

**BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH  
ORTHODOX**

**LECTIONARY**

Scripture Readings for Sundays  
and other Special Days 2020–2021

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and other Special Days 2020–2021

Approved by the Synod Liturgical Commission  
Authorised by the Metropolitan.

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## PREFACE

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One True God. Amen.✠

A foundational principle of the Believers Eastern Church is the priority we give to the reading, studying and teaching of God's Word. This is not only because it is a pattern given to us to follow by the Apostles and Church Fathers, but also because God's Word is powerful and is the means to change and transform our lives.

The Word of God has the power to change lives inside out. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

The Holy Bible provides us divine principles to live by, and it gives us hope and faith. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). It is important that we read and study the Word and teach it regularly in our parishes.

Designed to achieve that end, the lectionary is a compilation of Scripture portions arranged for our Sunday worship and other special days of the year. It thus becomes a guide for us to systematically read and study God's Word.

My prayer is that this lectionary will help all of our parishes to become healthy, strong and vibrant in our knowledge and walk with God.

Blessings of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.✠

✠ Moran Mor Athanasius Yohan I  
Metropolitan

St. Thomas Community  
1 November 2020

<b>Sanctification of the Church (<i>Koodhosh Eetho</i>)—1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>1 November 2020</b> <b>All Saints Day</b> First Reading : Isaiah 6:1–8 Psalm Reading : Psalm 43 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:15–20 Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 16:13–23	<b>Theme:</b> Sanctify yourselves <b>Outline:</b> 1. Realizing our unworthiness (Isa.) 2. God’s truth and light will lead us (Ps.) 3. Live as God’s holy temples (1 Cor.) 4. Be mindful of the things of God (Matt.)
<b>Dedication of the Church (<i>Hoodosh Eetho</i>)—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>8 November 2020</b> <b>Children Sunday—<i>Special offering</i></b> First Reading : 1 Kings 8:22–40 Psalm Reading : Psalm 78:1–7 Second Reading : Hebrews 9:1–14 Gospel Reading : St. John 10:22–38	<b>Theme:</b> Renew your dedication to follow Christ <b>Outline:</b> 1. Dedication of the Jerusalem Temple (1 Kin.) 2. Pass on faith to the next generation (Ps.) 3. Cleansed to serve God anew (Heb.) 4. Hear God’s voice and follow Christ (John)
<b>Annunciation to Zachariah (<i>Suboreh Dazkharyo</i>)—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>15 November 2020</b> First Reading : Isaiah 41:8–15 Psalm Reading : Psalm 123 Second Reading : 2 Peter 1:1–15 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 1:5–25	<b>Theme:</b> Trust in God’s promises <b>Outline:</b> 1. God will always be with His chosen ones (Isa.) 2. Keep looking upward for mercy (Ps.) 3. Keep growing in faith and godliness (2 Pet.) 4. Keep believing in God’s promises (Luke)
<b>FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS</b>	
<b>21 November 2020, Saturday</b> First Reading : Exodus 40:1–5, 9–10, 16, 34–35 Second Reading : 1 Kings 8:1, 3–4, 6–7, 9–11 Third Reading : Hebrews 9:1–7 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 10:38–42, 11:27–28	
<b>Annunciation to the Theotokos (<i>Suboreb Dabthalto</i>)—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>22 November 2020</b> First Reading : Genesis 28:10–22 Psalm Reading : Psalm 100 Second Reading : Galatians 4:1–7 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 1:26–38	<b>Theme:</b> The mystery of salvation unveiled <b>Outline:</b> 1. Recognizing God in the here and now (Gen.) 2. Worship God for who He is (Ps.) 3. No longer slaves but sons (Gal.) 4. God’s salvation plan announced (Luke)

