! O Cross, life-giving tree, with its roots planted in earth, and its fruits treasured up in heaven! O Cross, most venerable sweetness and sweet name! O Cross most worshipful, who, through Gnosis bringest the worthy to God! O Name of the cross, hidden mystery! O ineffable grace that is expressed in the nave of the cross! O nature of man that cannot be separated from God! O love ineffable, inseparable, that cannot be declared by unclean lips! We will declare thee for what thou art; we will not keep silence on the mystery of the cross which was always in the world. And thou, O Cross, wilt be unto us no mere cross of wood to slay the body of earthly matter but the cross of light that lifts man from things of earth to the matchless wonders of eternity. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Acts of St. Peter and the Acts of St. Andrew:

It is right to mount on the cross of Christ, who is the one and only Word stretched out upon the cross. So that the Word is the upright beam whereon I am crucified, and the Sound is that which crosses it, the nature of Man, while the nail which holds the cross-beam to the upright in its center is the conversion and repentance of Man. The bar of the cross is the invincible man. This is the Father, this is the fountain that comes forth from the silence; it is he who is sought after everywhere. This is also the Father in whom the monad has evolved like a light-spark before which all the worlds are as nothing.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Jesus said: The hour is come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Amen, Amen, I say unto you, except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life. If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also shall My servant be.

Here endeth the gospel.

**THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE EASTER
PALM SUNDAY**

Color: *Violet* **Intent:** *The Temporary Triumph of the Light before its Obscuration*

Altar Cross veiled Violet

THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Before the celebration of the Holy Eucharist the celebrant, or a ranking prelate in choir, blesses the palm branches, which are uncovered on a special table or on the side of the altar.

P: Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

R: O King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest.

The priest sprinkles the palms thrice with holy water and says:

P: Let us Pray.

O God, who gatherest the things that are dispersed and preservest what is gathered; thou who dost gladden the heart of man, whenever the Indwelling Lord appears in triumph in the world; do thou also purify and bless these boughs of palm, which thy servants take up in honor and remembrance of the triumphant Logos, that unto whatsoever place these branches be brought, the dwellers therein may obtain thy blessing. Cast out every adversity from these branches, and vouchsafe thy protection to thy children who shall carry them forth from the holy temple; through Christ our Indwelling Lord. Amen.

The priest then blesses incense and censes the palms thrice, and turning to the people says:

P: Receive a branch of palm, ye who desire to greet the Indwelling Lord with joy and gladness.

The palms are distributed.

THE COLLECT

O Lord, thou art Aleph the first and Tav the last which have come together in Thee, and so thy beneficent will has been fulfilled. Before thy face the angels veil their countenance, and before thy majesty all the glories of the earth are nothing. As we were told of old that thy Logos on the day of his triumph rode into the city and was greeted with shouts of joy by the people, grant unto us thy servants that we may recognize him when he enters the city of our being, and remain faithful to him unto the end of the Aeons. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Revelation of St. John the Divine:

I heard a great voice of much people in heaven saying: Alleluia; salvation and glory and honor and power unto the Lord our God, for true and righteous are His judgments. And again they said Alleluia. And the four-and-twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying: Amen, Praise our God, all ye His servants and ye that love Him, both great and small. And I heard as if it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying: Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth: let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to Him. And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse, and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and His name is called Word of God; and He hath on His vesture and on his thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, saying unto them, "Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and her colt with her: loose them and bring them unto me. And if any man say aught unto you, ye shall say, 'The Lord hath need of them,' and he will straightway send them." And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the ass and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude, when they heard that Jesus was coming, went forth to meet him, and spread their garments in the way, and others cut down branches from the trees and strew them in his way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, "Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest." And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" And the multitude said, "This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."

Here endeth the gospel.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Color: *White* **Intent:** *The Mystery of the Eucharist*

Altar Cross veiled in White

THE COLLECT

O God, who hast given thy children the wonderful mystery of the Eucharist ere the world began; who hast sent to us holy messengers of thy love, who were without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like unto the sons of God, thou art verily the heart-blood of the universe, whereby all beings live. Grant us, we pray, that we may properly reverence and worthily receive the unspeakable mystery of thy mystical body and blood now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Psalms of David:

Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good; delight thou in the Lord, and He shall give thee thy heart's desire. Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light, and thy just dealing as the noonday. O rest in the Lord; wait patiently for Him; for the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Amen, Amen, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. I am that Bread of life. This is the Bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living Bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this Bread, he shall live forever; and the Bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Here endeth the gospel.

GOOD FRIDAY

No Holy Eucharist is to be celebrated on this day. It is advisable that the priest consecrate a sufficient number of hosts, as well as a chalice of wine on Maundy Thursday, to suffice for communion on Good Friday and on Holy Saturday.

A special service for Good Friday may be celebrated in the evening, which incorporates a Gnostic form of the Adoration of the Cross and the Holy Dance as recorded in the Apocryphal Acts of John.

HOLY SATURDAY

No Holy Eucharist is to be celebrated on this day, in memory of the mystic fact that the logos rose on the third day after His death and burial. Communion, if needed may be administered from the reserved Sacrament.

The following ceremony of the Blessing of the Fire may be performed either late at night on Holy Saturday, so as to culminate at the dawn of Easter Day, or before the Holy Eucharist of Easter Day.

A longer form of the Holy Saturday service, including the solemn blessing of the baptismal water, may be celebrated also.

THE BLESSING OF THE FIRE

At a convenient time before the service fire is kindled outside the church. It is desirable that the tinder from which this fire is ignited should be lighted from the sun by means of a lens, but if that is not possible, flint and steel should be used.

The service begins with the Asperges, omitting the invocation of the four Rulers. Then a procession is formed which moves to the door of the church. The glowing embers are placed in an appropriate vessel, such as an open thurible. The priest blesses the new fire in this wise:

P: Let this fire be + purified and + blessed by him in whose honour it is kindled.

Some charcoal for burning incense is lighted or taken from the new fire and placed in another thurible.

P: Let this incense be + purified and + blessed by Him to whom its fragrance is dedicated.

The triple candle is lighted from the new fire.

P: Let this candle be + purified and + blessed by Him who is the Light of the world.

The clergy return in procession, the deacon, or celebrant, bearing the triple candle, and genuflecting four times, exclaiming, while raising the triple candle every time:

D: Christ is our Light.

C: May His light shine in our hearts.

D: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

D: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men; and the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all might believe through him. He was not that Light but he was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ***All now genuflect*** AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH ***All rise again***, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The deacon now fixes into the paschal candle the five grains of incense, and the priest blesses the candle saying:

P: Let this candle be + purified and + blessed by Him in whose honour it shall be burned.

The deacon lights the paschal candle and altar candles

P: Light to the East, Light to the West, Light to the North, Light to the South: Light, Light, Light to the world! Amen.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE RISEN LIGHT EASTER DAY

Color: *White* **Intent:** *The Inner Resurrection*

THE COLLECT

O Infinite Intelligence, in Whom all inspiration is, tell us the truth about ourselves in whatsoever ways we best may bear without being broken by that burden. Give us, we pray Thee, the sure and certain witness that spirit shall finally triumph over matter, and that death to the world is but a gateway to the ineffable splendor of eternal life in Thee. Deal lightly with us, O Divine Directing One, that we may learn our lessons in this life through love, yet with an unassuming air of absolute and utter confidence in Thy complete command of Cosmos; O never-setting sun of wisdom, goodness and truth, who livest and reignest God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Acts of St. John:

Jesus said to John: Thou hearest of me suffering, yet I have not suffered; pierced, yet was I not smitten; hanged, but was not hanged; blood flowing from me, yet it did not flow. And in a word, what they say of me, these things I did not have; while what they do not say, those I have suffered. Understand me then as the slaying of a Word, wound of a Word, hanging of a Word, suffering of a Word, fastening of a Word, death of a Word, resurrection of a Word, and defining this Word, I mean every man!

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

As it began to dawn towards the first day of the week came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. And, behold, there was a great earthquake, for the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow, and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the Angel said unto the women: Fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus, who was crucified. Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that he is risen from the dead. And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy, and did run to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying: All hail. And they came and took Him by the feet, and worshipped Him.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER LOW SUNDAY

Color: *White* **Intent:** *The Wealth of Spirit*

THE COLLECT

O Light of Truth, Thou knowest that we have come into this world to fulfill Thy will, but we have become forgetful of our true home which is in Thy being. Save us from the darkness of the Chaos, lest we be swallowed up in it. Rescue us, O Light, in whose radiance we have believed: Forsake us not, O power indwelling and almighty! Move our souls most powerfully, so that we may leave behind the poverty of ignorance and attain to the true wealth of Spirit in Gnosis! Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the ninth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke:

And Jesus asked His disciples: Who say the people that I am? They answering said: John the Baptist; but some say Elias; and others say that one of the old prophets is risen again. He said unto them: but who say ye that I am? Peter answering said: The Christ of God. And He straightly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man that thing, saying: The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. And He said to them all: If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after Me, cannot be My disciple. Likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: I took my stand in the midst of the world and in flesh I appeared to them; I found them all drunk, I found none among them athirst. And my soul was afflicted for the sons of men, because they are blind in their heart and do not see that empty they have come into the world and that empty they seek to go out of the world again. But now they are drunk. When they have shaken off their wine, then will they repent. Jesus said: If the flesh has come into existence because of the spirit, it is a marvel; but if the spirit has come into existence because of the body, it is a marvel of marvels. But I marvel at how this great wealth has made its home in this poverty.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Color: *White* **Intent:** *Divine Grace*

THE COLLECT

Thou art He to whom we pray, Father of all fatherhood, and God of every god, and Lord of every lord; thee we implore to give order to our being, to our thoughts, feelings and actions. O Monarch and sole Changeless One, grant us Thy grace and power that we may come to know Thee, that we may know that Thou art our Redeemer. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Gnosis of the Invisible God:

These mysteries that I shall give you, guard them, do not give them to any man unless worthy of them; do not give them to father or mother, to brother or sister or relative. Guard them; do not give them to anyone at all for the sake of the goods of the whole world. Do not speak to anyone of these mysteries of the Treasury of the Light, save to those who shall be worthy of them, having left the whole world and all its affairs, being in no faith other than the Faith of the Light, listening to one another and treating one another as Sons of the Light.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

The same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them: Peace be unto you. And when He had so said, He showed unto them His hands and His side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again: Peace be unto you; as My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them: Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Color: *White* **Intent:** *Divine Protection*

THE COLLECT

O great alone-born, hear us this day when we cry to thee, O One-Father, almighty spirit, the firstborn of every living being and every Aeon! Help us, O holy angels! May our afflictions both within and without swiftly flee away from us, so that the benevolent powers may come to us, remain with us, and protecting us, guide us to Thine ineffable Light! Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Chaldean Oracles:

The soul of man, with nothing in it subject to death, should press God closely to itself; but now it is all drunk, for it glories in the Harmony under whose sway the mortal frame exists. Seek out the channel for the Soul-Stream, whence it is that the Soul fell into slavery to the body, and to what state thou shalt rise again. Those who flee the reckless fated wing of Fate and stay themselves in God, drawing to themselves the fires in all their prime as they descend out of the Father. And the soul is nourished all these aeons by the empyrean fruit which it gathered from God, who is our home, and our true Self.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: Blessed are the solitary and elect, for you shall find the kingdom; because you come from it, and you shall go there again. Jesus said: If they say to you: 'From where have you originated?', you say to them: 'We have come from the Light, where the Light has originated through itself. It stood and it revealed itself in their image.' If they say to you: 'Who are you?', say: 'We are His sons and we are the elect of the Living Father.' If they ask you: 'What is the sign of your Father in you?', say to them: 'It is a movement and a rest.'

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Color: *White* **Intent:** *Divine Aid toward Liberation*

THE COLLECT

O Thou single source of truth and wisdom, who hast taught us that we shall be lamps unto ourselves and islands of refuge unto ourselves, let us ascend up to the supreme light as if on the chariot of truth, bring us over all gulfs and abysses, bear us upward out of gorges and valleys; become to us a harbor of liberation so that we may repose in the arms of life everlasting. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Great Book of the Mandaeans:

From the place of light have I gone forth, from thee, bright habitation. An angel from the house of life accompanied me, who held a staff of living water in his hand which was full of leaves of an excellent kind. He offered me of its leaves, and prayers and sacraments sprang from it. Again he offered me of them, and he turned upwards mine eyes so that I beheld my Father and knew him. As I beheld and knew my Father, I addressed three requests to him. I asked him for mildness in which there is no rebellion. I asked him for a strong heart to bear both great and small. I asked him for smooth paths to ascend and behold the place of light.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

There are two trees in paradise. The one produces beasts; the other produces man. Adam ate from the tree which produced beasts, and becoming a beast he begat beasts. God created man and man created god. So it is in the world. Men make gods and they worship their creations. It would be fitting for the gods to worship men.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Color: *White* **Intent:** *Recognition of the Human Potential for Liberation*

THE COLLECT

O Thou chosen seed of the Godhead, implanted into our being before all beginnings, and enduring after all endings, blessed be Thou, and all that comes to life among us by Thy means. Open unto us, we pray Thee, the inner ways we search for, and guide us toward the fulfillment of Thy great potencies. Be born within us, and bear within Thyself the intentions of our truest will, that Thou and we may grow together unto the eternal light whence every living entity hath come forth. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of Hermes, the Thrice Great Lord:

Mortal cannot draw near to immortal, transitory to everlasting, nor corruptible to incorruptible. Out of the two natures, immortal and mortal God has made one nature — that of man. Thus has humanity been made in one part divine, and in another part mortal while man is in a body, but the right balance of the two, that is, of man, is reverence before all things which leads to goodness.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you into Myself, that where I am ye may be also. Now I have told you before it come to pass, that when it is come to pass ye might believe. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Here endeth the gospel.

