

Old Testament Reading *Proverbs 11:10–30*

(Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die)

¹⁰When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. ¹¹By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown. ¹²Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. ¹³Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered. ¹⁴Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety. ¹⁵Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer harm, but he who hates striking hands in pledge is secure. ¹⁶A gracious woman gets honor, and violent men get riches. ¹⁷A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself. ¹⁸The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward. ¹⁹Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die. ²⁰Those of crooked heart are an abomination to the LORD, but those of blameless ways are his delight. ²¹Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered. ²²Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion. ²³The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath. ²⁴One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. ²⁵Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. ²⁶The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it. ²⁷Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it. ²⁸Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf. ²⁹Whoever troubles his own household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart. ³⁰The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Lesson *1 Peter 4:1–12*

(Stewards of God's Grace)

¹Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel *Matthew 5:10–20*

(Jesus speaks of the Church being salt and light, and that He came to fulfill the law for us)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**