

# The Season of Epiphany

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version®  
following the Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary*

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# The Epiphany of our Lord

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary  
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## First Reading

### Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.  
<sup>2</sup>Look, darkness covers the earth,  
and deep darkness covers the peoples,  
but the LORD will dawn upon you,  
and his glory will be seen over you.  
<sup>3</sup>Nations will walk to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
<sup>4</sup>Look up. Look all around and see!  
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.  
Your sons will come from far away,  
and people will carry your daughters on their side.  
<sup>5</sup>Then you will look and be radiant.  
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.  
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.  
The wealth of the nations will come to you.  
<sup>6</sup>Caravans of camels will cover your land,  
young camels from Midian and Ephah.  
All those from Sheba will come.  
They will carry gold and incense,  
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

## Second Reading

### Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ <sup>9</sup>and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created

all things. <sup>10</sup>He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God in the heavenly places might now be made known to the rulers and authorities. <sup>11</sup>This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, <sup>2</sup>“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. <sup>11</sup>After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

# The First Sunday after the Epiphany

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## First Reading

### Ecclesiastes 12:1–7

So remember your Creator in the days of your youth,  
before the bad days come and the years arrive when you will say,  
    “I have no delight in them,”  
<sup>2</sup>before the sun and the light of the moon and the stars are darkened,  
before the clouds return after the rain,  
<sup>3</sup>before the day when the watchmen of the house tremble,  
and the strong men are bent over,  
and the women who grind grain cease because they are few,  
and those watching through the windows can barely see.  
<sup>4</sup>Then the double doors to the street are shut,  
    as the grinding of the mill grows quiet.  
A person wakes up at the sound of a bird,  
but all the sounds of music are muffled.  
<sup>5</sup>Then they fear heights and terrors along the road.  
The almond blossoms become white.  
The grasshopper drags himself along,  
and the caperberry has no effect.  
Why? Because the man is heading to his eternal home.  
Then the wailing mourners will go around in the street.  
<sup>6</sup>Remember your Creator  
    before the silver cord is snapped,  
    and the golden bowl is broken,  
    before the jar is shattered by the spring,  
    and the waterwheel is broken by the well,  
<sup>7</sup>and the dust goes back into the ground—just as it was before,  
and the spirit goes back to God who gave it.

## Second Reading

### Romans 12:1-5

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. <sup>2</sup>Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith

to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. <sup>5</sup>In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

## **Gospel**

### **Luke 2:41-52**

Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. <sup>42</sup>When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. <sup>43</sup>When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

<sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

<sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" <sup>50</sup>They did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>51</sup>He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

# The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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## First Reading

### Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the LORD, “Look, you yourself have been telling me, ‘Lead this people up,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ <sup>13</sup>So now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you, so that I may find favor in your sight. Consider that this nation is your people.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

<sup>15</sup>Moses said to him, “If your Presence is not going to go with me, do not send us up from here. <sup>16</sup>After all, how would people know that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Isn’t it in this way: that you go with us, so that we are distinguished, I and your people, from all the people who are on the face of the earth?”

<sup>17</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have said, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”

<sup>18</sup>Then Moses said, “Please show me your glory.”

<sup>19</sup>The LORD said, “I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy.” <sup>20</sup>He said, “You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live.”

<sup>21</sup>The LORD also said, “Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. <sup>22</sup>It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup>Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen.”

## Second Reading

### Romans 12:6-16a

We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. <sup>7</sup>If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. <sup>8</sup>If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

<sup>9</sup>Do not just pretend to love others. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another with brotherly love. Think of others as deserving more honor than yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Do not be lagging behind in zeal, but be fervent in spirit, as you continue to serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope. Endure trials patiently. Persist in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with the saints who are in need. Be quick to welcome strangers as guests.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; weep with those who are weeping. <sup>16</sup>Have the same respect for one another.

# Gospel

## John 2:1-11

Three days later, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

<sup>3</sup>When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine."

<sup>4</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with you and me? My time has not come yet."

<sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6</sup>Six stone water jars, which the Jews used for ceremonial cleansing, were standing there, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." And they did.

<sup>9</sup>When the master of the banquet tasted the water that had now become wine, he did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew). The master of the banquet called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the guests have had plenty to drink, then the cheaper wine. You saved the good wine until now!"