ASCENSION DAY

Color: *White* **Intent:** *Return to the Light*

THE COLLECT

Our Lord, the joy of thy sweet cry has made us forget the life of this world, the sweetness of thy voice has made us remember the heavenly city. We rejoice as we ascend unto thee, Father with whom we have conquered in the land of darkness. O our great King, transport us to the city of the Angel-Gods, take us into the homes of rejoicing, for we are thine. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Chaldean Oracles:

Let the immortal depths of the soul be opened, and open all thy eyes at once to the Above, for if the mortal draw near to the fire he shall have light from God. Thou shouldst speed to the light and to the rays of the Father. And when thou beholdest the most holy fire, flashing formless with dancing radiance through the depths of all the worlds, then listen to the voice of fire. Believe thyself to be out of body and so thou art; for divine things are not accessible to mortals who fix their minds on body; it is for those who strip themselves naked, who speed aloft to the height.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Book Pistis Sophia:

So it was that when the Light-Power came down on Jesus it gradually surrounded him altogether. Then Jesus ascended on high, shining most exceedingly with an unmeasured light; and the disciples were gazing after him, not one of them speaking until he went up to heaven, but they were all in great silence. When Jesus went up to heaven, after three hours, all the powers of the heavens trembled, and the whole earth with those who dwell thereon shook until the ninth hour of the next day. Then were all the powers of the height singing hymns to the Inmost of the Inmosts so that the whole world heard their ceaseless voices. But the disciples sat close together, being afraid. Then the heavens opened, and they saw Jesus coming down, shining most exceedingly, for he shone more than at the time he had gone up to the Heavens, so that no man of earth can speak of the light that was on him.

Here endeth the gospel.

The same Collect, Lesson, and Gospel shall serve for nine days after.

After the Gospel on Ascension Day, when the Deacon has censed the celebrant, the latter shall reverently extinguish the paschal candle, saying:

The Great forty days are over; the Lord hath ascended into heaven; and so in His Name I extinguish this paschal candle, which for forty days has symbolized among us His risen body, for a token that as its light, leaving this lower world, passes to higher realms, so may we in heart and mind thither ascend and with Him continually dwell.

PENTECOST OR WHITSUNDAY

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *Coming of the Holy Spirit*

THE COLLECT

Eternal Spirit of Wisdom, source of love and light; thou norm of the Father and the Son, who comest into the soul of man as the balance of righteousness and truth, we hail thee! Most holy comforter, dove that deifiest mankind; thou presence most secret and adored in all the worlds, hear our prayer! Thou who art the fire of Pentecost, who movest upon the face of the waters; who comest down as a mighty wind; and who renewest the face of the earth, we glorify thee, and rejoice in the all renewing majesty of thy deathless might, now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Kephalaia of the Paraclete:

The fount of every blessing and all the invocations is the mother of life, the first Holy Spirit, the first mother who has come forth from the father and first appeared, the glorious one who is the beginning of all emanations that have come to this world. Know that the grains of the dust of the earth can be measured, with the whole universe, one can count the grains of the dust of the earth year after year; but the length of time the Holy Spirit passed with the father, that one cannot count. He first formed her in his inner chambers in quiet and in silence; but when she was needed, then was she called and came forth from the father of greatness; she looked after all the aeons of the light.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Jesus said unto His disciples: I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that She may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Her not, neither knoweth Her; but ye know Her, for She dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more, but ye see Me; because I live, ye shall live also. The Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, she shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Here endeth the gospel.

TRINITY SUNDAY

Color: *Red or White* **Intent:** *Devotion to the Triune Deity*

THE COLLECT

Triune Godhead, Source of love and light! The heavens first arose at Thy dread will, and with the glory of that deathless might they roll in splendor through the paths of space; while Thine own sons are searching for Thee still, in every age, through every creed and race; against the many wiles of flesh they fight, and nobly strive to find the soul of right. To Thee we bring our joyous mead of praise, to Thee our King of Peace through boundless days! Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Revelation of St. John the Divine:

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone; and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats; and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings, and thunderings, and voices. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had the face of a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

Truth did not come into the world naked, but it came in the types and images. It will not receive it in any other fashion. There is a rebirth and an image of rebirth. It is fitting for those who do not only receive the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, but have obtained them for themselves. If anyone does not obtain them for himself, the name also will be taken from him. But one receives them in the chrism of the fullness of the power of the Cross, which the apostles call the right and the left. For this one is no longer a Christian but a Christ.

Here endeth the gospel.

CORPUS CHRISTI

(The first Thursday after Trinity Sunday)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

O God, Holy and Ineffable, who art verily mystically present in all things, and who art yet transcending all embodiment, we thank Thee for this wonderful sacrament of the altar, which Thou givest us as a token of thine indwelling divinity. We thank Thee for this the most wonderful gift which Thou hast given unto us and we ask Thee to grant us so to venerate the mystery of this sacred body and blood that we may ever perceive within ourselves thine indwelling presence, and share Thy life with others. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and He said: Take, eat; this is my Body, which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me. After the same manner also, He took the cup, when He had supped, saying: This cup is the new testament in my Blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this Bread, and drink this cup, ye show the lord's death till He come.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Amen, Amen, I say unto you: He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that Bread of Life. This is the Bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit*

THE COLLECT

O Thou great fountain of light, life and love, whose scattered seeds we are here on earth, thanks be that we are ever growing to resemble thee more closely. May we continue to change, and flourish and grow as we stand within thy glorious garden, and prosper thou, we pray, whatever further efforts we must make in thy divine direction. O changeless one who changest all, O motionless mover of all worlds; change, move, and transform us now and evermore in Light. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Hymn of the Robe of Glory:

When I was a little child and lived in my Kingdom, my Father's house and in the riches and glories of my parents took my delight, from the East, our homeland, my parents provided me and sent me forth, and from the wealth of our treasury they had given me a bundle. Then they girded me with adamant which was stronger than iron, and stripped me of the brightness which in their love they had made for me, and my radiant mantle. Then they wrote in my heart that it be not forgotten: "If thou goest down to Egypt and bringest the one pearl kept there in the midst of the sea that contains the roaring serpent, thou shalt resume thy brightness and thy mantle laid over it, and with thy brother, our Viceroy, thou shalt be heir in our Kingdom."

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

When the pearl is cast down in the mud it does not become dishonored the more, nor if it is anointed with balsam oil will it become more precious. But it has its worth in the eyes of its owner at all times. So with the sons of God wherever they may be. For they have the value in the eyes of their Father.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *God as Light*

THE COLLECT

Thou boundless might manifest as mercy, we bless thee in the faithful fires of Summer, kindled on hilltops and on the summits of the outer world and deep within our hearts in honor of the principle of everlasting light and the ever burning fires of truth and holiness. Allow us to cherish carefully the seed we sowed in Springtime and which has become a precious plant in flower in our hearts. We bless this season of the Summer sun, and all it shines on visibly and outwardly. Permit, O eternal One, that we may ever keep its great light undimmed within us, shining in our hearts and radiating warmth around us unto every living soul. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the First Epistle of St. John:

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. These things write we unto you that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of Him and declare unto you, that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness we lie, and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

A bridal chamber is not for the beasts, nor for the slaves, nor for the women defiled; but it is for the free men and virgins. Through the Holy Spirit we are indeed born, but we are born again through Christ. In the two we are anointed through the Spirit, and when we have been born we are united. None shall be able to see himself either in water or in a mirror without light. Nor again wilt thou be able to see in light without water or mirror. Because of this it is fitting to baptize in two, in light and water. But the light is the anointing.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *God as Ruler of Angels*

THE COLLECT

O God the King of Angels, ruler of all the Hosts of heaven, thou hast spoken out all the mysteries to us, O giver of the streams of all revelations and dispatcher of all thy radiant messengers. Thou art the One whom we have loved since our infancy; thy light shines out in us like a lamp of radiance, for thou hast sent to us thy shining Angels, who have driven away from us our forgetfulness of the truth, and have taught us to bless Thee and thy light. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of the Holy Prophet Mani:

Now when the Living Father saw the soul afflicted in the body, then the mother of life and the first man and the living spirit stood up in prayer and implored the father of greatness. So the father of greatness heard them and called forth the messenger. Having come, then, he prepared for himself the work for the liberation of souls; he prepared a mechanism with twelve vehicles, the twelve virgin angels with their robes and crowns. The first is Royalty, the second Wisdom, and the third Victory; the fourth is Contentment, the fifth Purity, and the sixth Truth; the seventh is Faith, the eighth Patience, and the ninth Sincerity; the tenth is Kindness, and the eleventh is Justice, while the twelfth is Light.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Revelation of St. John the Divine:

I saw the seven Angels who stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was brought before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the Angel's hand. And all the Angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying: Amen; blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *God as Love*

THE COLLECT

O Indwelling One, the mystic God of Love who dwellest within the hearts of men and within the secret soul of the universe, we lay our hearts upon Thy shrine. Accept, we pray Thee, our love, and transform it into the likeness of Thyself, so that it may ever shine with the undying fire of Thine infinite compassion, who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of Angels, and have not love, I am become as a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing. Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then I shall know even as I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, love these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The Gospel is taken from the First Epistle General of St. John:

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is Love. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us His Spirit. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us. If a man say: I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from Him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *God as Peace*

THE COLLECT

Thou all sustainer and all transforming One, who art both the Lord of Hosts and the Prince of Peace; give us, we pray, Thy peace which passeth understanding, subdue the raging storm of this world so that we may safely pass to the other shore of Thy glorious aeon of unending glory and tranquility. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Wisdom of Solomon:

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction; but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded; for God proved them and found them worthy for Himself. As gold in the furnace hath he tried them, and received them as a burnt offering. They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: I tell my mysteries to those who are worthy of my mysteries. He said: There was a rich man who had much money, and who said: I will use my money that I may sow and reap and plant and fill my storehouses with fruit so that I lack nothing. This was what he thought in his heart. And that night he died. Whoever has ears, let him hear.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Red* **Intent:** *Steadfast Dedication*

THE COLLECT

Thou alone art the Infinite and Unknowable Deep, and it is Thou whom everyone seeks but has not found Thee; for no one can come to know Thee against Thy will, nor has anyone power to bless Thee save by Thy will alone. And it is only Thy will which has become a place for Thee — for nothing else can be a place for Thee, as Thou art the place of all of them. It is Thou of whom all stand in need, within and without, for Thou alone art the unattainable, the invisible and the unsubstantial. It is Thou alone who hast given qualities to every creature and hast manifested them in Thyself. Thou art the creator of those who have not yet manifested, for it is these whom Thou alone knowest — we know them not. It is Thou alone who showest them to us, so that we may pray to Thee for them. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Gnosis of the Light:

The Father sent a creative Logos to us. And when he saw the grace which the hidden Father had given him he wished to turn the universe back to the hidden Father — for it is His desire to have the universe return to Him. Then lights, which are the means of Gnosis were given him, and he was given authority over all the secrets, so that he might distribute them to those who had striven. Now they fled before the evils of the Aeon, putting it behind them, and took the promise of the Father unto them.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Mary said to Jesus: Whom are thy disciples like? He said: They are like little children who have installed themselves in a field which is not theirs. When the owners of the field come, they will say, 'Release unto us our field.' They take off their clothes before them to release it to them and to give back their field to them. Therefore I say: If the lord of the house knows that the thief is coming, he will stay awake before he comes and will not let him dig through into the house of his kingdom to carry away his goods. You then must watch for the world, gird up your loins with great strength lest the brigands find a way to come to you, because they will find the advantage which you expect. Let there be among you a man of understanding; when the fruit ripened, he came quickly with his sickle in his hand, he reaped it. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Purity as a Condition for Union with God*

O Spirit of all-perfect purity, before whose light an angel veils his face, cleanse our hearts and minds, thou who didst cleanse the lips of the prophet Isaiah with a burning coal from Thine altar. O all-purifier help us to keep our souls unspotted from the world, aid us so that we may walk lightly on the dusty path of life and return unsoiled into the heavenly city, there to be united with God our parent. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of the Holy Prophet Mani:

When the immortal light is led up to the gods, then will both the zenith and the nadir of heaven be brought together, for the custody of splendor will seize the topmost heaven. Then will appear the kingdom of the God of Wisdom; those gods who are in all the regions of the heavens and the earths, and they will bestow a blessing on the men who are righteous and they will become rulers in the kingdom. They shall themselves see him, the Image of the Light, all rejoicing and being glad over him. Desire shall depart from them with all other kinds of temptation. When they wish they shall clothe themselves with their body and gain the victory over it, and they shall find the way from it to the kingdom of life made smooth.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

And Jesus said: Holy Father, keep through Thine own Name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are. I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on Me through their word; that they all may be one, as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, and they also may be one in Us. The glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be as one, as We are one. I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me. I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am. I have declared unto them Thy Name, that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Wisdom*

THE COLLECT

O God, who art the Wisdom of the wise and the Strength of the strong, whose Beauty shines through the whole universe; may we so open our hearts to the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that we may ever be strong in Thee, and may show forth in our lives Thy divine Beauty. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

We speak wisdom among them that are perfect; yet not the wisdom of this world. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory. Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. The natural man receiveth not the things that are freely given to us of God. The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual discerneth all things; yet he himself is discerned of no man.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

Those who are in the truth will be perfect when all the truth is revealed. For the truth is like ignorance; while it is hidden it abides in itself, but when it is revealed and recognized it is praised inasmuch as it is stronger than ignorance and error. The Logos said: If you know the truth, the truth will make you free. Ignorance is a slave, knowledge is freedom. When we recognize the truth we shall find the fruits of the truth in our hearts. If we unite with it, it will bring our fulfillment.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Confidence*

THE COLLECT

We praise thee, God of Gods, who ever restorest the universe and storest away the deep upon its throne of setting, which no eye can see; who fixes heaven and earth apart, and coverest the heaven with thy golden everlasting wings, establishing the earth on its throne. O thou who hangest up the Ether in the lofty Height, and scatterest the Air with motion, who makest Water to eddy round in circling wheels; O thou who raisest up the fiery Whirlwind and makest thunder, lightning, rain and earthquakes; O God of Aeons, mighty art thou, Lord God, O Master of All! Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Chaldean Oracles:

