

Michaelmas Embertide
(for the autumnal Ember week following the Sunday after Holy Cross)

Genesis 8:22 "All the days of the earth, seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat, summer and winter, night and day, shall not cease."

Brief background: The material below is divided into prayers and readings. The prayers include the celebrant-chanted prayers (collects and postcommunions), the choir-chant prayers (introits, graduals, offeratory, communion) and the silent spoken prayers (secrets). The readings include lessons from the Old Testament histories and prophets as well as a New Testament Epistle and a daily portion from a Gospel.

In addition to our focus on thanking God for his blessing in nature, Ember Days are also days favored for priestly ordinations, prayer for priests, first Communions, almsgiving and other penitential and charitable acts, and prayer for the souls in Purgatory. Please [pray for priests](#) in this year for priests.

For more information on the Ember Days, follow the links in the Generation Christ Weekly Updates for September 11 and 18, 2009, or send an email to paulschultz@gmail.com

Prayers and Readings of the Mass for Ember Wednesday (Missal of Pope John XXIII)

Introit: Psalm LXXX. 2, 3, 4, 5

Antiphon: Rejoice to God our helper: sing aloud to the God of Jacob: take a pleasant psalm with the harp; blow the trumpet in the beginning of the month, for it is a commandment in Israel, and a judgment to the God of Jacob.

Psalm LXXX. 6: He ordained it for a testimony in Joseph, when he came out of the land of Egypt: he heard a tongue which he knew not.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Ant: (Rejoice to God our helper: sing aloud to the God of Jacob: take a pleasant psalm with the harp; blow the trumpet in the beginning of the month, for it is a commandment in Israel, and a judgment to the God of Jacob.)

Collect:

O Lord, may the remedies of Thy mercy uphold our weakness, we beseech Thee; and in pity renew our strength which by its nature is ever failing. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: Amos IX. 13-15

Lesson from Amos the Prophet. Thus saith the Lord God:

13 Behold the days come, saith the Lord, when the ploughman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed: and the mountains shall drop sweetness, and every hill shall be tilled.

14 And I will bring back the captivity of my people Israel: and they shall build the abandoned cities, and inhabit them: and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine of them: and shall make gardens, and eat the fruits of them.

15 And I will plant them upon their own land: and I will no more pluck them out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.

Gradual: Psalm CXII. 5-7

Antiphon: Who is as the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high; and looketh down on the low things in heaven and in earth?

V. Raising up the needy from the earth; and lifting up the poor out of the dunghill.

Collect:

Grant to Thy servants who humbly pray to Thee, O Lord, that while abstaining from food for our bodies we may likewise abstain from sin in our souls. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Second Lesson: 2 Esdras VIII. 1-10

Lesson from the Book of Esdras. In those days,

1 all the people were gathered together as one man to the street which is before the water gate, and they spoke to Esdras the scribe, to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

2 Then Esdras the priest brought the law before the multitude of men and women, and all those that could understand, in the first day of the seventh month.

3 And he read it plainly in the street that was before the water gate, from the morning until midday, before the men, and the women, and all those that could understand: and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book.

4 And Esdras the scribe stood upon a step of wood, which he had made to speak upon, and there stood by him Mathathias, and Semeia, and Ania, and Uria, and Helcia, and Maasia, on his right hand: and on the left, Phadaia, Misael, and Melchia, and Hasum, and Hasbadana, Zacharia and Mosollam.

5 And Esdras opened the book before all the people: for he was above all the people: and when he had opened it, all the people stood.

6 And Esdras blessed the Lord the great God: and all the people answered, Amen, amen: lifting up their hands: and they bowed down, and adored God with their faces to the ground.

7 Now Josue, and Bani, and Serebia, Jamin, Accub, Sephtai, Odia, Maasia, Celtia, Azarias, Jozabed, Hanan, Phalaia, the Levites, made silence among the people to hear the law: and the people stood in their place.

8 And they read in the book of the law of God distinctly and plainly to be understood: and they understood when it was read.