<sup>11</sup>This, the beginning of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

# The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary  
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## First Reading

### 2 Kings 5:1-15a

Na'aman, the commander of the king of Aram's army, was a great man in the opinion of his master. He was highly honored because the LORD had provided victory for Aram through him. Although he was a powerful warrior, he had leprosy.

<sup>2</sup>Raiding parties had once gone out from Aram and brought back a young girl. She served Na'aman's wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, "I wish my master stood before the prophet who is in Samaria, because he would cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>4</sup>So Na'aman went and told his master what the servant girl from the land of Israel had said.

<sup>5</sup>Then the king of Aram said, "Go there. I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Na'aman went, and he took ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. <sup>6</sup>Then he took the letter to the king of Israel. The letter said, "Now, when you receive this letter, you will know that I am sending my officer Na'aman to you so that you can cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>7</sup>When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothing and said, "Am I God that I can kill and make alive? Why is he sending a man to me for me to heal him from his leprosy? See how he is looking for a pretext to fight against me."

<sup>8</sup>But when Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king: "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."

<sup>9</sup>So Na'aman went with his horses and chariots and stopped in front of the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup>But Elisha sent a messenger out to him to say, "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan. Then your flesh will be restored and you will be clean."

<sup>11</sup>But Na'aman was angry and he left, saying, "Look, I said to myself, 'He will certainly come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and wave his hand over the place, and I will be cured of the leprosy!' <sup>12</sup>Aren't the Abana and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went away in a burning rage.

<sup>13</sup>But his servants approached and spoke to him. They said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not do it? How much more when he says to you, 'Wash and be clean'?"

<sup>14</sup>So he went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times, just as the man of God had said. Then his flesh was restored like the flesh of a small child, and he was clean. <sup>15</sup>Then he and his whole escort went back to the man of God. He stood in front of Elisha and said, "To be sure, now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

## Second Reading

### Romans 12:16b-21

Do not be arrogant, but associate with the humble. Do not think too highly of yourselves.

<sup>17</sup>Do not pay anyone back evil for evil. Focus on those things that everyone considers noble. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>But:

If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him a drink.

For by doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

<sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## Gospel

### Matthew 8:1-13

When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup>Just then, a leper came to him and bowed down to him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

<sup>3</sup>Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean." Immediately he was healed of his leprosy. <sup>4</sup>Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one. Instead, go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

<sup>5</sup>When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him and pleaded with him, <sup>6</sup>"Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed and suffering terribly."

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

<sup>8</sup>The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. But only say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I am also a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard this, he marveled. He said to those who were following him, "Amen I tell you: I have not found such great faith in anyone in Israel. <sup>11</sup>I tell you that many will come from the east and the west and will recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup>But the children of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to the centurion, "Go. Let it be done for you as you have believed." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

# The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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## First Reading

**Exodus 14:21–31**

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned the sea into dry land. The waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the middle of the sea on dry ground. The waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued them, and all of Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his charioteers went after them into the middle of the sea. <sup>24</sup>During the last watch of the night, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian forces from the pillar of fire and cloud. Then he confused the Egyptian forces. <sup>25</sup>He jammed their chariot wheels, and they had difficulty driving them. The Egyptians said, "We must flee from Israel, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!"

<sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, and the waters will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their charioteers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal place. While the Egyptians were fleeing from it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the middle of the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters came back and covered the chariots and the charioteers, the entire army of Pharaoh that went into the sea after the Israelites. Not even one of them survived.

<sup>29</sup>But the Israelites went through the middle of the sea on dry land, and the waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup>On that day the LORD saved Israel from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the mighty hand which the LORD put into action against the Egyptians, and the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in Moses, his servant.

## Second Reading

**Romans 13:8-10**

Do not owe anyone anything except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For the commandments—do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet (and if there is any other commandment)—are summed up in this statement: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no harm to a neighbor, so love is the fulfillment of the law.

## Gospel

**Matthew 8:23-27**

When he got into a boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup>Suddenly a terrible storm came up on the sea, so that their boat was covered by the waves. But Jesus was sleeping. <sup>25</sup>They went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to die!"

<sup>26</sup>He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up, rebuked the wind and the sea, and there was a complete calm.

<sup>27</sup>The men were amazed, saying, “What kind of a man is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

# The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary  
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## First Reading

### Jeremiah 17:5–10

This is what the LORD says.

Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind,

who seeks his strength from human flesh, and who turns his heart away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>He will be like a juniper bush in the wasteland.