There is the End of Understanding, which thou must understand with the flower of mind. For shouldst thou turn thy Mind inwards upon it and understand it as understanding something, thou shalt not understand it at all. For there is a power of the mind's prime which shines out in all directions, flashing with intellectual rays. Yet indeed thou shouldst not strive with vehemence to understand the End of Understanding, not even with the spreading flame of wide-extending mind that measures all things. But thou shouldst see thy soul in purity, turned from everything else so as to make thy mind empty, attentive to that end in order to learn that end of understanding, for it subsists beyond the mind. Keep silence, thou who art admitted to the secret rites.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: I have cast fire upon the world, and see, I guard it until the world is afire. Jesus said: Men possibly think that I come to bring peace upon the world and they do not know that I have come to bring divisions upon the earth, fire, sword, war. For there shall be five in a house; three shall be against two and two against three, the father against the son and the son against the father and they will stand as single ones. Jesus said: I will give you what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard and what hand has not touched and what has not arisen in the heart of man.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Devotion*

THE COLLECT

Thee we invoke, thou mightiest God and Master, thou who enlightenest all, and pourest thy rays by means of thine own power on all the world, O God of gods! We thy children continually do invoke thee with praise and love; may our invocation ever ascend unto thee like incense, until the light of our love becomes one with thine infinite light. Enter, appear unto us, O Lord of mighty names whom all have in their hearts, who dost burst open the rocks of matter and makest the holy names of gods to move in all things and in all beings! Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Revelation of St. John the Divine:

I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire; and they that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before Thee, for Thy judgements are made manifest. Amen: blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

The holy man is holy altogether, down to his body. For if he has received the bread he will make it holy, or the cup, or anything else that he receives, purifying them. Therefore, how could he not purify the body also? Even as Jesus perfected the water of baptism, so did he pour out death. Because of this we go down indeed into the water, but we do not go down unto death, in order that we may not be poured out into the spirit of the world. When the breath of the world blows, it causes the winter to come into being. When the Holy Spirit breathes, then the summer comes.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Discernment*

THE COLLECT

O Indwelling Lord, whose never-failing guidance ordereth our lives both within and without, grant that we may unfold within ourselves such discernment, that we may avoid those things hurtful to the soul and seek only those things that give us strength to know thee, to love thee and to serve thee; O Thou our beginning and end, our rising sun and evening star. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Revelation of St. John the Divine:

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying: Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said: Behold, I make all things new.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel of Truth:

But when the light appears, man comes to recognize that the fear which took hold of him was nothing. Thus men were in ignorance concerning the Father, Him Whom they saw not. When this ignorance inspired them fear and confusion left them uncertain and hesitant, divided and torn into shreds, there were many vain illusions and empty and absurd fictions tormented them, like sleepers who are prey to nightmares. But only down to the moment when those who have passed through all this have woken up. Then they see nothing, for all those dreams are naught. Thus they have cast their ignorance far away from them, like the dream which they account as naught.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *The Mystery of Christ*

THE COLLECT

Hear us while we praise Thee, Thou First Mystery who hast shone out in the mystery of manifestation and caused the God of Truth to establish the aeons, and appointed rulers and ministers and servants in the aeons. Take and save all our portions scattered abroad since the foundation of the world in the rulers, ministers and servants of the aeons; gather them all in, and take them to the Light. We praise thee, O God unattainable, and we thank thee for Christ, thy light, which thou hast sent to dwell in us. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

There shall come forth a rod out of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his root; and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of reverence to the Lord. He shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears; but with righteousness shall he judge the poor and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said to his disciples: Make a comparison to me and tell me who I am like. Simon Peter said to him: Thou art like a righteous angel. Matthew said to him: Thou art like a wise man of understanding. Thomas said to him: My mouth will in no way declare whom thou art like. Jesus said: I am not thy Master, because thou hast drunk, thou hast become drunk from the bubbling spring which I have measured out. And he took him, he withdrew, and he spoke three words to him. Now when Thomas came to his companions, they asked him: What did Jesus say to thee? Thomas said to them: If I tell you one of the words which he said to me, you will take up stones and throw them at me; and fire will come from the stones and burn you up.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Virtue*

THE COLLECT

Supernal Triad, Deity above all essence, knowledge and goodness; guide of men to Divine Wisdom; direct our path to the ultimate summit of thy mystical lore, most incomprehensible, most luminous, and most exalted, where the pure, absolute and immutable mysteries of faith are veiled in the dazzling obscurity of the secret silence, outshining all brilliance with the intensity of their darkness, and surcharging our blinded intellects with the utterly impalpable and invisible fairness of glories surpassing beauty. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Psalms of Light:

I am in everything, I bear the skies, I am the foundation, I support the earths, I am the light that shines forth, that gives joy to the souls. I am the life of the world: I am the sap that is in all the trees: I am the sweet water beneath the sons of matter. I bore these things until I had fulfilled the will of my Father; the first man is my father whose will I have carried out. Lo, the darkness I have subdued; lo, the fire of the fountains I have extinguished, as the sphere turns hurrying round, as the sun receives the refined part of life. O soul, raise thine eyes to the height and contemplate thy bond; lo, thy fathers are calling thee. Now go aboard the ship of light and receive thy garland of glory and return to thy kingdom and rejoice with all the Aeons.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

Man mixes with man, horse mixes with horse, mule mixes with mule. The kinds mix with those of like kind. So also spirit is wont to mix with spirit and the logos to consort with the logos and the light to consort with the light. If thou become man, men and women will love thee. If thou become spirit, the spirit will be joined to thee. If thou become logos, it is the logos which will mix with thee. If thou become light, it is the light which will consort with thee. If thou become one of those who belong above, those who belong above will find their rest in thee. If thou become like the animals and those outside or below thy place, then neither man nor spirit nor logos nor light nor those above nor those within will be able to love thee. They will not be able to find rest in thee and thou hast no part in them.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Renewal of Spirit*

THE COLLECT

Grant, eternal spirit, to us who kneel before Thy awesome darkness that it may become light by Thy grace; for we are but a small spark sprung from the fullness of Thy flame. Blow upon us with Thy breath though we feel it not; lead us though we follow not; receive us though our pride rejects Thy consolation; for save by Thee we cannot come to Thee; and unless Thou showest us the way we can never reach Thee. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Great Announcement, attributed to the Holy Simon Magus:

Of all things that are concealed and manifested, the fire which is above the heavens is the treasurehouse, as it were a great Tree from which all flesh is nourished. The manifested side of the fire is the trunk, branches, leaves, and the outside bark. All these parts of the great Tree are set on fire from the all-devouring flame of the fire and destroyed. But the fruit of the Tree, if its imaging has been perfected and it takes shape of itself, is placed in the storehouse and is not cast into the fire. For the fruit is produced to be placed in the storehouse, but the husk to be committed to the fire; that is to say, the trunk, which is generated not for its own sake but for that of the fruit.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

If anyone becomes a son of the bridal chamber he will receive the light. If anyone does not receive it while he is in this world, he will not receive it in the other place. He who has received that light will not be seen, nor can he be detained; and none shall be able to torment one of this kind even if he dwell in the world. And again when he goes out of the world he has already received the truth in images. The world has become the aeon. For the aeon is for him the Pleroma and it is in this manner; it is revealed to him alone, not hidden in the darkness and the night but hidden in a perfect day and a holy light.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Brotherly Love*

THE COLLECT

Let us gather together, my brothers, and understand who is God, the hidden One who is revealed, the silent One who speaks. Truly worthy art Thou of all glory, O God of all the aeons. Thou art the father of greatness, the king, the God of truth, the exalted One of the Height, Thou of the bottomless Abyss, Thou of the unfalling crowns, Thou of the unfading garlands. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Psalm of the Godly Life:

The Lord upholdeth the righteous. And his inheritance shall endure for ever. Behold how good and joyful a thing it is: brethren, to dwell together in unity. The integrity of the upright shall guide him: the righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way. Righteousness tendeth to life: and to him that soweth it there shall be a sure reward. Glorious is the fruit of good labours: and the root of wisdom shall never fall away. Thou shalt show me the path of life; in Thy Presence is the fullness of joy: and at Thy right hand is pleasure for evermore. I will behold Thy Presence in righteousness: and when I wake up after Thy likeness, I shall be satisfied with it. The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord: and the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The Lord shall be their everlasting light: and their God their glory. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works: and glorify your Father who is in heaven. For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above: and cometh down from the Father of Lights, in whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: I shall choose you, one out of a thousand, and two out of ten thousand, and they shall stand as a single one. His disciples said: Show us the place where thou art, for it is necessary for us to seek it. He said to them: Whoever has ears let him hear. Within a man of light there is light and he lights the whole world. When he does not shine, there is darkness. Jesus said: Love thy brother as thy soul, guard him as the apple of thine eye.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Justice*

THE COLLECT

O Spirit of eternal justice, we lean upon thee as upon a pillar of the divine throne; we thank thee for thy holy law that changeth not and pray for wisdom that under it we may live according to thy will. Be the sword of spiritual strength and discipline, our sure defense against all evils and antagonisms. Expel from us our evils, and forgive us our faults as we now exorcise ourselves in thy power, O thou great spirit of equity in whom is no variableness and who endurest for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Galatians:

Let every man prove his own work, for every man shall bear his own burden. Be not deceived; God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. As many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

Vessels of glass and vessels of earthenware are made by means of fire. But if vessels of glass are broken they are made again, for they are brought into being by breath. But vessels of earthenware when they break are destroyed, for they come into being without breath. An ass which turns a mill-stone did a hundred miles walking. When it was loosed, it found it was still in the same place. There are men who make many journeys, but make no progress anywhere. When evening came for them, they saw neither city nor village, neither creation nor nature, power and angel. In vain did the wretches labor.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Spiritual Progress*

THE COLLECT

To Thee we turn, God manifest in all the powers that surround us; to Thee O God who art ever beyond all our wonderings and imaginings. Grant, we pray Thee, that we may so serve Thy holy will that our lives and works will not be directed toward the mere mastery of outer things but toward the great glorious joint redemption of the divine in man and the human in the divine. Allow us to fulfill ourselves in Thee, even as we implore Thee to fulfill Thyself in us. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of Hermes, the Thrice Great Lord:

Now man is a godlike creature, and the true man is even above the gods, or at least equal in power with them. For no one of the celestials will ever come down to dwell in earth, forsaking the boundaries of heaven, but man goes up to heaven, and measures it, and accurately understands it; and more than all, he comes to be on high without even leaving the earth! Such is the greatness of his ecstasy. O how much more happily blended is the nature of man than others. It is linked with the gods by kindred divinity. He looks down upon that part of him which is earthly within himself; he binds to himself with a bond of love all the rest with which he has learned that he is connected; he looks up to heaven, he tends the earth. Without such beings God did not wish the universe to be complete.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

A woman from the multitude said to Him: Blessed is the womb which bore Thee and the breasts which nourished Thee. He said to her: Blessed are those who have heard the word of the Father and have kept it in truth. For there will be days when you will say: Blessed is the womb which has not conceived and the breasts which have not suckled. Jesus said: Whoever has known the world has found the body, and whoever has the body, of him the world is not worthy. Jesus said: Let him who has become rich become king, and let him who has power renounce it. Jesus said: whoever is near to me is near to the fire, and whoever is far from me is far from the Kingdom.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *White* **Intent:** *Commemoration of the Saints*

THE COLLECT

We glorify and thank Thee, O Indwelling One, for the abiding presence among us of Thy glorious and holy saints who were and are and are to come. We humbly recognize that they indeed are the corners of our cosmos, the pillars of the perfection of mankind, and the revealers of reality. Do Thou, O Holy One, ever affirm within us Thy powers of holiness, that in the fullness of the time of our perfection we might join the ranks of thy leaders of light and become providers of purpose and helpers of Thy holy hand. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of Enoch the Prophet:

Blessed are ye, O saints and elect, for glorious is your lot. The saints shall exist in the light of the sun, and the elect in the light of everlasting life, the days of whose life shall never terminate; nor shall the days of the saints be numbered, who seek for light, and obtain righteousness with the Lord of spirits. Peace be to the saints with the Lord of the world. Henceforward shall the saints be told to seek in heaven the secret of righteousness, the portion of faith; for like the sun has it arisen upon the earth, while darkness passed away. There shall be light interminable: nor shall they enter upon the enumeration of time: for darkness shall be previously destroyed, and light shall increase before the Lord of spirits: before the Lord of spirits shall the light of righteousness increase for ever.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

The kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them another five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained another two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoned with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought another five talents, saying: Lord, thou deliverdst unto me five talents; behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him: Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said: Lord, thou deliverdst unto me two talents; behold, I gave gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him: Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he who had received one talent came and said: Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth; lo, there thou hast what is thine. But his lord answered and said unto him: Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou oughtest to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *The Universality of Revelation*

THE COLLECT

We praise and thank Thee, O Eternal One, for the glorious aid and example of all the messengers of the light, and for the continued presence among us of Thy light which ever leadeth us to Thee. Give us wisdom and discernment we pray so that we may ever faithfully follow Thy divine light and recognize its holy messengers. So we ask and thus we pray in the name of the light that shines in the darkness. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of the Holy Prophet Mani:

From time to time wisdom and good deeds have always brought to mankind messengers of God; in age after age have messengers been sent by the infinite king of light; Seth-el, Zarathustra, the Buddha and the Christ. Zarathustra, the famous master and leader of the Mazdean religion wrote no books, his disciples who came after him remembered and wrote his teachings in the books which they read today. When the Buddha came in his turn to India, and the others who have been sent to the East, the disciples have reported of him that he too preached his hope and taught much wisdom. In an other age men were taught by Jesus who came to the West; for all the earlier religions were true so long as pure leaders were in them.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Then said Jesus unto them again: Amen, Amen, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. By Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine. As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Serenity*