9 And Nehemias (he is Athersatha) and Esdras the priest and scribe, and the Levites who interpreted to all the people, said: This is a holy day to the Lord our God: do not mourn, nor weep: for all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

10 And he said to them: Go, eat fat meats, and drink sweet wine, and send portions to them that have not prepared for themselves: because it is the holy day of the Lord, and be not sad: for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Gradual: Psalm XXXII. 12, 6

Antiphon: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: the people whom the Lord hath chosen for His inheritance.

V. By the word of the Lord the heavens were established: and all the power of them by the spirit of His mouth.

Gospel: Saint Mark IX. 16-28

+ Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark. At that time,
16 one of the multitude, answering, said: Master, I have brought my son to thee, having a dumb spirit.

17 Who, wheresoever he taketh him, dasheth him, and he foameth, and gnasheth with the teeth, and pineth away; and I spoke to thy disciples to cast him out, and they could not.

18 Who answering them, said: O incredulous generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.

19 And they brought him. And when he had seen him, immediately the spirit troubled him; and being thrown down upon the ground, he rolled about foaming.

20 And he asked his father: How long time is it since this hath happened unto him? But he said: From his infancy:

21 And oftentimes hath he cast him into the fire and into waters to destroy him. But if thou canst do any thing, help us, having compassion on us.

22 And Jesus saith to him: If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

23 And immediately the father of the boy crying out, with tears said: I do believe, Lord: help my unbelief.

24 And when Jesus saw the multitude running together, he threatened the unclean spirit, saying to him: Deaf and dumb spirit, I command thee, go out of him; and enter not any more into him.

25 And crying out, and greatly tearing him, he went out of him, and he became as dead, so that many said: He is dead.

26 But Jesus taking him by the hand, lifted him up; and he arose.

27 And when he was come into the house, his disciples secretly asked him: Why could not we cast him out?

28 And he said to them: This kind can go out by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Offertory: Psalm CXVIII. 47, 48

I will meditate on Thy commandments, which I have loved exceedingly: and lift up my hands to Thy commandments, which I have loved.

Secret:

May this Victim, we beseech Thee, O Lord, wash away our sins, and sanctifying us both in our body and soul, make us worthily offer this sacrifice to Thee. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Communion: 2 Esdras VIII. 10

Eat fat, meats, and drink sweet wine, and send portions to them that have not prepared themselves; because it is the holy day of the Lord; be not sad, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Postcommunion:

We who have received Thy holy gifts, humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, that of Thy goodness we may worthily partake of that which we bring, of Thy gift, with diligent service. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers and Readings of the Mass for Ember Friday
(Missal of Pope John XXIII)

Introit: Psalm CIV. 3-4

Antiphon: Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord: seek ye the Lord and be strengthened: seek His face evermore.

Psalm CIV. 1: Give glory to the Lord, and call upon His name: declare His deeds among the nations.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Ant (Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord: seek ye the Lord and be strengthened: seek His face evermore.)

Collect:

Grant, O almighty God, we beseech Thee, that by our devout keeping of the holy observances year by year, we may, in body and in soul, be pleasing unto Thee. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lesson: Osee XIV. 2-10

Lesson from Osee the Prophet. Thus saith the Lord God:

2 Return, O Israel, to the Lord thy God: for thou hast fallen down by thy iniquity.

3 Take with you words, and return to the Lord, and say to him: Take away all iniquity, and receive the good: and we will render the calves of our lips.
4 Assyria shall not save us, we will not ride upon horses, neither will we say any more: The works of our hands are our gods, for thou wilt have mercy on the fatherless that is in thee.
5 I will heal their breaches, I will love them freely: for my wrath is turned away from them.
6 I will be as the dew, Israel shall spring as the lily, and his root shall shoot forth as that of Libanus.
7 His branches shall spread, and his glory shall be as the olive tree: and his smell as that of Libanus.
8 They shall be converted that sit under his shadow: they shall live upon wheat, and they shall blossom as a vine: his memorial shall be as the wine of Libanus.
9 Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I will hear him, and I will make him flourish like a green fir tree: from me is thy fruit found.
10 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know these things? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall in them.