<b>St. Mary’s Visit to Elizabeth (<i>Mezalto</i>)—5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>29 November 2020</b> First Reading : Esther 4:1–17 Psalm Reading : Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 Second Reading : 1 Peter 3:1–7 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 1:39–56	<b>Theme:</b> Blessed to be a blessing <b>Outline:</b> 1. We are all chosen to fulfill God’s plans (Esth.) 2. God is the restorer of His people (Ps.) 3. Christian families must be united in love (1 Pet.) 4. Blessed are those who believe in God’s promises (Luke)
<b>Birth of St. John the Baptist (<i>Mawlodeb-d-yubanon Mamdono</i>)—6<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>6 December 2020</b> First Reading : Isaiah 40:1–10 Psalm Reading : Psalm 127:1–5 Second Reading : 1 John 4:1–10 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 1:57–80	<b>Theme:</b> Prepare the way of the Lord <b>Outline:</b> 1. Prepare the Way of the Lord (Isa.) 2. None of our endeavors will succeed without God (Ps.) 3. The test of love (1 Jn.) 4. Called to bring people to the knowledge of God (Luke)
<b>Annunciation to St. Joseph—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>13 December 2020</b> First Reading : Isaiah 45:18–25 Psalm Reading : Psalm 126 Second Reading : 1 Peter 2:1–10 Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 1:18–25	<b>Theme:</b> Seeing God’s plan <b>Outline:</b> 1. Only God can save (Isa.) 2. The Lord does great things for His people (Ps.) 3. Christ the chief cornerstone (1 Pet.) 4. Fulfillment of God’s promise of salvation (Matt.)
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>20 December 2020</b> Sunday before Christmas First Reading : Isaiah 11:1–9 Psalm Reading : Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26 Second Reading : Romans 4:13–21 Gospel Reading : St. John 1:1–14	<b>Theme:</b> God fulfills His promise of salvation <b>Outline:</b> 1. The promise of the Saviour (Isa.) 2. The Lord will exalt His servant (Ps.) 3. Inheriting God’s promises through faith (Rom.) 4. The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us (John)

<b>FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST - CHRISTMAS (<i>Yeldo</i>)</b>	
<p>The Christmas-Epiphany season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. During this time, we celebrate the wonder of the incarnation and the season concludes with the feast of the Epiphany.</p>	
<p><b>25 December 2020, Friday</b></p> <p><b>Christmas (<i>Yeldo</i>)</b></p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 9:1–7                      Second Reading : Psalm 96                      Third Reading : Hebrews 1:1–12                      Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 2:1–12</p>	
<b>Massacre of the Infants (<i>Qetlo d-yalude</i>)—9<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>27 December 2020</b>                      First Sunday after Christmas</p> <p>First Reading : Exodus 1:1–22                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 148                      Second Reading : Romans 15:1–13                      Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 2:13–23</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Our obedience is pleasing to God  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God will bless those who fear Him (Exod.)</li> <li>2. A song of praise to the Creator (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Love one another as Christ did for us (Rom.)</li> <li>4. Follow as God leads (Matt.)</li> </ol>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>3 January 2021</b>                      Second Sunday after Christmas</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 26:1–12                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 45:1–17                      Second Reading : Hebrews 11:23–31                      Gospel Reading : St. John 1:35–42</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Follow by faith  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sing a song of Salvation (Isa.)</li> <li>2. Sing a song for the King’s marriage (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Follow the Invisible by faith (Heb.)</li> <li>4. Follow Him selflessly and instantly (John)</li> </ol>
<b>FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (<i>Denho</i>)</b>	
<p>A period in which the Church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The Baptism of the Lord is the first Sunday of this period. The length of this period is upto Great Lent.</p>	
<p><b>6 January 2021, Wednesday</b></p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 12:1–6                      Second Reading : Psalm 29                      Third Reading : Hebrews 10:15–25                      Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 3:1–17</p>	

<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>10 January 2021</b>                      First Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 49:7–13                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 29                      Second Reading : Ephesians 1:3–14                      Gospel Reading : St. Mark 1:14–34</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> God’s promise of restoration – body, soul and spirit.  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Restoration of God’s people (Isa.)</li> <li>2. The powerful voice of God (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph.)</li> <li>4. Jesus delivers people from demons and sicknesses (Mark)</li> </ol>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>17 January 2021</b>                      Second Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 51:1–8                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18                      Second Reading : Hebrews 1:1, 2:4                      Gospel Reading : St. John 1:43–51</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Listening and responding to God’s call  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God’s everlasting salvation for His people (Isa.)</li> <li>2. God who knows all about me (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Warning against disregarding sound teaching (Heb.)</li> <li>4. Philip and Nathanael respond to Jesus’ call (John)</li> </ol>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>24 January 2021</b>                      Third Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>First Reading : Joel 2:21–32                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 62:5–12                      Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 3:16–4:5                      Gospel Reading : St. John 5:30–47</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> God is the final judge  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rejoice at what the Lord will do (Joel)</li> <li>2. Hope comes from God alone (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Apostles – entrusted to be faithful (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. The four-fold testimonies about Jesus (John)</li> </ol>
<b>All Departed Priests (<i>Kohne Sunday</i>)—14<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>31 January 2021</b>                      Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p><b>Clergy Welfare Sunday—<i>Special offering</i></b></p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 65:13–20                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 111                      Second Reading : 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11                      Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 24:42–51</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> We look for the life of the world to come (Nicene Creed)  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promise of new Heaven and Earth (Isa.)</li> <li>2. Give thanks for His great works (Ps.)</li> <li>3. The coming of the Lord (1 Thess.)</li> <li>4. Be ready for Jesus’ return (Matt.)</li> </ol>

