

# Daily Office

## Readings, Year 2

### Week of the Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Monday, April 27**

#### Psalm 44

We have heard with our ears, O God,  
our forefathers have told us, \*  
the deeds you did in their days,  
in the days of old.

How with your hand you drove the peoples  
out and planted our forefathers in the land; \*  
how you destroyed nations and made your  
people flourish.

For they did not take the land by their  
sword,  
nor did their arm win the victory for them; \*  
but your right hand, your arm, and the light  
of your countenance,  
because you favored them.

You are my King and my God; \*  
you command victories for Jacob.

Through you we pushed back our  
adversaries; \*  
through your Name we trampled on those  
who rose up against us.

For I do not rely on my bow, \*  
and my sword does not give me the victory.

Surely, you gave us victory over our  
adversaries \*  
and put those who hate us to shame.

Every day we gloried in God, \*  
and we will praise your Name for ever.

Nevertheless, you have rejected and  
humbled us \*  
and do not go forth with our armies.

You have made us fall back before our  
adversary, \*  
and our enemies have plundered us.

You have made us like sheep to be eaten \*  
and have scattered us among the nations.

You are selling your people for a trifle \*  
and are making no profit on the sale of them.

You have made us the scorn of our  
neighbors, \*  
a mockery and derision to those around us.

You have made us a byword among the  
nations, \*  
a laughing-stock among the peoples.

My humiliation is daily before me, \*  
and shame has covered my face;

Because of the taunts of the mockers and  
blasphemers, \*  
because of the enemy and avenger.

All this has come upon us; \*  
yet we have not forgotten you,  
nor have we betrayed your covenant.

Our heart never turned back, \*  
nor did our footsteps stray from your path;

Though you thrust us down into a place of  
misery, \*  
and covered us over with deep darkness.

If we have forgotten the Name of our God, \*  
or stretched out our hands to some strange  
god,

Will not God find it out? \*  
for he knows the secrets of the heart.

Indeed, for your sake we are killed all the  
day long; \*  
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Awake, O Lord! why are you sleeping? \*  
Arise! do not reject us for ever.

Why have you hidden your face \*  
and forgotten our affliction and oppression?

We sink down into the dust; \*  
our body cleaves to the ground.

Rise up, and help us, \*  
and save us, for the sake of your steadfast  
love.

### **Exodus 32:1-20**

When the people saw that Moses delayed to  
come down from the mountain, the people  
gathered around Aaron and said to him,  
'Come, make gods for us, who shall go  
before us; as for this Moses, the man who  
brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we  
do not know what has become of  
him.' Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold  
rings that are on the ears of your wives, your  
sons, and your daughters, and bring them to  
me.' So all the people took off the gold rings  
from their ears, and brought them to  
Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed  
it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf;  
and they said, 'These are your gods,  
O Israel, who brought you up out of the land  
of Egypt!' When Aaron saw this, he built an  
altar before it; and Aaron made  
proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a  
festival to the LORD.' They rose early the  
next day, and offered burnt-offerings and  
brought sacrifices of well-being; and the  
people sat down to eat and drink, and rose  
up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, 'Go down at once!  
Your people, whom you brought up out of  
the land of Egypt, have acted  
perversely; they have been quick to turn  
aside from the way that I commanded them;  
they have cast for themselves an image of a  
calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed  
to it, and said, "These are your gods,  
O Israel, who brought you up out of the land  
of Egypt!"' The LORD said to Moses, 'I  
have seen this people, how stiff-necked they  
are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may  
burn hot against them and I may consume  
them; and of you I will make a great nation.'

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and  
said, 'O LORD, why does your wrath burn  
hot against your people, whom you brought  
out of the land of Egypt with great power  
and with a mighty hand? Why should the  
Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that  
he brought them out to kill them in the  
mountains, and to consume them from the  
face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce  
wrath; change your mind and do not bring  
disaster on your people. Remember  
Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants,  
how you swore to them by your own self,  
saying to them, "I will multiply your  
descendants like the stars of heaven, and all  
this land that I have promised I will give to  
your descendants, and they shall inherit it  
for ever." ' And the LORD changed his mind  
about the disaster that he planned to bring on  
his people.

Then Moses turned and went down from the  
mountain, carrying the two tablets of the  
covenant in his hands, tablets that were  
written on both sides, written on the front  
and on the back. The tablets were the work  
of God, and the writing was the writing of  
God, engraved upon the tablets. When  
Joshua heard the noise of the people as they  
shouted, he said to Moses, 'There is a noise  
of war in the camp.' But he said,

‘It is not the sound made by victors,  
or the sound made by losers;  
it is the sound of revellers that I hear.’  
As soon as he came near the camp and saw  
the calf and the dancing, Moses’ anger  
burned hot, and he threw the tablets from his  
hands and broke them at the foot of the  
mountain. He took the calf that they had  
made, burned it with fire, ground it to  
powder, scattered it on the water, and made  
the Israelites drink it.