Gradual: Psalm LXXXIX. 13, 1

Antiphon: Return, O Lord, a little, and be entreated in favour of Thy servants.

V. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge, from generation to generation.

Gospel: Saint Luke VII. 36-50

+ Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. At that time,
36 one of the Pharisees desired him to eat with him. And he went into the house of the Pharisee, and sat down to meat.
37 And behold a woman that was in the city, a sinner, when she knew that he sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment;
38 And standing behind at his feet, she began to wash his feet, with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.
39 And the Pharisee, who had invited him, seeing it, spoke within himself, saying: This man, if he were a prophet, would know surely who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him, that she is a sinner.
40 And Jesus answering, said to him: Simon, I have somewhat to say to thee. But he said: Master, say it.
41 A certain creditor had two debtors, the one who owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.
42 And whereas they had not wherewith to pay, he forgave them both. Which therefore of the two loveth him most?
43 Simon answering, said: I suppose that he to whom he forgave most. And he said to him: Thou hast judged rightly.
44 And turning to the woman, he said unto Simon: Dost thou see this woman? I entered into thy house, thou gavest me no water for my feet; but she with tears hath washed my feet, and with her hairs hath wiped them.
45 Thou gavest me no kiss; but she, since she came in, hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint; but she with ointment hath anointed my feet.
47 Wherefore I say to thee: Many sins are forgiven her, because she hath loved much.
But to whom less is forgiven, he loveth less.
48 And he said to her: Thy sins are forgiven thee.
49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves: Who is this that forgiveth sins also?
50 And he said to the woman: Thy faith hath made thee safe, go in peace.

Offertory: Psalm CII. 2, 5

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all He hath done for thee: and thy youth shall be renewed like the eagle's.

Secret:

May the gifts of our fasting, O Lord, be pleasing to Thy sight; and atoning for our sins may they make us worthy of Thy grace and lead us to the eternal happiness promised by Thee. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Communion: Psalm CXVIII. 22, 24

Remove from me reproach and contempt, because I have sought out Thy commandments, O Lord; for Thy testimonies are my meditation.

Postcommunion:

We beseech Thee, O almighty God, to bestow even greater blessings upon those who give thanks to Thee for gifts already received from Thy bounty. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers and Readings of the Mass for Ember Saturday
(Missal of Pope John XXIII)
The timing of the particular ordinations is retained below.

Introit: Psalm XCIV. 6-7

Antiphon: Come, let us adore God, and fall down before the Lord: let us weep before Him who made us; for He is the Lord our God.

Psalm XCIV. 1: Come, let us praise the Lord with joy; let us joyfully sing to God our Saviour.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Ant (Come, let us adore God, and fall down before the Lord: let us weep before Him who made us; for He is the Lord our God.)

(After the Kyrie eleison the Bishop confers the Tonsure.)

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, who, by salutary abstinence, dost heal us both in soul and body; we humbly beseech Thy Majesty that appeased by the fervent devotion of those who fast, Thou wouldst grant us help now and in time to come. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: Leviticus XXIII. 26-32

Lesson from the Book of Leviticus. In those days,

26 the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

27 Upon the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the day of atonement, it shall be most solemn, and shall be called holy: and you shall afflict your souls on that day, and shall offer a holocaust to the Lord.

28 You shall do no servile work in the time of this day: because it is a day of propitiation, that the Lord your God may be merciful unto you.

29 Every soul that is not afflicted on this day, shall perish from among his people:

30 And every soul that shall do any work, the same will I destroy from among his people.

31 You shall do no work therefore on that day: it shall be an everlasting ordinance unto you in all your generations, and dwellings.

32 It is a sabbath of rest, and you shall afflict your souls beginning on the ninth day of the month: from evening until evening you shall celebrate your sabbaths.

(Ordination of Porters)

Gradual: Psalm LXXVIII. 9, 10

Antiphon: Forgive us our sins, O Lord; lest they should say at any time among the Gentiles: Where is their God?