THE COLLECT

Unchanging and eternal God, who reignest for ever serene above the waterfloods, grant us serenity of heart and that holy peace which passeth all understanding and which is not obscured by the shadows of this earth; O Thou great prince of peace to whom all true aspirations ever ascend. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Song of the Great Mother:

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with His arm: He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich He hath sent empty away. He remembering His mercy hath helped His servant Israel: as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the words of Hermes the Thrice Great Lord:

Now it is impossible to be devoted truly without the philosophy of Gnosis; he who has learnt what existing things are, and how they are ordered, and by whom, and why, will give thanks for all to the Creator as to a good Father and kindly Nurse and faithful Guardian. Feeling gratitude, he will become a devotee, and a devotee will learn also where and what the real is; then having learned this he will be even more devoted and will never again be able to fall away from the good. For when the soul has come to know her forefather she has a wondrous yearning love for him and forgets all evil things; this is the goal of devotion, and if you attain to it you will live nobly and happily, your soul not ignorant of whither she has to fly aloft.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Perseverance*

THE COLLECT

O Thou who art the everlasting essence of things, beyond space and time, and yet within them; Thou who transcendest yet pervadest all things; manifest Thyself to us, who feel after Thee, and seek after Thee in shades of ignorance. Give us the gift of perseverance, and stretch forth Thy hand to help us, who cannot without Thee come to Thee and reveal Thyself to us who seek nothing beside Thee. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians:

My brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the adversary. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, watching thereunto with all perseverance.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Hymn of the Robe of Glory:

But all these things that befell me my parents saw and grieved for me; then was announced in our kingdom that all the people to our gate should hasten: kings and chiefs of Parthia and all the magnates of the East. Then they wove on my behalf a plan that I be not in Egypt forsaken; and they wrote me a letter and every great one wrote his name on it. "From thy father the king of kings, and thy mother the queen of the East, and from thy brother, our viceroy, to thee, our son in Egypt, peace! Up and arise from thy sleep and hear the words of our letter! Remember thou art the son of kings; see the slavery and whom thou servest! Recollect the pearl for which thou didst hasten to Egypt! Think of thy brightness, and recall thy glorious mantle, which thou shalt wear as adornment and thy name be read in the list of Heroes; then with thy brother, our viceroy, thou shalt be in our kingdom!"

Here endeth the gospel.

THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *The Right Attitude toward the World*

THE COLLECT

We give glory to thee, the way; we give thee glory, the seed, the word, the salt, the true gem, the holy storehouse, the plough, the net, the greatness that has been sent for us children of men. We give thee glory, O truth, rest, splendor, power, commandment, frankness, freedom, our place of refuge. For thou art the lord, the root of immortality and the fountain of incorruption and the strength of the Aeons; for thy name has been set on all things so that through these we too might call on thee. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of Hermes the Thrice Great Lord:

Now the universe is first of all living beings, while man as a living creature, is next after the universe but first of mortals. Being mortal he is not only not good but also evil; while the universe is not good as being movable but not evil in that it is deathless. Thus there are these three: God, the universe, and man; God holds the universe, and the universe man. Now God sent man down here to examine heaven, and to know divine power, and to witness the forces of Nature, and to infer what is good and bad, and to find out every kind of cunning workmanship. Having mind according to the father's will, man is beyond all other living creatures on earth and delight in divinity, giving God the utmost praise and thanks, while revering His image; not unaware that he is himself a second image of God.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

Be not fearful of the flesh, nor love it. If thou fear before it, it will become master over thee. If thou love it, it will swallow and paralyze thee. Either will he be in this world or in the resurrection or in the places of the midst. God forbid that I be found in them. In this world there is good and evil. Its good is not good, and its evil is not evil. But there is evil after this world, which is truly evil, namely what they call the midst. This is death. While we are in the world it is fitting for us to acquire for ourselves the resurrection, in order that when we strip off the flesh we may be found in rest and walk not in the midst. For many go astray on the way. For it is good to come forth from the world before man yet sinned.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Peace*

THE COLLECT

O God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, kindle, we pray Thee, in the hearts of all people the true love of peace, and guide with Thy pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility Thy kingdom may fully come, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of Thy love. Infuse with Thy holy spirit our understanding so that we may know the peace that passeth understanding, which no outward thing can destroy. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Revelation of St. John the Divine:

I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands, and cried with a loud voice, saying: Salvation to our God who sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the Angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying: Amen. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders said unto me: What are these who are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? These are they who came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His Temple; and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

His disciples said to Him: When will the repose of the dead come about and when will the new world come? He said to them: What you expect has come, but you know it not. His disciples said to Him: Twenty-four prophets spoke in Israel and they all spoke about Thee. He said to them: You have dismissed the living one who is before you and you have spoken about the dead. Jesus said: Whoever does not hate his father and his mother will not be able to be a disciple to me, and whoever does not hate his brethren and sisters and does not take up his cross in my way will not be worthy of me. Jesus said: Whoever has known the world has found a corpse and whoever has found a corpse of him the world is not worthy.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *The Truth That Makes Free*

THE COLLECT

Thou O Lord of Truth, art the adored of souls, we give our selves into thy hand, we have received our whole lives from thy grace; we have let it drink the milk of thy spirit; since the start of our lives thou hast sealed us with thy hope and thy name. Our feet are on the path of truth along with thy great host; let us belong to the van of thy host, let us not be of its stragglers. Open the three gates of our bodies by thy most glorious key, pay the price of our spirits with thy truth, for it is Thou who art the good Lord of our spirit, the giver of Truth: From eternity to eternity thou art our God! Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the words of the Holy Prophet Mani:

God, O how lovely art Thou my God! I dived to the depth of the Abyss wishing to comprehend Thy depth; I swam in the breadth of the Sea wishing to comprehend Thy breadth! Who can comprehend Thee, and who is able to understand Thee, my Lord? I have tasted a sweet taste; I have found no sweeter than the Word of Truth! I have tasted a sweet taste; I have found no sweeter than the Name of God! I have tasted a sweet taste; I have found no sweeter than Christ, the Logos! My brethren, taste and realize that the Lord is sweet!

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Jesus said: My doctrine is not Mine, but His that sent Me. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God. Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink. I am the light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Ultimate Freedom*

THE COLLECT

O God, master of the Aeons, we would worship Thee, the same God who changeth not; perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, of boundless love and compassion: we in the feebleness of our human selves cast ourselves upon Thine almighty strength; in the helplessness of our mortality upon Thy immortal caring presence; in our weariness we stay our souls on Thee. For thy wholeness envelops our incompleteness; thy rest stills our restlessness; thy truth dispels our ignorance; and thy liberty lifts us up above the highest Aeons. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

And it was said unto me: Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall show thee; for to the intent that I might show them unto thee art thou brought hither. And he brought me to the gate of the Temple, the gate that looketh toward the east. And behold, the glory of God came from the way of the east; and His Voice was like the voice of many waters, and the earth shone with His glory; and I fell upon my face. And the glory of the Lord came into the house by way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the Spirit took me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the whole house, and I heard Him speaking unto me. And He said unto me: Son of man, the place of My throne shall be holy, where I will dwell in the midst of My children for ever; the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy; behold, this is the law of the house. And again I fell upon my face before the glory of the Lord.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

There is a glory that is higher than glory, there is power which is above power. Because of this the perfect things are open to us, and the hidden things of the truth; and the holy things of the holy ones are revealed, and the bridal chamber invites us in. Insofar as it is hidden, wickedness is indeed brought to naught, but it is not taken away from the midst of the seed of the Holy Spirit; they are the slaves of wickedness. But when it is revealed, then the perfect light will pour out upon every one. And all those who are in it will receive the chrism. Then the slaves will be free, and the captives delivered and they will be at peace.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

Color: *Green* **Intent:** *Adoration of God*

THE COLLECT

Adoration be to Thee, O God of Life and Light, in and through whom the liberation of creation shall be accomplished, when there shall be no darkness nor dazzling but one pure union of light and dark, no sound nor silence but one perfect harmony, no hopes nor fears but one full possession, no discords nor opposites but one single truth, no beginning nor ending but one eternity, in the completion of Thy Wisdom, in the splendor of Thy Glory and the fruition of Thy Love. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Hymn of the Creatures of the Holy Francis of Assisi:

O most high, almighty, good God, to Thee belongeth praise, glory, honor and blessing. Praise be my God, with all His creatures, and especially our brother the sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the light. Fair is he, and shining with very great splendor. O God, he signifies to us Thee. Praise be my God for our sister the moon, and for the stars, the which he set dear and lovely in heaven. Praise be my God for our brother the wind, and for air and cloud, calms and all weather, by which Thou upholdest in life all creatures. Praise be my God for our sister water, who is very serviceable unto us, and humble and precious and clear. Praise be my God for our brother fire, through whom Thou givest us light in the darkness; and he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong. Praise be my God for our mother the earth, the which doth sustain and keep us, and bringeth forth diverse fruits, and flowers of many colors and grass. Praise ye and bless ye God and give thanks unto Him, and serve Him with great humility.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: Whoever knows the All but fails to know himself lacks everything. Jesus said: If you bring forth that within yourselves, that which you have will save you. If you do not have that within yourselves, that which you do not have within you will kill you. Jesus said: Why do you wash the outside of the cup? Do you not understand that he who made the inside is also he who made the outside? His disciples said to Him: When will the kingdom come? Jesus said: It will not come by expectation; they will not say: "See, here," or "See, there." But the kingdom of the Father is spread upon the earth and men do not see it. Jesus said: Whoever drinks from my mouth shall become as I am and I myself will become he, and the hidden things shall be revealed to him. I am the All, the All came forth from me, and the All attained to me. Cleave a piece of wood, I am there; lift up the stone and you will find me there.

Here endeth the gospel.

**THE COLLECTS, LESSONS AND GOSPELS
FOR
NON-MOVABLE FEASTS AND HOLY DAYS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**SPECIAL SERVICE FOR THE EPIPHANY
(Jan. 6)**

Color: *White* **Intent:** *The Baptism of our Lord*

A longer form of the special Epiphany service, including the invocations of the Baptismal Rite of Aberamentho and the special readings so prescribed, may be celebrated also.

THE COLLECT

Infinite, unknowable glory, who art ever ready to descend in blessed epiphany into the souls of the children of earth, hear the prayer of thy offspring in every place who pray with a full heart. For because of Thee we have put on this glory, and through Thee we have seen the Father of the universe, and the Mother of all things who is hidden in every place, who is the thought of every aeon, the Gnosis of every invisible. We hail thy glorious epiphany, we give thanks for thy blessed showing forth of thyself now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Acts of St. John:

Now the uniform crowd around the cross is the lower nature, both those whom thou seest in the cross, if they have not also one form, it is because every limb of the one who came down has not yet been gathered together. But as soon as the higher nature and race, coming to me in obedience to my voice, is taken up, then what does not hear me now will become as thou art and all no longer be what it is now, but over them even as I am now. For until thou callest thyself mine, I am not that which I am, but if thou hearest me attentively, thou shalt be as I am, while I shall be what I was, as soon as I have beside myself thee as I am. For from this thou art.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Mark and the Gospel according to St. John:

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river Jordan. And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the spirit like a dove descending upon him: and there came a voice from heaven, saying: Thou art my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased. And John bare record, saying: I saw the spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me: Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Here endeth the gospel.

CANDLEMAS DAY

(Feb. 2)

Color: *Violet for Blessing of Candles; White for the Eucharist*

Intent: *Kindling of the Light in Darkness*

THE BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

The clergy and celebrant in violet vestments and the acolytes enter the chancel by the short way and take their usual places. The ceremony of the Asperges is then performed. The candles are arranged on the epistle side of the altar, or if a bishop is officiating, near the bishop's throne. The officiant stands before the candles.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

O God the omnipotent, who hast revealed Thyself as the Father of the Light, accept we pray these symbols of light which we dedicate to Thy service and to the task of the dispelling of the darkness. Bless 9 and 9 sanctify these candles and illuminate our natures so that we become bearers of Thy supernal light which Thou hast enkindled within us. Hear us, O Father, Father of the Light, now and for evermore. Amen.

P: Let us pray.

O Mother of all mercies, sweet Mother of the Light, who ever nourishest the spark in our souls so that it may grow into a mighty light, we pray Thee to bless 9 and 9 sanctify these 9 candles that they may show us the way to Thy celestial abode, and into the bridal chamber of Thy love. Hear us O Mother, Mother of all mercy, now and for evermore. Amen.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, offspring of the Father of the Light and of the Mother of mercy, who art the light, the truth and the way, 9 bless, 9 hallow, 9 consecrate and 9 sanctify these candles in order to dispel every darkness and put all works of darkness to flight. Hear us O Logos, Word of the Fullness, light of the world. Amen.

The candles are now sprinkled with holy water and censed

P: Let these candles be 9 purified and 9 blessed by Him in whose honour they shall be burned.

The candles are distributed to clergy and congregation. The procession exits, and the clergy change into white vestments. The monstrance is brought back in procession, the clergy carrying lighted candles. The candles of the people are lit by a member of the clergy. The Eucharist is resumed before the exposed sacrament.

THE COLLECT

O Lord of Light and Lady of Love, eternal, ineffable mystery of the Godhead, grant that enlightened by the flame of consciousness, we may successfully journey into the far and glorious kingdom beyond the aeons, and join the great flame as sparks flying upwards. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever. Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him, and His work before Him. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: I shall choose you, one out of a thousand, and two out of ten thousand, and they shall stand as a single one. His disciples said: Show us the place where thou art, for it is necessary for us to seek it. He said to them: Whoever has ears let him hear. Within a man of light there is light and he lights the whole world. When he does not shine, there is darkness. Jesus said: Love thy brother as thy soul, guard him as the apple of thine eye.