<b>FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (<i>Mayaltho</i>)</b>	
<b>2 February 2021, Tuesday</b>	
First Reading : Isaiah 11:1–10	
Second Reading : Hebrews 7:7–17	
Third Reading : Ephesians 3:13–21	
Gospel Reading : St. Luke 2:22–40	
<b>All the Departed Faithful (<i>Aneedé Sunday</i>)—15<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>7 February 2021</b> Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	<b>Theme:</b> He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead (Nicene Creed) <b>Outline:</b> 1. Hezekiah’s prayer for healing (Isa.) 2. Sing praises to our God (Ps.) 3. The last enemy (death) will also be destroyed (1 Cor.) 4. Parable of the sheep and the goats (Matt.)
First Reading : Isaiah 38:10–20	
Psalm Reading : Psalm 147:1–11	
Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 15:20–28	
Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 25:31–46	
<b>SEASON OF GREAT LENT (<i>Pethurtha</i>)</b>	
The season of Great Lent is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. It is a time of renewing our devotion to Christ through the means of Christian disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>14 February 2021</b> First Sunday of the Great Lent	<b>Theme:</b> Seek the Lord <b>Outline:</b> 1. The kind of fast God has chosen (Isa.) 2. Seeking the Lord aright (Ps.) 3. Set your hearts and minds on things above (Col.) 4. Jesus restores joy at the wedding (John)
First Reading : Isaiah 58:5–14	
Psalm Reading : Psalm 50:1–6	
Second Reading : Colossians 3: 1–17	
Gospel Reading : St. John 2:1–11	
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>21 February 2021</b> Second Sunday of the Great Lent	<b>Theme:</b> The way to healing and restoration <b>Outline:</b> 1. Healing comes through obedience (2 Kn) 2. Brokenness and confession heals the soul and body (Ps.) 3. He who puts his faith in God will be saved (Rom.) 4. God is always willing to heal us (Luke)
First Reading : 2 Kings 5:1–14	
Psalm Reading : Psalm 51:1–17	
Second Reading : Romans 3:27–4:5	
Gospel Reading : St. Luke 4:40–41, 5:12–16	

<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>28 February 2021</b> Third Sunday of Great Lent	<b>Theme:</b> Healing physically and spiritually <b>Outline:</b> 1. Choose the right standards (Isa.) 2. Praise, honour and adore Him (Ps.) 3. Reconciled to God through Jesus (Rom.) 4. Healing of the paralytic (Luke)
First Reading : Isaiah 5:20–25	
Psalm Reading : Psalm 22:23–31	
Second Reading : Romans 5:1–11	
Gospel Reading : St. Luke 5:17–26	
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>7 March 2021</b> Fourth Sunday of Great Lent	<b>Theme:</b> Salvation excludes no one <b>Outline:</b> 1. God’s salvation is for all (Isa.) 2. The Law of the Lord is precious (Ps.) 3. Our struggle with sin (Rom.) 4. Faith that pleased Jesus (Matt.)
<b>Women Sunday</b> — <i>Special offering</i>	
First Reading : Isaiah 56:1–7	
Psalm Reading : Psalm 19	
Second Reading : Romans 7:14–25	
Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 15:21–28	
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>14 March 2021</b> Fifth Sunday of Great Lent	<b>Theme:</b> Forsake pride and pursue humility <b>Outline:</b> 1. The servant of the Lord is not rebellious (Isa.) 2. The dangers of rebellion (Ps.) 3. Serve one another in humility (Rom.) 4. Pride blinds us (Luke)
First Reading : Isaiah 50:1–5	
Psalm Reading : Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22	
Second Reading : Romans 12:1–15	
Gospel Reading : St. Luke 13:10–17	
<b>Hosanna Week—21<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>21 March 2021</b> Sixth Sunday of Great Lent	<b>Theme:</b> Called to be the light of the world <b>Outline:</b> 1. God’s expectations of His children (Deut.) 2. God’s Word can keep us pure (Ps.) 3. Walk as the children of light (Eph.) 4. From darkness into light (Mark)
First Reading : Deuteronomy 25:13–16; 26:1–13	
Psalm Reading : Psalm 119:9–16	
Second Reading : Ephesians 5:1–14	
Gospel Reading : St. Mark 10:46–52	

