

## Psalm 111<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.<sup>[b]</sup>

I will extol the LORD with all my heart  
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD;  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Glorious and majestic are his deeds,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> He has caused his wonders to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works,  
giving them the lands of other nations.

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

<sup>8</sup> They are established for ever and ever,  
enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He provided redemption for his people;  
he ordained his covenant forever—  
holy and awesome is his name.

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.  
To him belongs eternal praise.

## Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 63:7-14

### Praise and Prayer

<sup>7</sup> I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,  
the deeds for which he is to be praised,  
according to all the LORD has done for us—

yes, the many good things  
he has done for Israel,  
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

<sup>8</sup> He said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will be true to me";  
and so he became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup> In all their distress he too was distressed,  
and the angel of his presence saved them.<sup>[a]</sup>

In his love and mercy he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them  
all the days of old.

<sup>10</sup> Yet they rebelled  
and grieved his Holy Spirit.

So he turned and became their enemy  
and he himself fought against them.

<sup>11</sup> Then his people recalled<sup>[b]</sup> the days of old,  
the days of Moses and his people—  
where is he who brought them through the sea,  
with the shepherd of his flock?

Where is he who set  
his Holy Spirit among them,

<sup>12</sup> who sent his glorious arm of power  
to be at Moses' right hand,  
who divided the waters before them,  
to gain for himself everlasting renown,

<sup>13</sup> who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in open country,  
they did not stumble;

<sup>14</sup> like cattle that go down to the plain,  
they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD.

This is how you guided your people  
to make for yourself a glorious name.

## **Epistle Reading - Galatians 4:4 - 7**

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba,<sup>[c]</sup> Father." <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

# Gospel Reading - Matthew 2:13 - 23

## The Escape to Egypt

<sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> "A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more."<sup>[a]</sup>

## The Return to Nazareth

<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup> and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

<sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, <sup>23</sup> and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.