### **Colossians 3:18-4:18**

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is  
fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your  
wives and never treat them harshly.

Children, obey your parents in everything,  
for this is your acceptable duty in the  
Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children,  
or they may lose heart. Slaves, obey your  
earthly masters in everything, not only while  
being watched and in order to please them,  
but wholeheartedly, fearing the  
Lord. Whatever your task, put yourselves  
into it, as done for the Lord and not for your  
masters, since you know that from the Lord  
you will receive the inheritance as your  
reward; you serve the Lord Christ. For the  
wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever  
wrong has been done, and there is no  
partiality. Masters, treat your slaves justly  
and fairly, for you know that you also have a  
Master in heaven.

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in  
it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray  
for us as well that God will open to us a  
door for the word, that we may declare the  
mystery of Christ, for which I am in  
prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I  
should.

Conduct yourselves wisely towards  
outsiders, making the most of the time. Let  
your speech always be gracious, seasoned  
with salt, so that you may know how you  
ought to answer everyone.

Tychicus will tell you all the news about me;  
he is a beloved brother, a faithful minister,  
and a fellow-servant in the Lord. I have sent  
him to you for this very purpose, so that you  
may know how we are and that he may  
encourage your hearts; he is coming with  
Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother,  
who is one of you. They will tell you about  
everything here.

Aristarchus my fellow-prisoner greets you,  
as does Mark the cousin of Barnabas,  
concerning whom you have received  
instructions—if he comes to you, welcome  
him. And Jesus who is called Justus greets  
you. These are the only ones of the  
circumcision among my co-workers for the  
kingdom of God, and they have been a  
comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you,  
a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you. He is  
always wrestling in his prayers on your  
behalf, so that you may stand mature and  
fully assured in everything that God  
wills. For I testify for him that he has  
worked hard for you and for those in  
Laodicea and in Hierapolis. Luke, the  
beloved physician, and Demas greet  
you. Give my greetings to the brothers and  
sisters in Laodicea, and to Nympha and the  
church in her house. And when this letter  
has been read among you, have it read also  
in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that  
you read also the letter from Laodicea. And  
say to Archippus, ‘See that you complete the  
task that you have received in the Lord.’

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own  
hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with  
you.

## **Matthew 5:1-10**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

## **Tuesday, April 28**

### **Psalm 47**

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; \* shout to God with a cry of joy.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; \* he is the great King over all the earth.

3 He subdues the peoples under us, \* and the nations under our feet.

4 He chooses our inheritance for us, \* the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

5 God has gone up with a shout, \* the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; \* sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is King of all the earth; \* sing praises with all your skill.

8 God reigns over the nations; \* God sits upon his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \* with the people of the God of Abraham.

10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, \* and he is highly exalted.

### **Psalm 48**

1 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; \* in the city of our God is his holy hill.

2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, \* the very center of the world and the city of the great King.

3 God is in her citadels; \* he is known to be her sure refuge.

4 Behold, the kings of the earth assembled \* and marched forward together.

5 They looked and were astounded; \* they retreated and fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there; \* they writhed like a woman in childbirth, like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them.

7 As we have heard, so have we seen,  
in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of  
our God; \*

God has established her for ever.

8 We have waited in silence on your loving-  
kindness, O God, \*  
in the midst of your temple.

9 Your praise, like your Name, O God,  
reaches to  
the world's end; \*  
your right hand is full of justice.

10 Let Mount Zion be glad  
and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
because of your judgments.

11 Make the circuit of Zion;  
walk round about her; \*  
count the number of her towers.

12 Consider well her bulwarks;  
examine her strongholds; \*  
that you may tell those who come after.

13 This God is our God for ever and ever; \*  
he shall be our guide for evermore.

### **Exodus 32:21-34**

Moses said to Aaron, 'What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?' And Aaron said, 'Do not let the anger of my lord burn hot; you know the people, that they are bent on evil. They said to me, "Make us gods, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." So I said to them, "Whoever has gold, take it off"; so they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!'

When Moses saw that the people were running wild (for Aaron had let them run

wild, to the derision of their enemies), then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, 'Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me!' And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. He said to them, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "Put your sword on your side, each of you! Go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill your brother, your friend, and your neighbour."' ' The sons of Levi did as Moses commanded, and about three thousand of the people fell on that day. Moses said, 'Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of a son or a brother, and so have brought a blessing on yourselves this day.'