He will not see good things when they come.

He lives in a dry place in the wilderness,

in a salty land where no one lives.

<sup>7</sup>But blessed is anyone who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

<sup>8</sup>He will be like a tree planted by water.

It sends out its roots to the stream.

It does not fear the heat when it comes.

Its leaves will remain green.

It is not concerned about a time of drought.

It does not stop producing fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is more deceitful than anything.

It is beyond cure.

Who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup>I, the LORD, am the one who searches the heart  
and examines the mind,

to reward a man according to what he has done,  
according to what his deeds deserve.

## Second Reading

### Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

# Gospel

## Matthew 13:24–30

<sup>24</sup>He presented another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup>But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup>The servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy did this.’ The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?’ <sup>29</sup>‘No,’ he answered, ‘because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

# The Transfiguration of Our Lord

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary  
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## First Reading

### Exodus 34:29-35

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not realize that the skin of his face was shining because he had been speaking with the LORD. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, they were amazed that the skin of his face was shining, so they were afraid to come close to him. <sup>31</sup>Moses called to them, so Aaron and all the rulers of the community returned to him, and Moses spoke to them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the people of Israel came close to him, and he gave them all of the commands that the LORD had spoken to him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses was finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. <sup>34</sup>But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out again. Then he would come out and tell the people of Israel what he had been commanded. <sup>35</sup>Whenever the people of Israel saw Moses' face, they would see that the skin of Moses' face was shining. Then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with the LORD again.

## Second Reading

### 2 Peter 1:16-21

To be sure, we were not following cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the powerful appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father, when the voice came to him from within the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We heard this voice, which came out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>We also have the completely reliable prophetic word. You do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>since we know this above all else: No prophecy of Scripture comes about from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## Gospel

### Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John the brother of James; and he led them up onto a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>There he was transfigured in front of them. His face was shining like the sun. His clothing became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>Just then, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup>Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, I will make three shelters here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

<sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Just then, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him.”

<sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell face down and were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Jesus approached and as he touched them, he said, “Get up, and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup>When they opened their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus alone. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Do not tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

# Septuagesima Sunday

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## First Reading

**Jeremiah 9:23–24**

This is what the LORD says.

The wise man should not boast in his wisdom.

The strong man should not boast in his strength,  
nor the rich man in his riches.

<sup>24</sup>Instead, let those who boast boast about this:  
that they have understanding, and that they know me.  
They know that I am the LORD,  
who shows mercy, justice, and righteousness on earth,  
for I delight in these things, declares the LORD.

## Second Reading

**1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5**

Do you not know that when runners compete in the stadium, they all run, but only one receives the prize? Run like that—to win. <sup>25</sup>Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable victor’s wreath, but we do it for an imperishable one. <sup>26</sup>That is why there is nothing aimless about the way I run. There is no pummeling of the air in the way I box. <sup>27</sup>Instead I hit my body hard and make it my slave so that, after preaching to others, I myself will not be rejected.

<sup>10:1</sup>For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup>They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

## Gospel

**Matthew 20:1-16**

“Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. <sup>4</sup>To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, ‘Why have you stood here all day unemployed?’

<sup>7</sup>“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’<sup>8</sup> When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.’

<sup>9</sup>“When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius.<sup>10</sup> When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too.<sup>11</sup> After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner:<sup>12</sup> ‘Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

<sup>13</sup>“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius?’<sup>14</sup> Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you.<sup>15</sup> Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’<sup>16</sup> In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

# Sexagesima Sunday

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary  
Evangelical Heritage Version®*

## First Reading

### Isaiah 55:10-13

Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky  
and do not return there  
unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout,  
so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth  
will not return to me empty.

Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,  
and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>Yes, you will go out with joy,  
and in peace you will be carried along.

The mountains and the hills will break out in shouts of joy before you,  
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of thorns, a fir tree will grow up.

Instead of briars, a myrtle tree will grow up.

This will make a name for the LORD.

It will serve as an everlasting sign that will not be cut off.

## Second Reading

### 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9

You gladly put up with fools, since you are just so wise! <sup>20</sup>In fact, you put up with it if anyone makes you his slave, robs you, takes advantage of you, looks down on you, or strikes you in the face! <sup>21</sup>I am ashamed to say that we were too weak for that!