<b>FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE THEOTOKOS (<i>Suboro</i>)</b>	
<b>25 March 2021, Thursday</b>	
First Reading : Isaiah 63:14–64:5	
Second Reading : Hebrews 2:11–18	
Third Reading : 1 John 3:2–17	
Gospel Reading : St. Luke 1:24–38	
<b>FEAST OF THE PALM SUNDAY—22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>28 March 2021</b> Hosanna/Palm Sunday	<b>Theme:</b> Our King and His glorious Kingdom
First Reading : Micah 4:1–5	<b>Outline:</b>
Psalm Reading : Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29	1. A glimpse of our glorious future (Mic.)
Second Reading : Romans 8:18–25	2. Give thanks and rejoice in the Lord’s coming (Ps.)
Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 21:1–17	3. Our present sufferings are nothing compared to the future glory (Rom.)
	4. Triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matt.)
<b>THE FEAST OF FEASTS: EASTER—23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>4 April 2021</b> <b>Easter Sunday (<i>Kymotho</i>)</b>	<b>Theme:</b> The Hope of Resurrection
First Reading : Isaiah 60:1–22	<b>Outline:</b>
Psalm Reading : Psalm 114	1. God is the glory of His people (Isa.)
Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 15:1–19	2. God’s wonders for His people (Ps.)
Gospel Reading : St. John 20:1–18	3. Our hope is in the risen Lord (1 Cor.)
	4. The empty tomb and the risen Lord (John)
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>11 April 2021</b> First Sunday after Easter	<b>Theme:</b> Following and testifying about the Risen Saviour
First Reading : Isaiah 40:9–15	<b>Outline:</b>
Psalm Reading : Psalm 133	1. Share the Good News (Isa.)
Second Reading : 1 Peter 2:19–25	2. Called to live in unity (Ps.)
Gospel Reading : St. John 20:19–31	3. Follow in Christ’s footsteps (1 Pet.)
	4. Disciples see the risen Christ (John)

<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>18 April 2021</b> Second Sunday after Easter	<b>Theme:</b> Follow God’s instructions fully
First Reading : Joshua 6:9–21	<b>Outline:</b>
Psalm Reading : Psalm 4	1. Walls of Jericho fall on following God’s instructions (Josh.)
Second Reading : Ephesians 6:10–20	2. God will protect His servants (Ps.)
Gospel Reading : St. John 21:15–25	3. Armed to resist the devil’s schemes (Eph.)
	4. Don’t look at others; follow Christ (John)
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>25 April 2021</b> Third Sunday after Easter	<b>Theme:</b> Called with an eternal calling
First Reading : Exodus 40:1–16	<b>Outline:</b>
Psalm Reading : Psalm 23	1. All that is set apart for worship must be consecrated (Exod.)
Second Reading : Hebrews 3:1–13	2. We are the sheep of His pasture (Ps.)
Gospel Reading : St. John 6:16–29	3. Christ our High Priest (Heb.)
	4. Labor for eternal benefits (John)
<b>Feast of St Athanasius the Great the Patriarch of Alexandria—27<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>2 May 2021</b> Fourth Sunday after Easter	<b>Theme:</b> Eternal life through Jesus Christ, the Son of God
First Reading : Exodus 34:4–12	<b>Outline:</b>
Psalm Reading : Psalm 22:25–31	1. God’s nature declared in His Name (Exod.)
Second Reading : 1 John 5:13–21	2. Praise the Lord from one generation to the next (Ps.)
Gospel Reading : St. John 6:47–58	3. Jesus Christ is eternal life (1 Jn.)
	4. Eternal life through the Body and Blood of Jesus (John)
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>9 May 2021</b> Fifth Sunday after Easter	<b>Theme:</b> And He shall come again, with glory (Nicene Creed)
First Reading : Isaiah 54:1–8	<b>Outline:</b>
Psalm Reading : Psalm 98	1. The Lord will redeem His people (Isa.)
Second Reading : 1 Peter 3:17–22	2. The Lord is coming to judge the earth (Ps.)
Gospel Reading : St. John 14:1–16	3. Christ is seated at the right hand of God in authority (1 Pet.)
	4. The Lord will come to take us home (John)