On the next day Moses said to the people, 'You have sinned a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.' So Moses returned to the Lord and said, 'Alas, this people has sinned a great sin; they have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, blot me out of the book that you have written.' But the Lord said to Moses, 'Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; see, my angel shall go in front of you. Nevertheless, when the day comes for punishment, I will punish them for their sin.'

### **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father

your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead— Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

### **Matthew 5:11-16**

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

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let

your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

### **Wednesday, April 29**

#### **Psalm 49**

1 Hear this, all you peoples;  
hearken, all you who dwell in the world, \*  
you of high degree and low, rich and poor  
together.

2 My mouth shall speak of wisdom, \*  
and my heart shall meditate on  
understanding.

3 I will incline my ear to a proverb \*  
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

4 Why should I be afraid in evil days, \*  
when the wickedness of those at my heels  
surrounds me,

5 The wickedness of those who put their  
trust in their goods, \*  
and boast of their great riches?

6 We can never ransom ourselves, \*  
or deliver to God the price of our life;

7 For the ransom of our life is so great, \*  
that we should never have enough to pay it,

8 In order to live for ever and ever, \*  
and never see the grave.

9 For we see that the wise die also;  
like the dull and stupid they perish \*  
and leave their wealth to those who come  
after them.

10 Their graves shall be their homes for ever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, \*  
though they call the lands after their own names.

11 Even though honored, they cannot live for ever; \*  
they are like the beasts that perish.

12 Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, \*  
and the end of those who delight in their own words.

13 Like a flock of sheep they are destined to die;  
Death is their shepherd; \*  
they go down straightway to the grave.  
14 Their form shall waste away, \*  
and the land of the dead shall be their home.

15 But God will ransom my life; \*  
he will snatch me from the grasp of death.

16 Do not be envious when some become rich, \*  
or when the grandeur of their house increases;

17 For they will carry nothing away at their death, \*  
nor will their grandeur follow them.

18 Though they thought highly of themselves while they lived, \*  
and were praised for their success,

19 They shall join the company of their forebears, \*  
who will never see the light again.

20 Those who are honored, but have no understanding, \*  
are like the beasts that perish.

### **Psalm 53**

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." \*  
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.

2 God looks down from heaven upon us all, \*  
to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.

3 Every one has proved faithless;  
all alike have turned bad; \*  
there is none who does good; no, not one.

4 Have they no knowledge, those evildoers \*  
who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon God?

5 See how greatly they tremble,  
such trembling as never was; \*  
for God has scattered the bones of the enemy;  
they are put to shame, because God has rejected them.

6 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*  
when God restores the fortunes of his people  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

### **Exodus 33:1-23**

The Lord said to Moses, 'Go, leave this place, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, and go to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, "To your descendants I will give it." I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, or I would consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.'

When the people heard these harsh words, they mourned, and no one put on ornaments. For the Lord had said to Moses, ‘Say to the Israelites, “You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, and I will decide what to do to you.” ’ Therefore the Israelites stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onwards.

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent.

Moses said to the Lord, ‘See, you have said to me, “Bring up this people”; 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 favour in my sight.” Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.’ He said, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ And he said to him, ‘If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your

people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.’

The Lord said to Moses, ‘I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.’ Moses said, ‘Show me your glory, I pray.’ And he said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, “The Lord”; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But’, he said, ‘you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.’ And the Lord continued, ‘See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.’

### **1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with

you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

### **Matthew 5:17-20**

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks 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. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### **Thursday, April 30**

### **Psalm 59**

1 Rescue me from my enemies, O God; \*  
protect me from those who rise up against me.

2 Rescue me from evildoers \*  
and save me from those who thirst for my blood.

3 See how they lie in wait for my life,  
how the mighty gather together against me;\*  
not for any offense or fault of mine, O Lord.

4 Not because of any guilt of mine \*  
they run and prepare themselves for battle.

5 Rouse yourself, come to my side, and see;\*  
for you, Lord God of hosts, are Israel's God.

6 Awake, and punish all the ungodly; \*  
show no mercy to those who are faithless  
and evil.

7 They go to and fro in the evening; \*  
they snarl like dogs and run about the city.

8 Behold, they boast with their mouths,  
and taunts are on their lips; \*  
"For who," they say, "will hear us?"

9 But you, O Lord, you laugh at them; \*  
you laugh all the ungodly to scorn.

10 My eyes are fixed on you, O my  
Strength; \*  
for you, O God, are my stronghold.

11 My merciful God comes to meet me; \*  
God will let me look in triumph on my  
enemies.

12 Slay them, O God, lest my people  
forget;\*  
send them reeling by your might and put  
them down, O Lord our shield.

13 For the sins of their mouths, for the  
words of their lips,  
for the cursing and lies that they utter, \*  
let them be caught in their pride.