Here endeth the gospel.

DAY OF THE HOLY VALENTINUS

(Feb. 14)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

O Indestructible Spirit, whoever callest to thy Indestructible offspring wherever they may find themselves, we thank thee, and praise thy supreme and compassionate Gnosis for having given us the light and wisdom of the holy Valentinus. May the secrets nameless, ineffable, transcendental and glorious, that cannot be comprehended either by the dominions or by the powers or the lower beings or by any of the mixture of the world of darkness; the secrets brought to the light of our minds by Valentinus serve as our guiding powers to the ineffable Gnosis, now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the writings of the Holy Valentinus:

When the Demiurge, the god of those who know not the true God further wanted to imitate also the boundless, eternal, infinite and timeless nature of the original eight Aeons of the fullness, but could not express their immutable eternity, being as he was a fruit of the defect, he embodied their eternity in times, epochs and great numbers of years, under the delusion that by the quantity of times he could represent their infinity. Thus truth escaped him and he followed a lie. Therefore his work shall pass away when the times are fulfilled.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Book of the Gospel of Truth:

This is why Jesus appeared: he opened the Book of Gnosis. He was nailed to a tree, he fastened the testamentary disposition from the Father to the Cross. O such magnanimity, such that he draws himself downward to death while eternal life encloses him. Having divested himself of these perishable rags he clothed himself with the imperishability which none has the power to take from him.

Here endeth the gospel.

MONTSÉGUR DAY

(Mar. 16)

Color: *Red*

Intent: *Martyrdom of the Holy Esclaremonde and the Holy Cathar Martyrs of Montségur*

THE COLLECT

Remember them, O Lord in Thy kingdom. The faithful who did not adore the Beast and whom the Beast has slain. The faithful who served Thee because they could do no other, who lived in an age when the right to seek Thee was bought with their lives. Remember those who gave more than they could, more indeed than they possessed; more than they ever should have given. They could do no other. Mercy, Lord on all the burned ones of this world. Mercy on all who loved beyond this world. On all who have loved. On all who have had some true thing to love. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the sacred texts of the Cathars:

Holy Father, Thou just God of all good souls, Thou who art never deceived, who dost never lie or doubt, grant us to know what Thou knowest, to love what Thou dost love; for we are not of this world, and this world is not of us, and we fear lest we meet death in this realm of an alien god. Pharisees, seducers, you who sit at the gates of the Kingdom; you who hold back others who would enter, yet will not go in yourselves; and because of this I pray to the Holy Father of all good souls, who has the power of salvation, and through the merit of the saved causes our souls to germinate and flourish, and for the sake of the virtuous grants life to those in iniquity; the Holy Father who will continue to do so as long as there are good men in the world, till none of my little children are left. For all those that acknowledged the mastery of Lucifer, and fell from Paradise, and come from the seven kingdoms, they rose up on a sky of glass, and for every one that rose aloft, another fell and was lost; and for this cause God came down from heaven with the twelve apostles and took a phantom shape in Holy Mary.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to the Cathars:

A certain woman came to the Son of God and said that her daughter was frenzied; and the Son of God placed his hand on her daughter's head and healed her — which healing is nothing else than this; that the soul of the daughter went out of her body and that he healed the soul. For the Son of God did not free them from bodily infirmities but only from sins which are the infirmities of the soul. And this is why the Son of God was a good healer, because he drew souls to liberation. For the Son of God was none other than one of the heavenly spirits who knowing the dreadful sorrows and penalties which one needs suffer who should desire to come among men and uplift the human race, nevertheless told the Father that he himself desired to be his son, and to fulfill all things which were written in the Father's book, however grievous they might be. Then he descended from heaven and appeared as a newly born babe in Bethlehem.

Here endeth the gospel.

The following invocation of the Saints may be used for the Mass commemorating the Martyrdom of the Cathar Martyrs:

We call upon the immortal names of the holy martyrs of the Light: Esclaremonde de Foix, the great light of the true church, Bertrand Marty, holy bishop and teacher, bishops Peter of Carcossonne and William of Albi, all the holy women and men who died for the true and ancient light; by them and in their name we unite ourselves with the martyrs and just ones that were and are and are to come. Amen.

**THE DAY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF TAU HARMONIUS,
BISHOP AND LAST MARTYR OF THE GNOSIS**

(March 22)

Color: Red

Note: *It is permissible to use the Requiem Eucharist, with the insertion of the special collect, lesson and gospel and using the Black color.*

THE COLLECT

Remember him, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom, Thy faithful servant Tau Harmonius, bishop of the Gnosis, and a knower of the things that are, who like his predecessors of old gave his life and blood for the Truth that makes men free. Grant him we pray thee, a place of refreshment, a blessed tranquility, and the splendor of Thy Gnosis. We thank Thee, O eternal One, for the example of this faithful shepherd, who gave up his earthly life in Thy service, and we pray that inspired by his heroic virtue we may also bear witness to the Gnosis of Love, Liberty and Light, and may with him at length enter into Thine ineffable splendor and unending joy. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the perfect Sermon of Hermes, the Thrice Great Lord:

In those days darkness will be preferred to light, and death will be held more useful than life; no one will look up to Heaven; the pious will be deemed mad and the impious a sage, the insane will be held brave and the most wicked good. For the soul and all things about it, whereby we assume that either it is born immortal or that it will attain to immortality, will be considered not only a jest but even non-existent. Nothing holy, nothing pious, nothing worthy of heaven or heavenly things, will be heard or believed by the mind. Nay, believe me, even the punishment of death shall be decreed for the man who has dedicated himself to the religion of the truth.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Jesus taught His disciples, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled. 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 the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Here endeth the gospel.

DAY OF THE HOLY ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

(March 24)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

O God above the aeons, who alone art the true light of men, illumine us with thy divine light that we may know the path we ought to tread; and because our mortal selves cannot follow thy light worthily, send us thy messengers, the holy angels, led by the glorious archangel the holy Gabriel, that following their lead we may attain to the desire of our souls; now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Prophet Malachi:

From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same My Name shall be great among the Gentiles, and in every place incense shall be offered unto My Name and a pure offering. Behold I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me; and the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming; and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap. And he shall sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord; and they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in the day that I make up My jewels.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Luke:

And in the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the Virgin's name was Mary. And the Angel came in unto her, and said: Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the Angel said unto her: fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David. And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that which is to be born of thee shall be called holy, the Son of God. And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY

(March 25)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

We thank Thee, O God, for the blessings bestowed upon us through the holy Lady Mary, mother of Jesus, whom thy holy Church hath ever held up unto her people as a bright image of holiness and godly life; and we pray that on this the Festival of her Annunciation there may shine forth within us the light of Gnosis; through Christ our Indwelling Lord. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

The Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emanuel. And it shall be said: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Luke:

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said: Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him she was troubled at his saying and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her: Fear not, Mary; for Thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt bring forth a son and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

Here endeth the gospel.

DAY OF THE HOLY MANI, MARTYR AND PROPHET

(April 25)

Color: *Red*

THE COLLECT

We bless thy Light-Twin, Christ the author of our good, our Lord Mani, the spirit of Truth who is come from the Father, the advocate whom Jesus has sent, the great conqueror, our Lord, our Light, who has given his loved ones the victory! Thou hast come in peace, O new sun of the souls, we trust in thy mercy, for thou quickly turnest and showest pity! Our liberator into the praise of the lovable God, holy Mani, come among God's three sons! Thou art the advocate whom we have loved; thy light shines out in us like the lamp of light. for thou hast driven from us the forgetfulness of the Error, thou hast taught us to bless God and His lights. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Fundamental Epistle of the Holy Mani:

Mani, by providence of God the Father, Apostle of Jesus the Christ: These are the healthful words from the perennial and living source, which he who hears first and believes them, then guards what they teach, shall never be subject to death but will enjoy eternal and glorious life. Happy indeed may he be deemed who has been initiated in this divine Gnosis, whereby he will be liberated and abide in everlasting life! May the peace of the invisible God and the knowledge of the Truth be with the holy and dear brothers who believe in the heavenly precepts and at the same time fully keep them! May also the right hand of Light guard and save you from every evil assault and from the snares of the world! May the pity of the Holy Spirit open your heart and let you see your soul with your own eyes!

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the sayings of the Holy Prophet Mani:

Then the Luminary said: I Mani, the apostle of Jesus, I have gone out of the land of Babylon, whence I was to call a Call in the world; I shall cause living streams to well up for the thirsty, that they may drink and live. The Luminary said again: Without weapons, without armor I have subdued distant cities and far-off lands through the Word of God, while they bless my name. As no single man has known how to conquer me in all the world, so is it also to be with my spiritual sons, no one shall be able to conquer them. Apostles and envoys have I sent out to all the lands, so that the earlier apostles who preceded them have not done as I have done in this hard generation. For this great door which I have opened lies open to the Gods and Angels, and Men and all the spirits and living souls who are ready for Life and everlasting rest!

Here endeth the gospel.

DAY OF THE HOLY APOSTLES, PHILIP AND JAMES

(May 1)

Color: *White or Red*

THE COLLECT

We thank thee, Lord of Light, for the holy presence of the Apostles Philip and James, and we pray that those to whom their wondrous power has descended may ever be filled with Thy love and wisdom, that under their hierophantic guidance thy Ecclesia may ever serve the one and true Gnosis for evermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the general epistle of St. James:

My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God, Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any man be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man beholding his natural face in a glass; for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

A blind man and one who sees, when they are in the darkness the two do not differ from one another. But when the light comes, then he who sees will see the light, and he who is blind will remain in darkness. The Lord said: Blessed is he who is before he came into being. For he who is, both was and shall be.

Here endeth the gospel.

COMMEMORATION OF THE DEATH OF CARL GUSTAV JUNG

(June 6)

Color: *White* (The Mass may be a Requiem, in which case the color is Black)

THE COLLECT

Remember him O Lord in thy Kingdom, thy servant Carl Gustav Jung, a knower of the things that are and a true healer of the souls of men. We praise and thank thee for this light-bearer, we thank thee for having given him the power and wisdom to descend into the underworld and to be reborn in thee, thus being enabled to proclaim thy truth that makes men free. Grant that we, following his most noble example, may with him in length enter into Thine ineffable splendor and attain to the elixir of life, the stone of the philosophers and the supreme good. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the writings of Carl Gustav Jung:

Our aim is to create a wider personality whose center of gravity does not necessarily coincide with the ego, but which, on the contrary, may even thwart the ego-tendencies. Like a magnet, the new center attracts to itself that which is proper to it, the 'signs of the Father', namely everything that pertains to the original and unalterable character of the individual ground-plan. The same knowledge, formulated differently to suit the age they lived in, was possessed by the Gnostics.

...Man's consciousness was created to the end that it may recognize its descent from a higher unity; pay due and careful regard to this source; execute its commands intelligently and responsibly; and thereby afford the psyche as a whole the optimum degree of life and development. I am addressing myself to those many people for whom the light has gone out, the mystery has faded, and God is dead. To gain an understanding of religious matters,...that is left us today as the psychological approach. ...All opposites are of God, therefore man must bend to this burden; and in so doing he finds that God in his 'oppositeness' has taken possession of him, incarnated himself in him. He has become a vessel filled with God and with Divine conflict.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel of Truth of the Jung Codex:

The Gospel of Truth, the joy of those who have received from the Father of Truth the grace to know him through the power of the Logos who has come from the Pleroma, which is in the thought and mind of the Father, and who is named redeemer because he is the messenger who was destined to come for the redemption of those who knew not the Father. As we have come to manifestation in the world while we have put on the Christ and we are borne by Him until we sink down. That is our death in this life. We are drawn up to heaven as rays by the sun, with nothing to hinder us. That is the spiritual resurrection which devours the physical and fleshly resurrection.

Here endeth the gospel.

DAY OF THE HOLY URIEL, ARCHANGEL

(June 22)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

Grant us, O Lord of Light, who abidest beyond all limitation and without whose illumination this lower aeon would be but darkness of darkness, to hold fast within our hearts Thy love, which thou hast shown us in thy shining messengers, the holy angels, especially thy most holy archangel Uriel, who bringeth us the torch of thy divine flame. Help us to remember that thy divine spark dwelleth in us always and that in due time we shall also become bearers of thy light and messengers of thy holy love. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the first Epistle General of St. John:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us); that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. These things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy Angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. Before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats; and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand: Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungered and ye gave Me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took Me in, naked and ye clothed Me; I was sick, and ye visited Me; I was in prison, and ye came unto Me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying: When saw we Thee an hungered, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them: Amen, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of My brethren, ye have done it unto Me. Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand: Depart from Me. For I was an hungered and ye gave Me no meat; I was thirsty and ye gave Me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took Me not in, naked and ye clothed Me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited Me not. Then shall they also answer Him, saying: Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee? Then shall He answer them, saying: Amen, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it not unto one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

(June 24)

Color: *Red*

THE COLLECT

O Christ our Lord, who sentest forth Thy great and noble servant John the Baptizer to prepare Thy way before Thee; allow us to be heralds of thy glorious coming into our hearts and of Thy redemption of this world from the rule of the archons. Pour out by our hands, we pray, the purifying flood of Thy great Jordan of living water, so that all things may become pure and acceptable in Thy sight. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a high way for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever. Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and His arms shall rule for Him: Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work is before Him. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Mandaean Book of John:

A child was planted out of the height, a mystery revealed in Jerusalem. The priests saw dreams; chill seized on their children, chill seized on Jerusalem. Early in the morning a seer went to the temple, and spake: In my vision of the night I beheld that a star appeared and stood over Elizabeth. Fire burned in Zachariah, the old father. A star flew down into Judaea, a star fell down into Jerusalem. And Elizar said to Zachariah: If John receives Jordan, then will I be his servant of purity. We will ascend with him to the Light's region. And Zachariah said to all the priests: If the child comes out of the most lofty height, what then will you do after that here in Jerusalem? And the heavenly messengers took the child out of the heavenly Jordan and placed him in the womb of Elizabeth.