<b>FEAST OF THE ASCENSION</b>	
<b>13 May 2021, Thursday</b>	
First Reading : Acts 1:1–11	
Second Reading : Psalm 47	
Third Reading : Ephesians 1:15–23	
Gospel Reading : St. Luke 24:44–53	
<b>29<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>16 May 2021</b>	<b>Theme:</b> Live in the light of eternity
Sunday before Pentecost	<b>Outline:</b>
First Reading : Joshua 1:5–9	1. Be careful to obey the Law of God (Josh.)
Psalm Reading : Psalm 1	2. The way of the blessed man (Ps.)
Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 7:1–2, 25–34, 9:1–10	3. Be not tied down by worldly cares (1 Cor.)
Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 19:16–30	4. Hold not on to earthly riches (Matt.)
<b>FEAST OF THE PENTECOST—30<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>23 May 2021</b>	<b>Theme:</b> The Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life (Nicene Creed)
Pentecost (Fiftieth day after Easter)	<b>Outline:</b>
First Reading : Acts 2:1–21	1. The Holy Spirit births the Church (Acts)
Psalm Reading : Psalm 104:24–34, 35b	2. God’s Spirit in creation (Ps.)
Second Reading: Galatians 5:16–26	3. The fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal.)
Gospel Reading: St. John 16:1–15	4. The work of the Holy Spirit (John)
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>30 May 2021</b>	<b>Theme:</b> Whose Kingdom shall have no end (Nicene Creed)
First Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Outline:</b>
<b>Feast of All Saints</b>	1. Seek the Lord with all your heart (Jer.)
First Reading : Jeremiah 29:10–16	2. Give unto the Lord the glory that is due to Him (Ps.)
Psalm Reading : Psalm 29	3. In all things, approve yourselves as the ministers of God (2 Cor.)
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:10	4. Work for that which endures eternally (John)
Gospel Reading: St. John 6:26–35	
<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>6 June 2021</b>	<b>Theme:</b> The saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
Second Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Outline:</b>
First Reading : Acts 4:23–31	1. The Holy Spirit grants boldness to witness (Acts)
Psalm Reading : Psalm 130	2. The promise of God’s redemption (Ps.)
Second Reading: Ephesians 2:11–22	3. The Gospel reconciles all people unto God (Eph.)
Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 10:5–16	4. The 72 sent out to preach the Gospel (Matt.)

<b>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>13 June 2021</b>	<b>Theme:</b> The powerful Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
Third Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Outline:</b>
<b>Mission Sunday—<i>Special offering</i></b>	1. Good News - God has raised Jesus from the dead (Acts)
First Reading : Acts 13:26–39	2. Rejoice in the work of God (Ps.)
Psalm Reading : Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15	3. Nothing to glory, save the Cross of Christ (Gal.)
Second Reading: Galatians 6:10–18	4. The power of the Gospel demonstrated (Mark)
Gospel Reading : St. Mark 6:4–13	
<b>34<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>20 June 2021</b>	<b>Theme:</b> Ministering to physical needs
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Outline:</b>
First Reading : Acts 6:1–7	1. Elders chosen to meet physical needs of church members (Acts)
Psalm Reading : Psalm 15	2. Pleasing God by loving others (Ps.)
Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 16:14–22	3. The blessing of ministering to the saints (1 Cor.)
Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 14:14–23	4. Ministry by meeting the physical needs of others (Matt.)
<b>35<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>27 June 2021</b>	<b>Theme:</b> Our life is the message of God to the world
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Outline:</b>
First Reading : Isaiah 40:27–31	1. Renewing your strength (Isa.)
Psalm Reading : Psalm 16	2. Those who put their trust in God will be saved (Ps.)
Second Reading : 2 Corinthians 5:14–20	3. We are Christ’s ambassadors (2 Cor.)
Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 17:20–27	4. Remember to fulfill earthly requirements too (Matt.)
<b>36<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<b>4 July 2021</b>	<b>Theme:</b> Trust in the Lord
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Outline:</b>
<b>Seminary Sunday—<i>Special offering</i></b>	1. Don’t forsake God for money (Acts)
First Reading : Acts 1:15–20	2. Trust in the Name of the Lord (Ps.)
Psalm Reading : Psalm 20	3. Trust not your knowledge (1 Cor.)
Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 8:1–6	4. Trust God with all that you have (Matt.)
Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 15:32–39	



37 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	
<p><b>11 July 2021</b> Seventh Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Acts 4:32–37 Psalm Reading : Psalm 145:1–9 Second Reading : Ephesians 2:11–22 Gospel Reading : St. Mark 3:20–30</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The family of God <b>Outline:</b> 1. A community of sharing (Acts) 2. A community of testimony (Ps.) 3. A new and united community (Eph.) 4. Relations and friends alone do not make a community (Mark)</p>
38 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	
<p><b>18 July 2021</b> Eighth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Isaiah 52:1–6 Psalm Reading : Psalm 23 Second Reading : 1 Peter 2:4–10 Gospel Reading : St. John 6:47–59</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The Chosen People <b>Outline:</b> 1. Know that God is our Redeemer (Isa.) 2. Know that God is our Shepherd (Ps.) 3. Know that you are chosen by God (1 Pet.) 4. We are chosen for life eternal (John)</p>
39 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	
<p><b>25 July 2021</b> Ninth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Acts 28:11–22 Psalm Reading : Psalm 22 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 6:1–11 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 14:7–11</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> In this world we will have tribulations <b>Outline:</b> 1. The Gospel work is not without perils (Acts) 2. Troubles are inevitable but the Lord will save us (Ps.) 3. It is better to be wronged than do wrong (1 Cor.) 4. Humble yourselves and you will be exalted (Luke)</p>
40 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	
<p><b>1 August 2021</b> Tenth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Acts 28:23–30 Psalm Reading : Psalm 78:23–29 Second Reading : Romans 10:5–21 Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 18:1–11</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Feed My sheep <b>Outline:</b> 1. The Word must be taught diligently (Acts) 2. God desires that His people must be fed (Ps.) 3. Confess and believe the Word (Rom.) 4. Woe to those who cause hindrances to believers (Matt.)</p>