V. Help us, O God our Saviour, and for the glory of Thy name, O Lord, deliver us.

Collect:

Grant unto us, O Lord, that by fasting we may be filled with Thy grace, and by abstaining we may become strong above all our enemies. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Second Lesson: Leviticus XXIII. 39-43

Lesson from the Book of Leviticus. In those days, the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

39 from the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you shall have gathered in all the fruits of your land, you shall celebrate the feast of the Lord seven days: on the first day and the eighth shall be a sabbath, that is a day of rest.

40 And you shall take to you on the first day the fruits of the fairest tree, and branches of palm trees, and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God.

41 And you shall keep the solemnity thereof seven days in the year. It shall be an everlasting ordinance in your generations. In the seventh month shall you celebrate this feast.

42 And you shall dwell in bowers seven days: every one that is of the race of Israel, shall dwell in tabernacles:

43 That your posterity may know, that I made the children of Israel to dwell in tabernacles, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

(Ordination of Lectors)

Gradual: Psalm LXXXIII. 10, 9

Antiphon: Behold, O Lord our protector; and look on Thy servants.

V. O Lord God of hosts, graciously hear the prayers of Thy servants.

Collect:

Protect Thy family, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that by Thy bounty we may obtain those remedies of eternal salvation which Thou inspirest us to seek. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Third Lesson: Micheas VII. 14, 16, 18-20

Lesson from Micheas, the Prophet. O Lord our God,

14 Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thy inheritance, them that dwell alone in the forest, in the midst of Carmel: they shall feed in Basan and Galaad according to the days of old.

16 The nations shall see, and shall be confounded at all their strength: they shall put the hand upon the mouth, their ears shall be deaf.

18 Who is a God like to thee, who takest away iniquity, and passest by the sin of the remnant of thy inheritance? he will send his fury in no more, because he delighteth in mercy.

19 He will turn again, and have mercy on us: he will put away our iniquities: and he will cast all our sins into the bottom of the sea.

20 Thou wilt perform the truth of Jacob, the mercy to Abraham: which thou hast sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

(Ordination of Exorcists)

Gradual: Psalm LXXXIX. 13, 1

Antiphon: Return, O Lord, a little; and be entreated in favour of Thy servants.

V. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge, from generation to generation.

Collect:

Grant us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that abstaining from carnal feastings, we may likewise refrain from the evil desires that assail us. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Fourth Lesson: Zacharias VIII. 14-19

Lesson from Zacharias the Prophet. In those days, the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

14 For thus saith the Lord of hosts: As I purposed to afflict you, when your fathers had provoked me to wrath, saith the Lord,

15 And I had no mercy: so turning again I have thought in these days to do good to the house of Juda, and Jerusalem: fear not.

16 These then are the things, which you shall do: Speak ye truth every one to his neighbour: judge ye truth and judgment of peace in your gates.

17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his friend: and love not a false oath: for all these are the things that I hate, saith the Lord.

18 And the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying:

19 Thus saith the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Juda, joy, and gladness, and great solemnities: only love ye truth and peace.

(Ordination of Acolytes)

Gradual: Psalm CXL. 2

Antiphon: Let my prayer be directed like incense in Thy sight, O Lord.

V. The lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

Collect:

As Thou hast appointed us to offer this solemn fast to Thy glory: we beseech Thee, O Lord, in Thy mercy, grant us the help of Thy forgiveness. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Fifth Lesson: Daniel III. 47-51

Lesson from the Prophet Daniel. In those days

47 the flame mounted up above the furnace nine and forty cubits:

48 And it broke forth, and burnt such of the Chaldeans as it found near the furnace.

49 But the angel of the Lord went down with Azarias and his companions into the furnace: and he drove the flame of the fire out of the furnace,

50 And made the midst of the furnace like the blowing of a wind bringing dew, and the fire touched them not at all, nor troubled them, nor did them any harm.

51 Then these three as with one mouth praised, and glorified, and blessed God in the furnace, saying:

(Ordination of Subdeacons)

Hymn: Daniel III. 52-56

52 Blessed art thou, O Lord the God of our fathers: and worthy to be praised, and glorified, and exalted above all for ever: and blessed is the holy name of thy glory: and worthy to be praised, and exalted above all in all ages.

