



WELCOME TO THE ECO LECTIONARY

**This file will always contain the readings for the
next few services**

Please note:

**ECO generally follow the readings prescribed
for each Sunday in the *Revised Common
Lectionary*, which is used by Catholic, Lutheran,
Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches as
well as in the Church of Scotland and the Church in
Wales**

**for a full list of denominations which use the lectionary visit:
<https://www.commontexts.org/rcl/usage/>**

Sunday 10 March

LENT 4/ Laetare Sunday / Mothering Sunday

1 Kings 3 vv 16 – 28

Later, two women came to King Solomon and stood before him. The one woman said, "Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth while she was in the house. Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. We were together; there was no one else with us in the house; only the two of us were in the house. Then this woman's son died in the night because she lay on him. She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your servant slept. She laid him at her breast and laid her dead son at my breast. When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, I saw that he was dead, but when I looked at him closely in the morning, clearly it was not the son I had borne." But the other woman said, "No, the living son is mine, and the dead son is yours." The first said, "No, the dead son is yours, and the living son is mine." So they argued before the king.

Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son who is alive, and your son is dead,' while the other says, 'Not so! Your son is dead, and my son is the living one.' " So the king said, "Bring me a sword," and they brought a sword before the king. The king said, "Divide the living boy in two; then give half to the one and half to the other." But the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because compassion for her son burned within her, "Please, my lord, give her the living boy; certainly do not kill him!" The other said, "It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it." Then the king responded, "Give her the living boy; do not kill him. She is his mother." All Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to execute justice

A Song of Anselm

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

Matthew 12 vv 46-50

While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, 'Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.' But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' And pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother. been done in God.'

Sunday 17 March

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Jeremiah 31 vv 31 - 34

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm 51

1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

5 So that you are justified in your sentence and righteous in your judgement.

6 I have been wicked even from my birth, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.

8 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

10 Turn your face from my sins and blot out all my misdeeds.

11 Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

12 Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.

13 Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

Hebrews 5.5-10

5 So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you';

6 as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

8 Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered;

9 and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,

10 having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

For the Gospel

There is a story told about Patrick in the Book of Armagh which comes to us from the 7th century. It tells of a noble woman Ethne Alba and her sister Fidelmia, daughters of King Laoghaire of Connacht, who are said to have met Patrick and his bishops at the Holy well near Tulsk, in County Roscommon. The women did not know who the men were, nor their religion, and they asked the following questions:

"Who is God and where is God
Of whom is God, and where is God's house?
Has your God sons and daughters?
Gold and Silver? Is God alive forever?
Is God in heaven or on earth?
In the sea, in the rivers,
In the mountains, in the Valleys?
Speak to us about God, Give us some idea of God.
How may God be seen? How may he be loved?
How may he be found?
Is God found in Youth or Old Age?
Speak to us of God."

And Patrick replied:

Our God - God of All people
God of heaven and earth of the sea and of the rivers
God of the Sun and the moon and of all the stars,
God of the high mountains and of the deep valleys.
God is above heaven and in heaven and under heaven
God has as His dwelling place heaven and earth and the sea and all that are in them.
God's life is in all things;
God inspires all things,
God governs all things,
God supports all things.
God kindles the light of the sun,
God creates the light of the moon and stars.
He makes wells in the arid earth and rocky islands in the sea.
God has a Son who is co-eternal with him and of like nature.
The Son is not younger than the Father nor the Father than the Son;
and the Holy Spirit breathes in Them.
Not separate are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Sunday 24 March

Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Mark 11 vv 1 - 11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' "

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Isaiah 50.4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Philippians 2.5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

On Palm Sunday, we read the Passion Gospel, which this year is taken from the Gospel of St Mark, Chapters 14 - 15. The version which we will use in the service is dramatised.