Here endeth the gospel.

DAY OF THE HOLY APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL

(June 29)

Color: *Red*

THE COLLECT

We give Thee most high praise and hearty thanks for thy glorious apostles Peter and Paul who have been chosen vessels of Thy grace, and lights of the world unto several generations; and we pray that, rejoicing in their fellowship, and participating in the works bestowed on us by their powers handed on in holy succession, we may partake with them of the heavenly kingdom. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians:

Though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. Unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak; I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I not as one that beateth the air. But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying: Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? And they said: Some say that Thou art John the Baptist, some Elias, and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them: But who say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him: Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father who is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Here endeth the gospel.

DAY OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE USA

(July 4)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

O Sovereign and most worshipful of all Masters who in thine infinite love and wisdom hast caused our nation to be formed on this day; we bless and glorify thy glorious name for the abundant blessings thou hast conferred on thy children in this land. Thou who holdest all nations and countries in the hollow of thy hand, guard our country from all evil, and endow its people with wisdom and understanding, with strength and discernment, so that Thy will may be fulfilled and the great Temple of humanity be erected under Thy guidance; O Thou great masterbuilder, to whom there shall be praise and glory for evermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

As the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of the that body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many; and the eye cannot say unto the hand: I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet: I have no need of you. There should be no schism in the body, but the members should have the same care one for another. And where one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Luke:

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people, and hath raised up a mighty salvation for us in the house of His servant David, and He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began; that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hands of all that hate us; to show mercy towards our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant; that we, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto His people in the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE FEAST OF HOLY MARY OF MAGDALA

(July 22)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

O helper of God and mystic silence before the Aeon, the father of the universe sees thy Angel throughout before his face. We invoke thee, O holy female power, by the angels who rest on the four pillars, whose feet are firmly fixed on the foundations of the divine abyss! We adore thee, great and glorious woman in whose bosom the father of the Aeons was concealed from the beginning! Hail to thee, who art declared in the disk of the night-shining moon; who art present in the abysses of the mighty waters and whose celestial radiance is concealed in the womb of the earth! Despised art thou by the fools of the world, but ever revered by the knowers of the truth! Maiden of the mysteries, consort of the Christos, beloved of the Logos; praise, glory, and reverence shall be thine now and for evermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Perfect Mind:

I was sent by the Power and came to those who thought of me. I was found by those who sought me. Behold me, ye who thought of me. And ye who wanted to hear me, listen to me. And ye who expected me, accept me. And do not drive me away from before your eyes. And let not your voice or your ear hate me. Do not ignore me anywhere or at any time. Be careful, do not ignore me, for I am the first and the last. I am the honored one and the despised one. I am the harlot and I am the saint. I am the woman and I am the virgin. I am the mother and I am the daughter. I am barren and I have many children. I have many husbands and I am unmarried. I am the physician who heals and I am the one who wounds. I am the bride and I am the bridegroom. I am the mother of my husband and my husband is my father. I am the daughter of my husband, and my husband is my son. I am the sister of my husband and my husband is my brother. I am the slave of my father and I am the mistress of my son.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The first gospel is taken from the Gospel of St. Luke and the Gospel according to St. Philip:

And behold a woman in the city, which was a harlot, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisees house brought an alabaster box of ointment. And she stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. When the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself: This man if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him; for she is a harlot. And Jesus turned to the woman, and said unto Simon the Pharisee: Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet; but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss; but this woman hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint; but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee: Her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much.

The Sophia whom they call barren is the mother of the angels. And the consort of Christ is Mary Magdalen. The Lord loved Mary more than all the disciples and kissed her on her mouth often. The others said to him: 'Why do you love her more than all of us?' The Saviour answered and said to them: 'Why do I not love you like her?' There were three who walked with the Lord at all times, Mary his mother, and her sister and Magdalene, whom they called his consort. For Mary was his sister and his mother and his consort.

Here endeth the gospel.

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY PHILIFE OF LYONS

(August 2)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

O gracious and loving Shepherd of the sheep, we remember before thee at this time Thy wondrous servant, Nizier Philife, a master and wonder-worker on earth, who in his great humility called his person the dog of the good Shepherd; and we pray that strengthened by his glorious example, we too may, according to our several abilities, render unto thee the loving and loyal service thou askest us to give to thy suffering world. Amen.

(Note: *The lesson and gospel shall be those of the Sunday nearest to this date*)

THE FESTIVAL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

(August 6)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

O Lord Christ, our indwelling power of transformation, who according to sacred lore upon Mount Tabor didst show Thyself in Thy true glory to thy disciples, grant that we thy servants may also in due time be transformed and transfigured into thy likeness, O Thou great liberator of the light from darkness. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

There shall come forth a Rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots; and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and reverence to the Lord. He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them; and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light. And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with Him. Then said Peter unto Jesus: Lord, it is good for us to be here; if Thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice cried out of the cloud, which said: This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces, and were sore afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, and said: Arise and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man save Jesus only.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY SOPHIA

(August 15)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

We thus call upon the Holy Sophia, the supernal mother of our souls, and celestial bride of our spirits:

Daughter of Infinite Light, born of enlightened love; merciful and compassionate, embodiment of perfect wisdom; begotten in Eternity, beyond time and space. With what words shall we praise Thee, or with what thoughts comprehend Thy majesty? Utterance must profane Thee; Silence itself can but bear witness to Thee. How shall we extol Thee? In what shall we shadow forth Thy great glory among us? And our Lady Sophia answers, saying: Ye shall dance, sing, feast, make music and love, all in my praise. For mine is the ecstasy of the spirit, and mine also is joy on earth. Let my worship be in the heart that rejoiceth. Therefore let there be beauty and strength, power and compassion, honor and humility, mirth and reverence within you, now and for evermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Wisdom of Solomon:

O God of my Fathers, who hast made all things with Thy word, give me wisdom, that sitteth by Thy throne. For wisdom was with Thee, which knoweth Thy works, and was present when Thou madest the world, and knew what was acceptable in Thy sight, and right in Thy commandments. O send her out of Thy holy heavens, and from the throne of Thy glory, that being present, she may labor with me, that I may know what is pleasing unto Thee. For she knoweth and understandeth all things, and she shall lead me soberly in my doings, and preserve me in her power; so shall my works be acceptable. So the ways of them which lived on earth were reformed, and men were taught the things that are pleasing unto Thee through Wisdom.

Here endeth the lesson.

SEQUENCE

To be recited after the Gradual

- P: O Light, have mercy upon me,
For there is no virtue in the cup of forgetfulness. If chaos were only chaos, —I might in time fall asleep upon the green grass.
- C: I might forget that perfect, symmetrical silence —Where the angels sing hymns to Thee, —Where every voice is a being, and every being a voice, —Each tuned to its eternal note.
- P: Where the harmony of the fullness is silence, —As the harmony of the rainbow is white.
- C: Have mercy upon me, O Light,
For I have seen beauty by its own divinity destroyed, —And love by its deepest desire betrayed.
- P: Day and night all the lovely abandoned things —Of the holy city cry out for redemption, —And a lost god looks out of every human eye.
- C: I will never fall asleep upon the green grass, —While the earth rings with the cries of the exiles.
- P: Hear my voice mingled with every prayer, O Light, have mercy upon me!
- C: Amen.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Book of the Saviour, also called the book Pistis Sophia:

As Sophia came into the midst of the invisibles, in their midst she sang praises unto God, saying: I will give thanks unto thee, O Light, for thou art a saviour; thou art a deliverer for all time. I will utter this song to the Light, for it hath saved me out of the hand of the rulers, my foes. And thou hast preserved me in all the regions, thou hast saved me out of the height and the depth of the chaos and out of the aeons of the rulers of the sphere. And when I was come out of the height, I wandered round in the regions in which is no light, and I could not return to the thirteenth aeon, my dwelling place. For there was no light in me nor power. My power was utterly weakened. And the light saved me in all my afflictions. I sang praises unto the light, and it hearkened unto me, when I was constrained. It guided me in the creation of the aeons to lead me up into the thirteenth aeon, my dwelling-place. I will give thanks unto thee, O Light, that thou hast saved me, and for thy wondrous works unto the race of men. When I failed of my power, thou hast given me power; and when I failed of my light, thou didst give me purified light. I was in the darkness and the shadow of the chaos, bound with mighty fetters of the chaos, and no light was in me. And thou hast shattered the upper gates of the darkness and the mighty bolts of the chaos. And thou didst let me depart out of the region in which I had transgressed, and my light was taken, because I have transgressed. And I ceased from my mysteries and went down to the gates of the chaos. And when I was constrained, I sang praises to the Light. It saved me out of all afflictions. Thou sentest thy stream; it gave me power and saved me out of all my afflictions. I will give thanks unto thee, O Light, that thou hast saved me, and for thy wondrous works in the race of men. This then is the song which Sophia hath uttered in the midst of the four and twenty invisibles, desiring that they should know all the wondrous works which the Saviour hath done for her.

Here endeth the gospel.

FEAST OF ST. STEPHAN, KING OF HUNGARY

(August 20)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

Almighty and ever Sovereign God, whose awesome majesty and regal glory are reflected in all true and righteous representatives of royalty; we praise thee for the nobility and chivalry of King Saint Stephan, and we pray that his watchful care and intercession may guide and shield his orphaned Hungarian people, and bring to his land freedom from the yoke of its enemies. O Thou who ever art the king of kings and liberator of thy captive subjects. Amen.

The lesson and the gospel are those of the Sunday nearest.

THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

(August 29)

Color: *Red*

The collect and lesson shall be those of the eighteenth Sunday after Trinity.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

From Adam until John the Baptist there is among those who are born of women none higher than John the Baptist, so that his eyes will not be broken. But I have said that whoever among you becomes as a little child shall know the kingdom and he shall become higher than John. Jesus said: Blessed are those who have been persecuted in their heart; these are they who have known the Father in Truth.

Here endeth the gospel.

**THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SOPHIA,
COMMONLY CALLED THE NATIVITY OF OUR LADY**

(September 8)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

Let us call upon the Holy Sophia, the supernal mother of our souls, and celestial bride of our spirits: Daughter of Infinite Light, born of enlightened love; merciful and compassionate, embodiment of perfect wisdom; begotten in Eternity, beyond Time and Space, —With what words shall we praise Thee, or with what thoughts comprehend Thy majesty? Utterance must profane Thee; silence itself can bear witness to Thee. How shall we extol Thee. In what shall we shadow forth Thy great glory among us?

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Wisdom of Solomon:

Wisdom reacheth from one end of the world to the other; mightily and sweetly doth she order all things. In that she is conversant with God, she hath magnified her nobility; yea, the Lord of all things Himself loved her. For she is privy to the mysteries of the knowledge of God, and a lover of His works. If riches be a possession to be desired in this life, what is richer than wisdom, that worketh all things? And if prudence work, who of all that are is a more cunning worker than she? If a man love righteousness, her labours are virtues; for she teacheth temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude, than which men can have nothing more profitable in their life. By means of her I shall obtain immortality, for she is the mother of fair love, and of patience and perseverance, and of holy hope. Thou shalt put her on as a robe of honour, and shalt put her about thee as a crown of joy.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

The Sophia whom they call barren is the mother of the angels. And the consort of Christ is Mary Magdalen. The Lord loved her more than all the disciples, and kissed her on her mouth often. The others said to him: 'Why do you love her more than all of us?' The Saviour answered and said to them: 'Why do I not love you like her?' Some said: Mary conceived of the Holy Spirit. They are in error. What they are saying they do not know. When did a woman ever conceive of a woman? Mary is the virgin whom no power defiled, who is anathema to the Hebrews, the apostles and ignorant men. This is the Virgin whom no power defiled. There were three who walked with the Lord at all times, Mary his mother and her sister and Magdalene, whom they called his consort. For Mary was his mother and his sister and his consort.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE DAY OF THE HOLY MICHAEL, ARCHANGEL **(September 29)**

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

O glorious prince of the heavenly army, Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the eternal combat, which we sustain against the powers of darkness, malice and ignorance, which afflict us on this aeonial battlefield of our earthly life! Come, invincible leader of the host of heaven, guardian of the paradise of the world and wielder of the double-edged, flaming sword! Aid and sustain us in our defense against the adversary; and come to lead us finally into the presence of the Most High, into the abode of the blissful. Enlighten and purify us, O Thou great and mighty Archangel Michael, grant us to abandon the works of darkness and to love the Gnosis of the Light; so that whilst all things of this world pass away. we may ever hold fast those things which abide for evermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of Enoch the Prophet:

In the five hundredth year, and in the seventh month, on the fourteenth day of the month of the lifetime of Enoch, in that parable, I saw that the heaven of heavens shook; that it shook violently; and that the powers of the Most High, and the angels, thousands of thousands, and myriads of myriads were agitated with great agitation. And when I looked, the Ancient of days was sitting on the throne of his glory, while the angels and saints were standing around him. A great trembling came upon me and terror seized me. My loins were bowed down, my reins were dissolved and I fell upon my face. The holy Michael, another holy angel, one of the great holy ones, was sent to raise me up. And when he raised me, my spirit returned, for I was incapable of enduring this vision of violence, its agitation, and the concussion of heaven.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel of Truth:

The place to which they direct their thoughts, that place is their root, which brings them upward in all the heights to the Father. Theirs is His head, which becomes a repose for them, and they are enclasped as they approach Him, so that they say that they have partaken of His face by means of the embraces. But they do not stand revealed in such a manner as not to have risen above themselves. Nor did they lack the glory of the Father, nor did they think of Him as small nor that He is bitter or wrathful, but that He is guileless, imperturbable, and a sweetness, knowing all before they were, and not having need to be taught. This is the way of those who have something on high through the immeasurable Greatness as they stretch after the One, alone and perfect, who is there for them. And they are not to go down to Amente, and they have neither envy nor groaning, nor is there death in them, but they rest in Him who rests, not toiling nor writhing round about the Truth. But they are themselves, the Truth. And the Father is in them, and they are in the Father, being complete, being indivisible in the truly Good, lacking nothing at all but taking rest, being fresh in the Spirit. And they will heed their root, they will be at rest, they in whom He will find His root and not do harm to His soul. This is the place of the blessed — this is their place.