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION	
<p><b>6 August 2021, Friday</b> First Reading : Isaiah 61:1–3 Second Reading : Psalm 24 Third Reading : 1 John 2:23-3:1 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 9:27–36</p>	
41 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	
<p><b>8 August 2021</b> First Sunday after transfiguration <b>Youth Sunday</b>—<i>Special offering</i> First Reading : Deuteronomy 25:13–16 Psalm Reading : Psalm 27 Second Reading : St. James 4:7-5:6 Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 21:28–32</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Shun evil and follow after good <b>Outline:</b> 1. God hates dishonesty (Deut.) 2. Do not loose heart: Trust in God (Ps.) 3. Not doing good is sin (James) 4. Repent and do the will of God (Matt.)</p>
FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THEOTOKOS ( <i>Shoonoyo</i> )—42 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	
<p><b>15 August 2021</b> First Reading : Exodus 3:1–6; 19:16–23 Psalm Reading : Psalm 84 Second Reading : Hebrews 2:14–18, 9:3–12 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 1:39–56; 2:22–35</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Waiting for the Lord’s Deliverance <b>Outline:</b> 1. We must be prepared to meet God (Exod.) 2. The blessedness of being in God’s house (Ps.) 3. The foreshadow of Heaven (Heb.) 4. Blessed are those who wait for the Lord (Luke)</p>
43 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	
<p><b>22 August 2021</b> First Sunday after the Dormition First Reading : 1 Samuel 8:4–9 Psalm Reading : Psalm 34:15–22 Second Reading : Ephesians 6:10–17 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 6:39–45</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The way of the righteous <b>Outline:</b> 1. Always seek the will of God (1 Sam.) 2. The Lord will save the righteous (Ps.) 3. Put on the full armor of God (Eph.) 4. Bear good fruit (Luke)</p>
44 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	
<p><b>29 August 2021</b> Second Sunday after the Dormition First Reading : Genesis 6:3–12 Psalm Reading : Psalm 15 Second Reading : 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 Gospel Reading : St. Luke 11:9–20</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Walk uprightly before the Lord <b>Outline:</b> 1. God is grieved at human sinfulness (Gen.) 2. The character of those qualified to enter God’s dwelling place (Ps.) 3. Watch soberly and motivate one another (1 Thess.) 4. Keep asking, seeking and knocking (Luke)</p>

<b>45<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>5 September 2021</b></p> <p>Third Sunday after the Dormition</p> <p>First Reading : 1 Samuel 3:16–21</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 146</p> <p>Second Reading : 2 Corinthians 10:1–7</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St. Luke 19:11–27</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Walk with integrity</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not shy away from revealing God’s message (1 Sam.)</li> <li>2. Trust in God alone (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Make every thought captive to Christ (2 Cor.)</li> <li>4. Be faithful in all things (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b>	
<p><b>8 September 2021, Wednesday</b></p> <p>First Reading : Genesis 28:10–17</p> <p>Second Reading : Ezekiel 43:27–44:4</p> <p>Third Reading : Philippians 2:5–11</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St. Luke 1:39–49, 56; 11:27–28</p>	
<b>46<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>12 September 2021</b></p> <p>Fourth Sunday after Dormition</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 1:15–20</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 116:1–9</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Peter 2:1–5</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 18:12–22</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Responding to God’s patient mercy</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God is willing to cleanse us from sin (Isa.)</li> <li>2. Love the Lord for His deliverance (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Lay aside all evil and desire God’s Word (1 Pet.)</li> <li>4. Love and forgive one another (Matt.)</li> </ol>
<b>FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS</b>	
<p><b>14 September 2021, Tuesday</b></p> <p>First Reading : Exodus 15:22–16:1</p> <p>Second Reading : Psalm 98:1–5</p> <p>Third Reading : 1 Corinthians 1:18–24</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St. John 3:13–17</p>	
<b>47<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>19 September 2021</b></p> <p>First Sunday after Feast of Holy Cross</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 1:10–20</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 54</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 2:10–16</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 24:36–51</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Being a people of prayer and worship</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offer worship that pleases God (Isa.)</li> <li>2. Offer sacrifices of praise for His deliverance (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Walk in the Spirit (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. Watch and be ready (Matt.)</li> </ol>

