

A Reading from the Book of Psalms

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.

Let my soul glory in the Lord;
the lowly will hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me,
let us together extol his name.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.

When the poor one called out, the Lord heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.

The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Taste and see how good the Lord is;
blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

The way we may be sure that we know Jesus
is to keep his commandments.

Whoever says, "I know him," but does not keep his commandments
is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But whoever keeps his word,
the love of God is truly perfected in him.

This is the way we may know that we are in union with him:
whoever claims to abide in him ought to walk just as he walked.

Beloved, I am writing no new commandment to you
but an old commandment that you had from the beginning.

The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

And yet I do write a new commandment to you,
which holds true in him and among you,

for the darkness is passing away,
and the true light is already shining.

Whoever says he is in the light,
yet hates his brother, is still in the darkness.

Whoever loves his brother remains in the light,
and there is nothing in him to cause a fall.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Saint Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1: 26-33