However bold anyone might be (I am speaking in a foolish way), I am going to be bold too. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's seed? So am I. <sup>23</sup>Are they ministers of Christ? (I am speaking in a crazy way.) I am even more. I've done more hard work, been in prisons more often, been whipped far more, and I've been close to death many times. <sup>24</sup>Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods. One time I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day on the open sea. <sup>26</sup>I have often been on journeys, in danger from rivers, in danger from robbers, in danger from my own people, in danger from Gentiles, in danger in the city, in danger in the wilderness, in danger on the sea, in danger among false brothers. <sup>27</sup>I have worked hard and struggled. I've spent many sleepless nights. I've been hungry and thirsty. I've gone without food many times. I've been cold and lacked clothing.

<sup>28</sup>Besides those external matters, there is the daily pressure on me of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak without my being weak? Who falls into sin without my being distressed?

<sup>30</sup>If it is necessary that I boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup>The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is eternally blessed, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup>In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas kept the city of Damascus on alert to arrest me, <sup>33</sup>but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped from his hands.

<sup>12:1</sup>I must go on boasting, although there is nothing to be gained. So I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who, fourteen years ago, was carried up to the third heaven (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know—God knows). <sup>3</sup>And I know that such a man (whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know—God knows) <sup>4</sup>was carried up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words that a man cannot possibly speak. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Indeed, if I wanted to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from doing this, so that no one will think more highly of me than what he sees in me or hears from me.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, to keep me from becoming arrogant due to the extraordinary nature of these revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. <sup>9</sup>And he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me.

## Gospel

### Luke 8:4-15

As a large crowd was gathering and people from one town after another were making their way to him, he spoke using a parable. <sup>5</sup>“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell along the path. It was trampled, and the birds of the sky devoured it. <sup>6</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground. As soon as it grew, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>Other seed fell into good soil. It grew and produced fruit—one hundred times as much as was sown.” As he said these things, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear!”

<sup>9</sup>His disciples asked him, “What does this parable mean?”

<sup>10</sup>He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest I speak in parables so that ‘even though they see, they may not see, and even though they hear, they may not understand.’ <sup>11</sup>This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>Those along the path are the ones who hear it, but then the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts to keep them from believing and being saved. <sup>13</sup>Those on the rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root. So they believe for a while, but then fall away in a time of testing. <sup>14</sup>The seeds that fell into the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but as they go on their way they are choked by the worries, riches, and pleasures of life, so they do not mature. <sup>15</sup>And the seeds in the good ground are the ones who hear the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it tightly, and produce fruit as they patiently endure.”

# Quinquagesima Sunday

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary  
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## First Reading

### Isaiah 42:5–9

This is what the true God says,  
the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out,  
who spreads out the earth  
and everything that it produces,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and life to those who walk on it.

<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD.

I have called you in righteousness.

I will hold on to your hand,  
and I will guard you.

I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,  
to be a light for the nations,

<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,  
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.

<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD; that is my name.

I will not give my glory to another,  
nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup>Look, the former things have taken place,  
and I am declaring new things.

I am making them known to you before they spring forth.

## Second Reading

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and know all the mysteries and have all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away everything I own, and if I give up my body that I may be burned but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. It does not brag. It is not arrogant. <sup>5</sup>It does not behave indecently. It is not selfish. It is not irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>It does not rejoice over unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophetic gifts, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be done away with. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we

prophecy only in part, <sup>10</sup>but when that which is complete has come, that which is partial will be done away with. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup>Now we see indirectly using a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I was fully known.

<sup>13</sup>So now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

## Gospel

### Luke 18:31-43

He took the Twelve aside and said to them, “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup>Indeed, he will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, mistreat him, spit on him, <sup>33</sup>flog him, and kill him. On the third day, he will rise again.”

<sup>34</sup>They did not understand any of these things. What he said was hidden from them, and they did not understand what was said.

<sup>35</sup>As he approached Jericho, a blind man sat by the road, begging. <sup>36</sup>When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. <sup>37</sup>They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by. <sup>38</sup>He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>39</sup>Those who were at the front of the crowd rebuked him, telling him to be quiet. But he kept calling out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

<sup>40</sup>Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup>“What do you want me to do for you?”

He said, “Lord, I want to see again.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight. Your faith has saved you.”

<sup>43</sup>Immediately he received his sight and began following Jesus, glorifying God. All the people, when they saw this, gave praise to God.