<b>48<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>26 September 2021</b></p> <p>Second Sunday after Feast of Holy Cross</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 48:12–16</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 19:7–14</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 2:14–3:9</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 15:12–20</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Living in submission to the Word of God</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God’s ancient plan to redeem His people (Isa.)</li> <li>2. God’s Word alone can transform us (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Forsake carnal ways (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. The source that defiles us (Matt.)</li> </ol>
<b>49<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>3 October 2021</b></p> <p>Third Sunday after Feast of Holy Cross</p> <p><b>SOC Sunday—<i>Special offering</i></b></p> <p>First Reading : Genesis 42:18–35</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 8</p> <p>Second Reading : Romans 8:1–11</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 18:23–35</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Love and forgive one another</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You will reap what you sow (Gen.)</li> <li>2. Our value in God’s eyes (Ps.)</li> <li>3. No condemnation to those in Christ (Rom.)</li> <li>4. Forgive one another (Matt.)</li> </ol>
<b>50<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>10 October 2021</b></p> <p>Fourth Sunday after Feast of Holy Cross</p> <p>First Reading : 1 Kings 8:22–30</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 42</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 1:21–29</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St. Luke 9:37–45</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Humble yourself in the sight of God</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Always approach the Lord in humility (1 Kin.)</li> <li>2. Hope and wait earnestly for the Lord (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Glory only in what God has done (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. True understanding of the greatness of God (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>51<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>17 October 2021</b></p> <p>Fifth Sunday after Feast of Holy Cross</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 40:27–31</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 46</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Timothy 6:13–21</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 23:1–12</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Look up to God for renewal</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Those who wait on God will renew their strength (Isa.)</li> <li>2. God is the refuge and strength of His people (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Preserve the holy commandments and traditions (1 Tim.)</li> <li>4. Humble yourselves and serve one another (Matt.)</li> </ol>

52 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	
<p><b>24 October 2021</b>                      Sixth Sunday after Feast of Holy Cross                      First Reading : Isaiah 43:16-25                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 126                      Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 5:6-13                      Gospel Reading : St. Matthew 19:13-26</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Our reason for hope  <b>Outline:</b>                      1. God forgives His people (Isa.)                      2. God is the restorer of His people (Ps.)                      3. Keep away from immorality (1 Cor.)                      4. Follow the Kingdom values (Matt.)</p>

### CHURCH CALENDAR OF BEC -2020-2021

Date/Day	Feasts	Description
1 November, Sunday	Sanctification of the Church <i>(Koodhosb Eetho)</i>	Sanctification of Church Sunday. It is the beginning of the church calendar.
8 November, Sunday	Dedication of the Church <i>(Hoodosh Eetho)</i>	Dedication of Church Sunday.
15 November, Sunday	Annunciation to Zachariah <i>(Suboreh Dazkeharyo)</i>	Day commemorating the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist by Angel Gabriel to Zachariah.
21 November, Saturday	Great Feast: <b>ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS</b>	The Feast commemorates the Virgin Mary entering the Temple in Jerusalem as a young child.
29 November, Sunday	St. Mary's Visit to Elizabeth <i>(Mezalto)</i>	Day commemorating the visit of St. Mary to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.
1 December, Tuesday	<b>Fast of the Nativity (25 days fast)</b>	The Christmas fast is observed as our preparation to welcome the day that commemorates the birth of our Lord Jesus in flesh and in memory of the curse of sin on mankind before the Lord's birth.
6 December, Sunday	Birth of John the Baptist <i>(Mamlodeb-d-yubanon Mamdono)</i>	Day celebrating the birth of John the Baptist.
13 December, Sunday	Annunciation to St. Joseph	Day commemorating the announcement of the birth of Jesus through Virgin Mary, by Angel Gabriel to St. Joseph.
25 December, Friday	Great Feast: <b>NATIVITY OF CHRIST</b> <i>(Yeldo)</i>	Christmas: The feast day to remember the birth of our Lord Jesus, who became a man and came into the world to save us.