Here endeth the gospel.

DAY OF THE HOLY FRANCIS OF ASSISI

(October 4)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

Make us, O Lord, instruments of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy; where there is darkness, light. O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be understood as to understand; not so much to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Hymn of the Creatures of the Holy Francis of Assisi:

O most high, almighty, good God, to Thee belongeth praise, glory, honour and blessing. Praised be my Lord God, with all His creatures, and especially our brother the sun, who brings us the light. Fair is he, and shining with a very great splendor. O Lord, he signifies to us Thee. Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars, the which he has set dear and lovely in heaven. Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for air and cloud, calms and all weather, by which Thou upholdest in life all creatures. Praised be my lord for our sister water, who is very serviceable unto us, and humble and precious and clear. Praised be my Lord for our brother fire, through whom Thou givest us light in the darkness, he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong. Praised be my Lord for our mother the earth, the which doth sustain and keep us, and bringeth forth diverse fruits, and flowers, and many colors, and grass. Praise ye and bless ye the Lord and give thanks unto Him, and serve Him with great humility.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Jesus said: The hour is come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Amen, Amen, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be. Father, glorify Thy name. Then came a voice from heaven saying: I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE DAY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF THE HOLY TEMPLARS (October 13)

Color: *Red*

Note: It is permissible to use the Requiem Eucharist, with the insertion of the special collect, lesson and gospel and using the Black color.

THE COLLECT

Remember them O Lord, in Thy kingdom, Thy faithful servants Jacques de Molay, Guy de Auvergne, and all the glorious martyrs of the Order of the Templars, who have shone as brilliant lights of the eternal Gnosis in their days. Thou who art ever the comforter of the oppressed and the repose of those who suffer for the sake of the truth, grant them peace, refreshment, glory and the splendor of Thy Gnosis. Grant that we, following the example of Thy Holy Martyrs, may with them bear witness to the Gnosis of Love, Liberty and Light forever. Not to us, not to us O Lord, but to Thy name be the Glory; now and for evermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the writings of the Gnostic Fathers:

The seeds of God, 'tis true, are few, but vast and fair and good; virtue and self-control, and devotion. Devotion is God-Gnosis; and he who knoweth God, being filled with all good things, thinks only godly thoughts, and not thoughts like the many think. For this cause, they who Gnostic are, please not the many, nor the many them. They are thought mad and laughed at; they are hated and despised, and sometimes even put to death.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: I have cast fire upon the world, and see, I guard it until the world is afire. Jesus said: Men possibly think that I have come to throw peace upon the world, and they do not know that I have come to throw divisions upon the earth, fire, sword, war. For there shall be five in a house: three shall be against two and two against three, the father against the son and the son against the father, and they will stand alone. Jesus said: Whoever does not hate his father and mother will not be able to be a disciple to me, and whoever does not hate his brethren and sisters and does not take up his cross in my way will not be worthy of me. Jesus said: Blessed are those who have been persecuted in their heart; these are they who have known the Father in truth.

Here endeth the gospel.

ALL SAINTS DAY

(November 1)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

We glorify and thank Thee, O Indwelling One, for the abiding presence among us of Thy glorious and holy saints who were and are and are to come. We humbly recognize that they indeed are the corners of our cosmos, the pillars of the perfection of mankind, and the revealers of reality. Do Thou, O Holy One, ever affirm within us Thy powers of holiness, that in the fullness of the time of our perfection we might join the ranks of thy leaders of light and become providers of purpose and helpers of Thy holy hand. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of Enoch the Prophet:

Blessed are ye, O saints and elect, for glorious is your lot. The saints shall exist in the light of the sun, and the elect in the light of everlasting life, the days of whose life shall never terminate; nor shall the days of the saints be numbered, who seek for light, and obtain righteousness with the Lord of spirits. Peace be to the saints with the Lord of the world. Henceforward shall the saints be told to seek in heaven the secret of righteousness, the portion of faith; for like the sun has it arisen upon the earth, while darkness passed away. There shall be light interminable: nor shall they enter upon the enumeration of time: for darkness shall be previously destroyed, and light shall increase before the Lord of spirits: before the Lord of spirits shall the light of righteousness increase for ever.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Book of the Great Mystery of the Logos:

The Apostles spoke to Jesus, saying: Speak to us O Lord, that we may hear Thee. We have followed Thee with all our heart, have left father and mother, have left vineyard and field, have left our goods, have left the king's glory and have followed Thee, that Thou mightest teach us the life of Thy Father who hath sent Thee. Jesus, the living one, answered and said: This is the life of my Father, that ye receive your soul from the race of divine reason, and it cease to be earthly and become wise through that which I say unto you in the course of my words, that ye may contemplate it and be delivered from the ruler of this aeon and his snares, which have no end. But you are my disciples., make haste to receive my word carefully yourselves. that ye may know it, that the ruler of this aeon may not strive with you, and that ye yourselves, may fulfill my word, and I myself make you free, and you become whole through a freedom wherein there is no blemish. As the Spirit of the Comforter is whole, so shall ye become whole through the freedom of the spirit of the Holy Comforter.

Here endeth the gospel.

*The same collect, lesson and gospel shall serve for seven days after,
except on the Holy Day of All Souls.*

ALL SOUL'S DAY

(November 2)

Color: Black

*The Requiem Eucharist, using the lesson and gospel and the collect for
the General Requiem is ordained for this day.*

DAY OF THE Gnostic FATHERS (ALL Gnostic SAINTS)

(November 20)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

Praise be to Thee, O Father of all Fatherhood, Thou, the unknown God, who was before the fall of the sparks into the darkness of this aeon, for the glorious messengers of the light of Thy everlasting and redeeming Gnosis. Especially do we praise and thank Thee today for the following holy and enlightened teachers and knowers of truth: Valentinus of Rome; Basilides of Antioch; Carpocrates of Alexandria; Bardesanes of Syria; Mani of Babylonia, Martyr; Priscillian of Avila, Bishop and Martyr; Paul of Samosata, Bishop; Peter of Bruys, Martyr; Amalric of Bena; David of Dinan and William of Paris; Bogomil of Dragowitza, Bishop; Peter Waldo of Lyons; Joachim of Flora; Esclaremonde de Foix and the Cathar martyrs; and all the holy souls and wise sages who have in any way or form, under whatsoever guise and appearance attained to and taught the true and ancient Gnosis of God. Grant, O Boundless One, that inspired by and following their most noble example we also may see the light of Thy Gnosis and assist in liberating Thy sparks of light from the chains of darkness, ignorance and malice which afflict them in this aeon. Amen.

Note: *The lesson and gospel shall be those ordained for the sixth Sunday after Trinity.*

DAY OF THE HOLY NICHOLAS, BISHOP

(December 6)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, loving and bountiful parent and shepherd of our souls, we Thy servants do give Thee most humble thanks for the glorious example of Thy holy bishop Saint Nicholas of Myra; grant, we beseech Thee, that inspired by such love as he is said to have possessed, we also shall be ministers of Thy bounty, bestowers of the gifts of the spirit, and make the hearts of Thy children rejoice for evermore. Amen.

The lesson and gospel are those ordained for the eighteenth Sunday after Trinity.

DAY OF THE HOLY APOSTLE THOMAS

(December 21)

Color: *Red*

THE COLLECT

O eternal God, who hast singled out with Thy divine favor the illustrious apostle of the Logos, Didymos Judas Thomas, and hast raised him above all other disciples by imparting to him the mysteries of the Gnosis; grant that we may follow his example and inspiration and be also thus lifted up into the light of true knowledge that sets free. Amen.

*The lesson and gospel are those ordained for the twelfth Sunday after Trinity –
An alternate lesson is found overleaf.*

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Colossians:

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him; rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and ye are complete in Him, who is the Head of all principality and power; buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead. If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth; for ye are dead to earth, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE DAY OF THE HOLY RAPHAEL, ARCHANGEL

(December 22)

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

O God, who art the author of peace and health, in the Gnosis of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: defend us Thy humble servants from all afflictions and infirmities that take our power from the tasks we dedicate to Thee. We thank Thee for Thy glorious messenger and healing angel, Raphael, and for the aid and comfort given to us by all Thy holy angels, now and for evermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of Tobit:

And the angel said unto them: Bless God, praise him and magnify him and praise him for the things which he hath done unto you in the sight of all that live. It is good to praise God and exalt his name and honorably to show forth the works of God: therefore be not slack to praise him. Do that which is good and no evil shall touch you. A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold; for those that exercise alms and righteousness shall be filled with life, but they that transgress are enemies to their own life. God hath sent me to heal, thee and thy daughter, for I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels which present the prayers of the saints and go in and out before the Glory of the Holy One.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Then said they unto Jesus: What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them: This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent. For the Bread of God is He who cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto Him: Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them: I am the Bread of Life; he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst. All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.

Here endeth the gospel.

DAYS OF GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Color: *White*

THE COLLECT

Spirit of life and mighty One of light, open our eyes that we may recognize the bounty of blessings which thou hast bestowed upon us, and grant that through our appreciation of that which is temporal we may be brought at length to that which is eternal. Praise be to thee for the wonder of the fire that bringeth warmth and brightness to the world and to our mind; praise be to thee for the freshness of air that bloweth where it listeth as the image of thy most holy Spirit; praise be to thee for the rich earth, the sustainer of all that lives; praise be to thee for water that refreshes the earth in stillness and in storm; praise be to thee for the courage of the heroes, the example of the saints and the splendor of all noble deeds; for the memory of our true home above the shadows of this world, and for the hope of our return to thy kingdom of life and light everlasting. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Psalms of David:

Ye shall stand every morning to thank and praise the Lord. At morning and at even. O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in Him with psalms. The sea is His, and He made it: and His hands prepared the dry land. He is the Lord our God: and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord: I will direct my prayer unto Thee, and look up. I will sing of Thy power: and will praise Thy loving-kindness betimes in the morning. In the evening and morning and at noonday will I call: and He shall hear my voice. The tenderness of the Lord is new every morning: Great, O Lord, is Thy faithfulness.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Philip:

There is a glory that is higher than glory, there is a power which is above power. Because of this the perfect things are open to us, and the hidden things of the truth; and the holy things of the holy ones are revealed, and the bridal chamber invites us in. Insofar as it is hidden, wickedness is indeed brought to naught, but it is not taken away from the midst of the seed of the Holy Spirit; they are slaves of wickedness. But when it is revealed, then the perfect light will pour out on everyone. And all those who are in it will receive. Then the slaves will be free, and the captives delivered.

Here endeth the gospel.

COMMON OF SAINTS

Color: *White, except in case of martyrs, when Red is used*

THE COLLECT

O God, who art the inspirer of all fine thoughts and noble actions, we give thanks to thee for the noble example and inspiration of thy holy; and we pray that we too may, according to our abilities, render unto thee the service thou dost demand of us. We thank thee for all who have courageously sought after truth; for all who have added to our understanding of things divine and human; for all who have created and manifested beauty; for all who have relieved human suffering; for all who have been faithful to the voice within their hearts, even through pain and death; and for all who have served thee in their generation. For all these thy faithful and holy saints we give thee thanks, praise and adoration, now, henceforth, and for evermore. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Romans:

I beseech you, therefore, brethren, that ye present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another in brotherly love, in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation; distributing to the necessity of saints, given to hospitality. Bless them who persecute you; bless and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one towards another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceit. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Owe no man anything, but to love one another, for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: Two will rest on a bed: one will die the other one live. Salome said: Who art thou, man, and whose son? Thou didst take thy rest upon my bench and eat from my table. Jesus said to her: I am he who is of the Same, and to Me was given from the things of the Father. Salome said: I am Thy disciple. Jesus said to her: Therefore I say, if he is the Same, he will be filled with light, but if he is divided, he will be filled with darkness.

Here endeth the gospel.

GENERAL REQUIEM

Color: Black

THE COLLECT

Remember them, O Lord, in Thy kingdom, the faithful souls whom we knew but see no longer: Grant them Thy peace; let the light above the aeons shine upon them; grant them we pray thee, a place of refreshment, a blessed tranquility, and the splendor of Thy Gnosis. O Eternal One, who abidest ever outside the limitations of time, we beseech Thee to shed forth upon the assembly of Thy faithful children on earth, in heaven and in the underworld the bright beams of Thy light and supernal comfort; and grant that we, following the examples of those who have attained to Thy Gnosis, and for whose blessed memory we continually give thanks unto Thee, may with them at length enter into Thine ineffable splendor and unending joy and attain to union with Thee who wert and art and art to come. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Book of the Pistis Sophia:

Every man who is to receive the mysteries, if they knew the time wherein they would leave the body, they would be mindful and commit no acts of darkness, so that they might ever inherit the Kingdom of the Light. Now then, let him who shall do what is worthy of the mysteries receive the mysteries and go to the Light. He who is to receive the mysteries becomes a great fire, very mighty and wise, and it burns up evils, and the flames secretly enter the soul and consume all the veils which the spirit of imitation has fastened on it, and the soul surrenders their destiny, saying to the rulers of destiny: 'Take to yourselves your destiny; henceforth I come no more to your region; I have forever become alien to you, being about to go to the region of my inheritance.' Thus the knower, the receiver of the mysteries is free in his body and out of it, whether born on earth or reborn in heaven.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. Thomas:

Jesus said: I took my stand in the midst of the world and in flesh I appeared to them; I found them all drunk, I found none among them athirst. And my soul was afflicted for the souls of men, because they are blind in their heart and do not see that empty they have come into the world and that empty they seek to go out of the world again. But now they are drunk. When they have shaken off their wine, then will they repent. Jesus said: If the flesh has come into existence because of the spirit it is a marvel; but if the spirit has come into existence because of the body it is a marvel of marvels. But I marvel at how this great wealth has made its home in this poverty. The disciples said to Jesus: Tell us how our end will be. Jesus said: Have you then discovered the beginning so that you inquire about the end? For where the beginning is, there shall be the end. Blessed is he who shall stand at the beginning, and he shall know the end and he shall not taste death.

