

Holy Bible Readings – Sunday, December 16, 2018

Apparition of Angel to St. Joseph

John 6:30-46

- 30 So they said to him, “What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do?”
- 31 Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”
- 32 So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.
- 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
- 34 So they said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”
- 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.
- 36 But I told you that although you have seen [me], you do not believe.
- 37 Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,
- 38 because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.
- 39 And this is the will of the one who sent me that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it [on] the last day.
- 40 For this is the will of my Father that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him [on] the last day.”
- 41 The Jews murmured about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven,”
- 42 and they said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”
- 43 Jesus answered and said to them, “Stop murmuring among yourselves.
- 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day.
- 45 It is written in the prophets: ‘They shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.
- 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.

Genesis 37:5-11

- 5 Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers, they hated him even more.
- 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had.
- 7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf rose to an upright position, and your sheaves formed a ring around my sheaf and bowed down to it."
- 8 His brothers said to him, "Are you really going to make yourself king over us? Will you rule over us?" So they hated him all the more because of his dreams and his reports.
- 9 Then he had another dream, and told it to his brothers. "Look, I had another dream," he said; "this time, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."
- 10 When he told it to his father and his brothers, his father reproved him and asked, "What is the meaning of this dream of yours? Can it be that I and your mother and your brothers are to come and bow to the ground before you?"
- 11 So his brothers were furious at him but his father kept the matter in mind.

Sirach 7:11-17

- 11 Do not ridicule the embittered; remember: there is One who exalts and humbles.
- 12 Do not plot mischief against your relative or against your friend and companion.
- 13 Refuse to tell lie after lie, for it never results in good.
- 14 Do not babble in the assembly of the elders or repeat the words of your prayer. d
- 15 Do not hate hard work; work was assigned by God.
- 16 Do not esteem yourself more than your compatriots; remember, his wrath will not delay.
- 17 More and more, humble your pride; what awaits mortals is worms.

1 Samuel 3:10-18

- 10 the LORD came and stood there, calling out as before: Samuel, Samuel! Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."
- 11 The LORD said to Samuel: I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears it ring.
- 12 On that day I will carry out against Eli everything I have said about his house, beginning to end.
- 13 I announce to him that I am condemning his house once and for all, because of this crime: though he knew his sons were blaspheming God, he did not reprove them.
- 14 Therefore, I swear to Eli's house: No sacrifice or offering will ever expiate its crime.

- 15 Samuel then slept until morning, when he got up early and opened the doors of the temple of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision,
- 16 but Eli called to him, "Samuel, my son!" He replied, "Here I am."
- 17 Then Eli asked, "What did he say to you? Hide nothing from me! May God do thus to you, and more, if you hide from me a single thing he told you."
- 18 So Samuel told him everything, and held nothing back. Eli answered, "It is the LORD. What is pleasing in the LORD's sight, the LORD will do."

Isaiah 45:20-25

- 20 Come and assemble, gather together, you fugitives from among the nations! They are without knowledge who bear wooden idols and pray to gods that cannot save.
- 21 Come close and declare; let them take counsel together: who announced this from the beginning, declared it from of old? Was it not I, the LORD, besides whom there is no other God? There is no just and saving God but me.
- 22 Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other!
- 23 By myself I swear, uttering my just decree, a word that will not return: To me every knee shall bend; by me every tongue shall swear,
- 24 Saying, "Only in the LORD are just deeds and power. Before him in shame shall come all who vent their anger against him.
- 25 In the LORD all the descendants of Israel shall have vindication and glory."

1 Peter 2:11-17

- 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and sojourners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against the soul.
- 12 Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that if they speak of you as evildoers, they may observe your good works and glorify God on the day of visitation.
- 13 Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether it be to the king as supreme
- 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the approval of those who do good.
- 15 For it is the will of God that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of foolish people.
- 16 Be free, yet without using freedom as a pretext for evil, but as slaves of God.
- 17 Give honor to all, love the community, fear God, honor the king.

Galatians 1:11-24

- 11 Now I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin.
- 12 For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 13 For you heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it,
- 14 and progressed in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my race, since I was even more a zealot for my ancestral traditions.
- 15 But when [God], who from my mother's womb had set me apart and called me through his grace, was pleased
- 16 to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult flesh and blood,
- 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; rather, I went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus.
- 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas and remained with him for fifteen days.
- 19 But I did not see any other of the apostles, only James the brother of the Lord.
- 20 (As to what I am writing to you, behold, before God, I am not lying.)o
- 21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.
- 22 And I was unknown personally to the churches of Judea that are in Christ;
- 23 they only kept hearing that "the one who once was persecuting us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."
- 24 So they glorified God because of me.

Mathew 1:18-25

- 18 Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
- 19 Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.
- 20 Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.

- 21 She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
- 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
- 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”
- 24 When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.
- 25 He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.