

**Addresses
for
Morning and Evening Prayer**

**according to the
1943 Lectionary
of the
USA 1928 Book of Common Prayer**

**Intended for use
by Layreaders
in the absence of a priest**

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**Circumcision
(January 1)**

Morning Prayer

First Lesson: Deut 30:1-10

*Here beginneth the thirtieth chapter
of the Book of Deuteronomy*

1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

2 And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

3 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

4 If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:

5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.

6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

7 And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.

8 And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day.

9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

Here endeth the first lesson.

Second Lesson: Eph 2:11-22

Here beginneth the eleventh verse of the second chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians.

11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Here endeth the second lesson.

Homily

Of course we all know
that today is New Year's Day
on the civil calendar,
celebrated by innumerable parties,
some of them rather wild,
with great rejoicing and excitement
right at the stroke of midnight.
It's a brand new year,
"Out with the Old and in with the New!"
Innumerable resolutions have been made,
most of which will not be kept,
and tomorrow ...
well, tomorrow
is just the same old same old all over again.

That all is such a central thing
to the society in which we live
that we simply cannot ignore it;
but a new year is not
what the Church celebrates today.
We already had our New Year observance.
During Advent we began our year
with a remembrance of the Old Testament,
with a preparation for the celebration
of new beginnings in the Birth of Christ,
and with a preparation of ourselves
to meet Our Lord, whether at our death,
or at His triumphant Return.

Yes, we had our New Year's observance,
and it wasn't with raucous
"try-to-forget-it-all" parties,

but with a somber and thoughtful remembrance
of sin and redemption,
of unworthiness and hope,
of a Promise as sure as it is undeserved.

Today the Church celebrates something different.
Today we think about continuity,
about obedience,
and about a divine call given and expanded.

Our Bible is neatly divided into two parts:

First, there is an Old Testament,
given to a chosen people,
containing a calling given to them,
full of laws and instructions
as to how this calling should be lived out,
and with promises, poorly understood but real,
of the ultimate working out of this calling.

Second, there is a New Testament,
given through a chosen people
to an entire world,
a message of grace and salvation,
and of fulfillment of God's plan for mankind.

Today we remember the coming of Our Lord,
into a particular people,
who had a particular role to play,
chosen before the foundation of the world
to provide the fleshly dwelling-place
for the eternal Son of God.

We remember how He submitted Himself
to all the requirements of belonging to that nation,
how he accepted the mark of circumcision,

Second Lesson: Rev 19:11-16

*Here beginneth the eleventh verse of the nineteenth
chapter of the Revelation of St. John the Divine.*

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white
horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful
and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and
make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his
head were many crowns; and he had a name written,
that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in
blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed
him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white
and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that
with it he should smite the nations: and he shall
rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the
winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty
God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a
name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF
LORDS.

Here endeth the second lesson.

Homily to be written

death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life,
that both thou and thy seed may live:

20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and
that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou
mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the
length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the
land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers, to
Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Here endeth the first lesson.

living as a good Jew
from the very beginning of His earthly life.
He, the everlasting Word,
by whom all the Law was spoken,
was obedient in all things.

But look at what was foreshadowed,
even so far back as the Book of Deuteronomy:

*“And the LORD thy God
will circumcise thine heart,
and the heart of thy seed,
to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart,
and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.”*

Yes, God did have a particular sign,
by which his people were identified as His alone,
and distinguished from those around them,
and, yes, Our Lord did receive that very sign,
and became a part of that very people.
But he received it for us.

In that beginning of sacrifice,
in a sacrificial life,
and in the ultimate Sacrifice of Calvary,
he has called us all, every one who will,
to be a part of that chosen people,
in our Baptism,
and in our continual feasting on that Sacrifice
in the celebration of Eucharist
and the receiving of His Body and Blood.

Listen to St. Paul:

*“... at that time ye were without Christ,
being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,
and strangers from the covenants of promise,
having no hope, and without God in the world:”*

He was obedient in all things,
perfectly submitted to the will of His Father,
and our Father,
entirely without sin,
and yet one of us in every way.

He shed blood on the eighth day of his earthly life.
He shed blood on the Cross of Calvary.
His Blood is manifest in our churches
every time we celebrate Eucharist,
and we are washed in that Blood,
cleansed by that Sacrifice,
made pure and clean and holy
that we may worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
both here on earth and there in heaven,
that we may be His people,
now and in all the ages to come.

Let us pray.

O God, who hast made of one blood all nations of
men for to dwell on the face of the whole earth,
and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to
them that are far off and to them that are nigh;
Grant that all men everywhere may seek after thee
and find thee. Bring the nations into thy fold, pour
out thy spirit upon all flesh, and hasten thy king-
dom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

Evening Prayer

First Lesson: Deut 30:11-20

*Here beginneth the eleventh verse of the thirtieth
chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy.*

11 For this commandment which I command thee
this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far
off.

12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who
shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us,
that we may hear it, and do it?

13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest
say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it
unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy
mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

15 See, I have set before thee this day life and
good, and death and evil;

16 In that I command thee this day to love the
LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his
commandments and his statutes and his judgments,
that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD
thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou
goest to possess it.

17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt
not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship
other gods, and serve them;

18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall
surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your
days upon the land, whither thou passest over
Jordan to go to possess it.

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day
against you, that I have set before you life and