53 Blessed art thou in the holy temple of thy glory: and exceedingly to be praised, and exceeding glorious for ever.

54 Blessed art thou on the throne of thy kingdom, and exceedingly to be praised, and exalted above all for ever.

55 Blessed art thou, that beholdest the depths, and sittest upon the cherubims: and worthy to be praised and exalted above all for ever.

56 Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven: and worthy of praise, and glorious for ever.

Let all Thy Angels and Saints bless Thee: and praise and glorify Thee forever.

Let the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the things that are in them, bless Thee: and praise Thee and glorify Thee for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: Who is worthy to be praised and glorified for ever.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. And worthy to be praised and glorified for ever.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord the God of our fathers: and worthy to be praised and glorified for ever.

Collects:

O God, who didst cause the three holy youths to go unscathed through the flames of the fiery furnace; mercifully grant that no flame of vice may ever consume us Thy servants. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sixth Lesson: Hebrews IX. 2-12

Lesson from the epistle of blessed Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews. Brethren,
2 there was a tabernacle made the first, wherein were the candlesticks, and the table, and the setting forth of loaves, which is called the holy.

3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle, which is called the holy of holies:

4 Having a golden censer, and the ark of the testament covered about on every part with gold, in which was a golden pot that had manna, and the rod of Aaron, that had blossomed, and the tables of the testament.

5 And over it were the cherubims of glory overshadowing the propitiatory: of which it is not needful to speak now particularly.

6 Now these things being thus ordered, into the first tabernacle the priests indeed always entered, accomplishing the offices of sacrifices.

7 But into the second, the high priest alone, once a year: not without blood, which he offereth for his own, and the people's ignorance:

8 The Holy Ghost signifying this, that the way into the holies was not yet made manifest, whilst the former tabernacle was yet standing.

9 Which is a parable of the time present: according to which gifts and sacrifices are offered, which can not, as to the conscience, make him perfect that serveth, only in meats and in drinks,

10 And divers washings, and justices of the flesh laid on them until the time of correction.

11 But Christ, being come an high priest of the good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hand, that is, not of this creation:

12 Neither by the blood of goats, or of calves, but by his own blood, entered once into the holies, having obtained eternal redemption.

(Ordination of Deacons)

Tract: Psalm CXVI. 1-2

V. O praise the Lord, all ye nations: and praise Him together, all ye people.

(Ordination of Priests)

V. For His mercy is confirmed upon us: and the truth of the Lord remaineth for ever.

Gospel: Saint Luke XIII. 6-17

+ Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. At that time, Jesus spoke to the multitudes this parable:

6 A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it, and found none.

7 And he said to the dresser of the vineyard: Behold, for these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it done therefore: why cumbereth it the ground?

8 But he answering, said to him: Lord, let it alone this year also, until I dig about it, and dung it.

9 And if happily it bear fruit: but if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

10 And he was teaching in their synagogue on their sabbath.

11 And behold there was a woman, who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years: and she was bowed together, neither could she look upwards at all.

12 Whom when Jesus saw, he called her unto him, and said to her: Woman, thou art delivered from thy infirmity.

13 And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

14 And the ruler of the synagogue (being angry that Jesus had healed on the sabbath) answering, said to the multitude: Six days there are wherein you ought to work. In them therefore come, and be healed; and not on the sabbath day.

15 And the Lord answering him, said: Ye hypocrites, doth not every one of you, on the sabbath day, loose his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead them to water?

16 And ought not this daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

17 And when he said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the things that were gloriously done by him.

Offertory: Psalm LXXXVII. 2-3

O Lord, the God of my salvation, I have cried in the day and in the night before Thee; let my prayer come in before Thee, O Lord.

Secret:

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that this sacrifice offered in the sight of Thy divine majesty, may obtain for us the grace of devotion and merit for us the reward of a happy eternity. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Communion: Leviticus XXIII. 41, 43

In the seventh month shall you celebrate this feast, as I made the children of Israel to dwell in tabernacles, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Postcommunion:

May Thy sacraments, we beseech Thee, O Lord, effect within us that which they contain; that we may obtain in very truth that which is now signified in outward forms. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.