Here endeth the gospel.

THE PATRON-SAINT OF A COUNTRY

THE COLLECT

We give thee most high praise and hearty thanks, O Eternal One of Light, for thy glorious saint, the patron of this country, who has been a chosen vessel of thy grace, and a shining light in several generations; and we pray that, rejoicing in his fellowship, and following his most noble example, we may be partakers with him of thy heavenly kingdom of light to which leadeth the knowledge that makes men free. Amen.

The lesson and gospel are those ordained for the eighteenth Sunday after Trinity.

THE PATRON-SAINT OF A CHURCH

THE COLLECT

We give thee most high praise and hearty thanks, O Lord of Light, for thy Holy, the patron of our church (*or chapel, oratory, sanctuary,*) and we pray thee that under his inspiration and guidance we may continually serve thee and shed the gifts of life, liberty and light upon thy people; through Christ our indwelling Lord. Amen.

The lesson and gospel are those ordained for the eighteenth Sunday after Trinity.

EUCHARIST OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Color: *Red*

THE COLLECT

Holy Spirit of God, who alone art the source of all beauty, all goodness, all truth; without whose inspiration nothing is permanent, nothing worthy; so work in us, we pray Thee, that we may follow after that which is beautiful and good and true, and by Thine aid may finally attain to that divine wisdom which is the one true Gnosis of Love, Life, Liberty and Light. Abide with us always, O Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and daily increase in us Thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and spiritual strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; that inspired by Thine indwelling presence, we may come at last to the fullness of being above all aeons; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Kephalaia of the Paraclete:

The fount of every blessing and all the invocations of the mother of life, the first Holy Spirit, the first mother who has come forth the father and first appeared, the glorious one who is the beginning of all emanations that have come to this world. Know that the grains of the dust of the earth can be measured, with the whole universe, one can count the grains of the dust of the earth year after year; but the length of time the Holy Spirit passed with the father, that one cannot count. He first formed her in his inner chambers in quiet and in silence; but when she was needed, then was she called and came forth from the father of greatness; she looked after all the aeons of the light.

Here endeth the lesson.

*If desired, after the Gradual, the following may be recited
either by the priest or by the priest and the congregation.*

SEQUENCE

Come Thou Holy Paraclete:
And from Thy celestial seat
Send Thy light and brilliancy.
Father of the poor draw near;
Mother of our souls, be here;
Come the world's true radiancy.

What is soiled, make Thou pure;
What is wounded, work its cure;
What is parched, fructify;
What is rigid, gently bend;
What is frozen, warmly tend;
Strengthen what goes erringly.

Fill Thy faithful, who confide
In Thy power to guard and guide,
With Thy sevenfold mystery.
Here Thy grace and virtue send,
Grant us Gnosis to the end.
And in the light felicity. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from the Gospel according to St. John:

Jesus said unto His disciples: I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that She may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Her not, neither knoweth Her; but ye know Her, for She dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more, but ye see Me; because I live, ye shall live also. The Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, she shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Here endeth the gospel.

VOTIVE EUCHARIST

For particular intentions

THE COLLECT

O Eternal God, who hast taught us through ages unnumbered that we are temples of Thy Holy Spirit, and who dost give to each of us a measure of all Thy gifts and some gifts to each in a special measure, vouchsafe to us, we pray Thee, the fulfillment of our desire and intention(here the special intention is inserted) in conformity with Thy holy will which we ever place above our own. For while we humbly ask Thee to graciously hear our prayer and grant us our wish, we nevertheless cheerfully receive whatsoever Thou dost appoint, and for all that befalleth us we give Thee thanks. Amen.

THE LESSON

The lesson is taken from the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians:

Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ, till we all come in the unity of faith, and of knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, who is the head, even Christ; from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor; for we are members one of another.

Here endeth the lesson.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is taken from Gospel according to St. John:

There was at Jerusalem, by the sheep market, a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of helpless folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, who had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie and knew that he had been a long time in that case, he saith unto him: Wilt thou be made whole? The helpless man answered him: Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool; but while I am coming another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him: Rise, take up thy bed and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed and walked.

Here endeth the gospel.

OCCASIONAL COLLECTS

To be used as second collects on appropriate occasions. They may also serve as occasional prayers on occasions other than the Eucharist.

FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF GOD'S WILL

O God, if only our wills be right towards Thine, do to us whatever it may please Thee. If it be Thy will that we should be in light, be Thou blessed; if it be Thy will that we should be in darkness, be Thou also blessed; if Thou vouchsafe to comfort us, be Thou blessed; if Thou afflictest us, be Thou also blessed. We cheerfully receive whatsoever Thou dost appoint, and for all that befalleth us we give thanks. Amen.

FOR THE GIFT OF WISDOM

O Wisdom that camest out of the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things, come and teach us the way of understanding. O Dayspring, splendor of the Eternal Light and Sun of Righteousness, come and enlighten those who are in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.

FOR THE SECULAR AUTHORITY

O Eternal One of Light, who hast bidden us to descend into the darkness of this world, we pray Thee to let Thy blessing rest upon our ...(president, king, queen) and those who are called to exercise temporal authority over us, that they may exercise their power for the benefit and enlightenment of all Thy people, that living in peace and freedom we may attain to Thy Gnosis, and so escape the darkness of this world, and by Thy guidance attain to the land of eternal brightness. Amen.

FOR THE GNOSTIC COMMUNITY

O Father of the Light, and O Mother of compassion, high and lofty pair that inhabits eternity, whose name is holy: Powers above all power, who transcend yet pervade all things: Manifest Yourselves to us, who seek after the light, stretch forth Your hands to help us, and bless our community established to advance and teach the way to the Gnosis of Love, Life, Liberty and Light. O Light above all lights, open our eyes that we may see Thee, open our ears that we may hear Thy voice; open our natures we pray Thee, that seeing and hearing Thee, Thou mayest be seen and heard in us. Amen.

FOR A BISHOP (Living)

O Shepherd and Hierophant of the Souls of men, the One true initiator and teacher of the Gnosis, we pray for thy servant, our bishop, that thou wouldst let thy blessing rest upon him, so that he may partake of strength both bodily and spiritual; that he may fitly bear the heavy burden of his office, and that he may with wisdom guide those worthy of the Gnosis into the inner chamber of thy holy mysteries. Amen.

FOR A BISHOP (Deceased)

Remember him, O Lord, in thy kingdom, thy faithful servant, our bishop whom we see no longer; grant him thy peace; let the light above the aeons shine upon him; and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power work in him the good purpose of thy perfect will: that he whom thou hast appointed here on earth to be the shepherd of souls and the ministering agent of thy holy power may continue to serve thee in all worlds and aeons to come. Amen.

FOR THOSE AT SEA

O Christ, at whose command the raging waves were stilled, we pray for those who go down to the sea in ships, whose business is in the great waters. We would pour out upon them, O Lord, our courage and our strength; that under Thine almighty blessing our earnest thought may avail to the help and the emboldenment of these our brethren; that by the guidance of Thy holy Angels they may safely reach the haven where they would be, Thou who sittest above the waterfloods and remainest a King for ever. Amen.

FOR ACTS OF LOVE

O Lord of life and love, who hast mysteriously infused into us the desire to love one another both spiritually and bodily, grant that in our lives we may express thy will, which ever gathereth into one the pairs of opposites, uniting them in the bridechamber. Grant us, O thou great reconciler and unifier that the coming together of our bodies, souls and spirits in acts of love may be a true sacrament of thy divine intent; and may we through earthly unions grow in mutual love, understanding and trust until at last we shall partake of the ineffable act of ultimate love, when things earthly and heavenly shall be gathered into one, and our lives and selves shall be hid with thee in all eternity. Amen.

FOR A GODLY LIFE

O Life of our lives, aid us to keep our bodies pure, knowing that Thy living touch is on our limbs: Aid us to keep all untruths from our thoughts, knowing that Thou art the Truth which has kindled the light of reason in our minds: Aid us to drive all evils from our hearts, and keep our love in flower, knowing that Thou hast Thy seat in the inmost shrine of our hearts. Aid us thus, that we may reveal Thee in our actions, thoughts and feelings, knowing that Thou art all. Amen.

FOR CHILDREN

O Lord Christ, Thou kindly friend of the little ones, shed we pray Thee, Thy blessing upon the children of the human race, (especially.....) and grant that their elders may accord them such love, kindness, and care as is needful for the growth and welfare of their bodies, souls and spirits. Remove from this world all hardness of heart, cruelty and evil that befalls little children and darkens the morning of their lives which Thou hast given them to fulfill Thy will. Shield and defend Thy little ones, whose strength sufficeth not to keep at bay the wickedness of this darkened world: enfold them in the everlasting arms of Thy love, for Thou hast declared: Of them is the Kingdom of heaven. Amen.

FOR THE OPPRESSED AND PERSECUTED

O God of freedom and light, look graciously upon Thy children who are in oppression, persecution, prison and sorrow for the sake of liberty and justice: grant unto them we pray Thee freedom from tyranny, misery and torture at the hands of the servants of the rulers of darkness: lead them into Thy promised land of Love, Life, Liberty and Light. This we ask and thus we pray. Amen.

FOR ANIMALS

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals; especially for animals that are suffering; for all that are not cared for or cruelly treated; for those that are injured, or lost, or frightened or hungry; for all thy unhappy creatures in captivity or about to die. Grant us to be true friends to all living things and thus by sharing the blessings of the merciful fulfill thy holy will on earth. Amen.

FOR ALL DEGREES IN THE CHURCH

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is made holy and governed, graciously regard our prayer for all orders and degrees therein, that by the gift of Thy grace all in their several stations may faithfully serve Thee; through Christ our Indwelling Lord. Amen.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE MINISTERED TO US IN SPIRITUAL THINGS

Almighty God, Fountain of all goodness, we render thanks unto Thee for the blessings received through Thy servant/s who have ministered unto us in spiritual things; and we pray Thee to strengthen them in all goodness, that they may faithfully serve before Thee all the days of their life; through Christ our Indwelling Lord. Amen.

FOR UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

O Indwelling Christ, Thou Logos of God, who art ever present in our hearts and who ever desirest that we love one another, grant unto us grace to eliminate and prevent all divisions in our community of those who seek after Thy Gnosis. Help us to lay aside our human selves, and have no self but Thee; live Thou Thy life in us; do Thou Thy will in us; be Thou made flesh in us: lead us though we follow not; infuse into us Thy breath though we feel it not, until we awaken to our true estate in Thee, and living in unity and concord attain to Thy Gnosis in which there is no division or separateness, but only unity with Thee and through Thee with all other souls. Amen.

FOR GENERAL HARMONY AND CONCORD

O Lord Christ, who hast taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth, grant unto us strength so to cast aside selfishness and pride, that we may live together in the spirit of concord and brotherly love. Amen.

FOR THE SICK

O God, who art the strength of all of them that put their trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness all who are (or Thy servant N. who is) in sickness and suffering: that so far as is expedient for them, they may be restored to bodily health and serve Thee in virtue of the same; through Christ our Indwelling Lord. Amen.

DURING COMMON SICKNESS

Almighty God, who art the strength of all them that put their trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness those who are afflicted with sickness in our midst: and we pray Thee to strengthen and bless those who minister to them; through Christ our indwelling Lord. Amen.

FOR ALL MANNER OF AFFLICTIONS

O God, origin and end of all, whom the heavens adore, let the whole earth also manifest Thy glory, all kingdoms obey Thee, all tongues confess Thee, and we, Thy children love and serve Thee in security and in peace. And grant to us, O boundless One, not to be attached to earthly things, but rather to love heavenly things; so that while all things around us pass away, we may ever now hold fast those things which abide for evermore. Amen.

FOR THE DECEASED

Almighty God, who hast dominion over both the living and the dead and dost hold all Thy creation in the everlasting arms of Thy love, we pray Thee for the peace and repose of Thy servant, that he, being dead unto this world, yet ever living unto Thee, may find in Thy continued and unceasing service the perfect consummation of happiness and peace; through Christ our Indwelling Lord. Amen.

FOR BLESSING ICONS

With hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing:

Good Creator:
Lover of the Human race,
We praise you for the great Love shown us
In the sending of your Word.
Born of the Virgin,
He became our Saviour,
Our first born brother,
Like us in all things but ignorance.

You have given us our Lord the Christ,
As the perfect example of holiness:
We see him as a child in the manger,
Yet acknowledge him our Lord Almighty.
We see his face
And discern the countenance of your goodness.
We hear him speak the words of life
And are filled with your wisdom.
We search the deepest reaches of his heart
And our own hearts burn with that fire of the Spirit,
Which he spread in order to renew the face of the earth.
We look on the Bridegroom of the Church,
Streaked in his own blood,
But we revere that blood,
Which washes away our ignorance.
The Church rejoices in the glory of his resurrection
And shares in the promise it holds.

Good Creator:
Listen to our prayer.
As your faithful people honor this image of *your Son*
May we be of one mind with the Christ.
May we exchange the image of the old Adam of earth
By being transformed in to the Christ,
The new Adam from heaven.

May the Christ be the way that leads unto you,
The truth that shines in our hearts,
The life that animates our actions.
May the Christ be a Light to our footsteps,
A safe place of rest on our journey,
and a gate that opens to us the City of Peace.
For He lives there reigning with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God forever and ever.
Amen.

Cense the Icon

A.M.D.G.