

AT NAZARETH

Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Prayer:

We beseech you, O Lord,
pour your grace into our hearts,
that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel,
so by his cross and passion
we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

MOUNT OF THE BEATITUDES

Reading: Matthew 5: 1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

Prayer:

Bless us, O God, with your love and the love of our neighbour.
Give us peace of heart, stillness of mind,
and the command of our own affections
as we strive to live the Beatitudes everyday.
We make our prayer through Chris our Lord. *Amen*

MENSA CHRISTI

Reading: John 21: 1-19

Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, one hundred and fifty three, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Prayer:

God our Father,
as the disciples were gladdened by the sight of your Son,
so may we have such knowledge of His presence with us
that we may be strengthened and sustained
by His risen life
and serve you continually with all our heart.
We make our prayer in His name.
Amen.

CANA

Reading: John 2: 1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. Reflection Prayers Response: Lord, hear our prayer

Hymn: Love Divine

Prayer:

Transforming God,
your Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord ... Amen

QASR EL YAHUD RENEWAL OF BAPTISM PROMISES AT THE RIVER JORDAN

Reading: Matthew 3: 13—17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

As we gather at the River Jordan, near to the place where Jesus was baptized, we remember that in the waters of Baptism we have died and been buried with him , so that we may rise with him to new life within the family of his Church, and to eternal life in heaven. With faith in the Lord's promises we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask these questions:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil

May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you strength to continue in the way that leads to life. Amen.

Everyone is now invited to trace the sign of the cross on their forehead, using water from the river, reminding us of our own baptism.

Prayer:

O God who draws us into the depths of life,
in baptism you consecrate us
to be temples of your Holy Spirit.

May we, whom you have counted worthy,
nurture this gift of your in-dwelling Spirit
and serve you in holiness and truth;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

On Approaching Jerusalem

Psalm 122

1 I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

2 *And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem;*

3 Jerusalem, built as a city that is at unity in itself.

4 *Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.*

5 For there are set the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David.

6 *O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.*

7 'Peace be within your walls and tranquillity within your palaces.'
8 *For my kindred and companions' sake, I will pray that peace be with you.*
9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

JERUSALEM

Dominus Flevit Chapel

Reading: Luke 19: 41 – 44

When Jesus came in sight of the city, he wept over it and said, "If only you had known, on this great day, the way that leads to peace! But no; it is hidden from your sight. For a time will come upon you when your enemies will set up siege-works against you; they will encircle you and hem you in at every point; they will bring you to the ground, you and your children within your walls, and not leave you one stone standing on another, because you did not recognize God's moment when it came."

Prayer:

God of our ancestors,
you call us to live in holiness
and desire us to be at one with you.
Open our hearts to realise your compassion
and raise us to seek for the life which is ours
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

Gethsemane.

Reading: Mark 14: 32—50

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him. Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." Then everyone deserted him and fled.

Prayer:

By your heaviness and fear in Gethsemane,
comfort the oppressed and those who are afraid.
By Your loneliness, facing the Passion while the Apostles slept,
comfort those who face evil alone while the world sleeps.
By Your persistent prayer, in anguish of anticipating,
strengthen those who shrink from the unknown.
By your humility, taking the comfort of angels,
Give us grace to help and to be helped by one another,
and in one another to comfort You, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

(Frances Caryll Houselander 1901-54)

BETHESDA

Reading: John 5: 2 – 17

There is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirtyeight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him: "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him "Sir, I have no man to put me in the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me. Jesus said to him "Rise, take up your bed and walk." At once the man was healed, and he took up his bed, and walked. Now that day was the sabbath, so the Jews said to the man who was cured "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." But he answered them "the man who healed me said to me "take up your bed and walk". This was why the Jews persecuted Jesus, because he did this on the Sabbath. .

Prayer for the sick

Let us name before the Lord

all whom we know to be in need of his healing: (*names*)

Loving Father, giver of life and health:
comfort and restore those who are sick,
that they may be strengthened in their weakness,
and have confidence in your unfailing love;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

PRAYERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE VIA DOLOROSA

Reading: Matthew 27:27—31

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers round him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spat on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to glory
but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory
before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

We adore you O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

We pause at each of the Stations of the cross, where the response is repeated, there may be a few words, and we sing the

taize chant Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom

Or Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.
Christe Eleison, Christe Eleison.
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.

ST PETER IN GALLICANTU

Reading: Mark 14: 66 – 72

As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the maids of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, said “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus. But he denied it, saying “I neither know, nor understand what you mean. And he went out into the gateway, and the cock crowed. And the maid saw him, and began to say to the by standers, “This man is one of them.” But again he denied it. And after a little while again the bystanders said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” And he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” And immediately the cock crowed a second time. Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him “before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times. And he broke down, and wept.

Prayer:

In the depths of our isolation,
We cry to you, Lord God;
Give light in our darkness
And bring us out of the prison of our despair;
Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BETHANY

Reading at the Church: John 11: 32-44

Mary fell at Jesus’ feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid Lazarus?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said “See how he loved him” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, “by this time there is a smell, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Prayer:

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion,
You showed that all are to share in your resurrection, O Christ God!
So we cry out to you, O Vanquisher of Death;
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!
Amen.

BETHLEHEM

The Nativity: from *Meditations of a Hermit* (S. Charles of Jesus)

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. Luke 2.7

I was born, born for you, born in a cave, in December, in the cold, on a wintry night, in poverty and in solitude, unknown even to the poorest. Why was I born in this way? So that you may believe in my love, since my love for you knows no limit. As I have loved you so much, put all your hope in me. I teach you to love me. Loving you with such tender love it was not enough for me to give myself to the world in the Incarnation. Ever since my birth I have shown myself to you and have put myself entirely into your hands. Ever since then you have been able to see me, hold me, hear me, serve me, console me. Love me, love me, for I am close to you. I give myself to you completely. In my great goodness I did not give myself to you just at my birth for a few days or years, but I gave myself into your hands for ever, till the end of time.

'I became this little child, so gentle and vulnerable, for you. Do not be afraid of me, come, take me in your arms and adore me, caress me as a child loves to be caressed. See, I hold out my arms to you. Be not afraid to caress me, a little tender babe. I am your God, but I am gentle and smiling. Be not afraid, but full of tenderness and love and confidence.'

S. GEORGE'S MONASTERY, WADI QELT

Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to HIM, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an

earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Meditation:

As you went into the desert
So do I follow
Putting aside that which distracts me
Grabs at me
Falsely claims me.
To search inside
To confront myself
My best, my worst
My good works and my sins.
And each time, I find you there
To call to me again
With words of challenge and words of mercy.
And as I fall to my knees, in prayer, in fasting
In sacrifice and penitence
Somehow, you have it in yourself to reach out
and gently lift me
To renew me
To claim me as nothing of this world can claim
me.
Meet me in the desert, Lord.
Claim me anew.
Amen

ABU GHOSH

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. *(Luke 24: 13-49)*

Prayer

O GOD of mystery,
out of death you delivered Christ Jesus,
and he walked in hidden glory with his disciples.
Stir up our faith,
that our hearts may burn within us
at the sound of his word,
and our eyes be opened to recognise him
in the breaking of the bread.
Grant this through Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. *Amen.*