14 Make an end of them in your wrath; \*  
make an end of them, and they shall be no  
more.

15 Let everyone know that God rules in Jacob, \*  
and to the ends of the earth.

16 They go to and fro in the evening; \*  
they snarl like dogs and run about the city.

17 They forage for food, \*  
and if they are not filled, they howl.

18 For my part, I will sing of your strength; \*  
I will celebrate your love in the morning;

19 For you have become my stronghold, \*  
a refuge in the day of my trouble.

20 To you, O my Strength, will I sing; \*  
for you, O God, are my stronghold and my merciful God.

### **Psalm 60**

1 O God, you have cast us off and broken us; \*  
you have been angry;  
oh, take us back to you again.

2 You have shaken the earth and split it open; \*  
repair the cracks in it, for it totters.

3 You have made your people know hardship; \*  
you have given us wine that makes us stagger.

4 You have set up a banner for those who fear you, \*  
to be a refuge from the power of the bow.

5 Save us by your right hand and answer us, \*  
that those who are dear to you may be delivered.

6 God spoke from his holy place and said: \*  
"I will exult and parcel out Shechem;  
I will divide the valley of Succoth.

7 Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine; \*  
Ephraim is my helmet and Judah my scepter.

8 Moab is my wash-basin,  
on Edom I throw down my sandal to claim it, \*  
and over Philistia will I shout in triumph."

9 Who will lead me into the strong city? \*  
who will bring me into Edom?

10 Have you not cast us off, O God? \*  
you no longer go out, O God, with our armies.

11 Grant us your help against the enemy, \*  
for vain is the help of man.

12 With God we will do valiant deeds, \*  
and he shall tread our enemies under foot.

### **Exodus 34:1-17**

The Lord said to Moses, 'Cut two tablets of stone like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets, which you broke. Be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai and present yourself there to me, on the top of the mountain. No one shall come up with you, and do not let anyone be seen throughout all the mountain; and do not let flocks or herds graze in front of that mountain.' So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the former ones; and he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tablets of stone. The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name, 'The Lord.' The Lord passed before

him, and proclaimed,  
'The Lord, the Lord,  
a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love and  
faithfulness,  
keeping steadfast love for the thousandth  
generation,  
forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,  
yet by no means clearing the guilty,  
but visiting the iniquity of the parents  
upon the children  
and the children's children,  
to the third and the fourth generation.'  
And Moses quickly bowed his head towards  
the earth, and worshipped. He said, 'If now I  
have found favour in your sight, O Lord, I  
pray, let the Lord go with us. Although this  
is a stiff-necked people, pardon our iniquity  
and our sin, and take us for your  
inheritance.'

He said: I hereby make a covenant. Before  
all your people I will perform marvels, such  
as have not been performed in all the earth  
or in any nation; and all the people among  
whom you live shall see the work of  
the Lord; for it is an awesome thing that I  
will do with you.

Observe what I command you today. See, I  
will drive out before you the Amorites, the  
Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the  
Hivites, and the Jebusites. Take care not to  
make a covenant with the inhabitants of the  
land to which you are going, or it will  
become a snare among you. You shall tear  
down their altars, break their pillars, and cut  
down their sacred poles (for you shall  
worship no other god, because the Lord,  
whose name is Jealous, is a jealous  
God). You shall not make a covenant with  
the inhabitants of the land, for when they  
prostitute themselves to their gods and  
sacrifice to their gods, someone among them  
will invite you, and you will eat of the

sacrifice. And you will take wives from  
among their daughters for your sons, and  
their daughters who prostitute themselves to  
their gods will make your sons also  
prostitute themselves to their gods.

You shall not make cast idols.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

We also constantly give thanks to God for  
this, that when you received the word of  
God that you heard from us, you accepted it  
not as a human word but as what it really is,  
God's word, which is also at work in you  
believers. For you, brothers and  
sisters, became imitators of the churches of  
God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you  
suffered the same things from your own  
compatriots as they did from the Jews, who  
killed both the Lord Jesus and the  
prophets, and drove us out; they displease  
God and oppose everyone by hindering us  
from speaking to the Gentiles so that they  
may be saved. Thus they have constantly  
been filling up the measure of their sins; but  
God's wrath has overtaken them at last.

As for us, brothers and sisters, when, for a  
short time, we were made orphans by being  
separated from you—in person, not in  
heart—we longed with great eagerness to  
see you face to face. For we wanted to come  
to you—certainly I, Paul, wanted to again  
and again—but Satan blocked our way. For  
what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting  
before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it  
not you? Yes, you are our glory and joy!

## **Matthew 5:21-26**

‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.