Date/Day	Feasts	Description
1 January, Friday	New Year Feast of the Circumcision	To celebrate, the Circumcision of our Lord and his receiving the name Jesus, according to Jewish tradition.
6 January, Wednesday	Great Feast: <b>EPIPHANY</b> ( <i>Denho</i> )	This feast commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by St. John the Baptist.
7 January, Thursday	St. John the Baptist's Day	Feast Commemorating the beheading of St John the Baptist.
8 January, Friday	St. Stephen's Day	Feast Commemorating the Martyrdom of St. Stephen, the Head of the Deacons and the first among martyrs.
25 January, Monday	<b>Nineveh Lent/Three-day Lent</b>	This fast is practiced following the example of the people of Nineveh of old times who listened to the warning of God through Prophet Jonah and proclaimed a fast for all, seeking God's mercy.
31 January, Sunday	Kohne Sunday, All Departed Priests	Day to remember the faithful departed priests of the Holy Church.
2 February, Tuesday	Great Feast: <b>PRESENTATION OF CHRIST</b> ( <i>Mayaltho</i> )	Celebrating the day when infant Jesus was presented in the temple.
7 February, Sunday	Aneedé Sunday/All the Departed Faithful	Day to remember all the faithful of the Holy Church.
14 February, Sunday	First Sunday of the Great Lent/Kothine Sunday Pethurtha of the Great Lent/ Feast of Cana	Great Lent starts by commemorating the first miracle performed by Jesus at Cana.
15 February, Monday	First Monday of the Great Lent ( <i>Shubkono</i> )	The service of reconciliation is done on the First Monday of the Great Lent to help prepare the faithful to enter into the season of Great Lent.
21 February, Sunday	Second Sunday of Great Lent (Leper's Sunday-Garbo Sunday)	Day to commemorate the miracle of the Healing of the Leper.

Date/Day	Feasts	Description
28 February, Sunday	Third Sunday of Great Lent Sunday of The Paralytic ( <i>m'sharyo</i> )	Day to commemorate the Healing of the Paralytic.
7 March, Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Great Lent kna'naito Sunday	Day to commemorate the Healing of the Canaanite's daughter.
10 March, Wednesday	Mid Lent	25 <sup>th</sup> day of the Great Lent
14 March, Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Great Lent (kpiiptho Sunday)	Day to commemorate the Healing of the Crippled woman.
21 March, Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Great Lent (Samyo)	Day to commemorate the Healing of the Blind man.
25 March, Thursday	Great Feast: <b>ANNUNCIATION</b> ( <i>Suboro</i> )	The feast commemorates the announcement about the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary.
28 March, Sunday	Great Feast: <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	The feast commemorates the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem.
2 April, Friday	Good Friday ( <i>Hasbo</i> )	Day to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.
4 April, Sunday	Great Feast : <b>THE FEAST OF FEASTS</b> Easter Sunday ( <i>Kymotho</i> )	Easter: Celebration of the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
2 May, Sunday	Fourth Sunday after Easter. Feast of St Athanasius the Great the Patriarch of Alexandria	This great Church Father, helped formulate the New Testament canon, defended the full divinity of Christ against heresies and thus helped establish the Christian faith.
13 May, Thursday	Great Feast: <b>ASCENSION</b> ( <i>Suloqo</i> )	The Feast commemorates the ascension of Jesus to heaven, 40 days after His resurrection.
23 May, Sunday	Great Feast: <b>PENTECOST</b>	The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, resulting in the establishing of the Church.

Date/Day	Feasts	Description
30 May, Sunday	First Sunday after Pentecost Feast of All Saints	This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, from the time Adam who glorified God by their holy lives.
16 June, Wednesday	<b>Beginning of Apostles Lent</b>	Fast begins on June 16 and ends on June 29. The practice of this fast is to follow in Apostle's footsteps (Heb. 13:7) who fasted in fulfillment of Lord Jesus' words in St Matthew 9:15.
29 June, Tuesday	Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul	Feast in honor of the martyrdom of the Apostles Peter and Paul in Rome.
30 June, Wednesday	Feast of the 12 Apostles	Collective commemoration of the 12 Holy Apostles
3 July, Saturday	St. Thomas Day ( <i>Dukbrano</i> )	Remembering the life and works of St. Thomas
5 July, Monday	Feast of the seventy-two evangelists	Memory of the 72 disciples
1 August, Sunday	<b>Beginning of 15-day Lent</b>	From the 1st to 15th of August, this is the time for the faithful to prepare themselves for their death because the death of the Mother of God is a desirable and exemplary death for all.
6 August, Friday	Great Feast: <b>TRANSFIGURATION</b>	The feast commemorates the transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor.
15 August, Sunday	Great Feast: <b>DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> ( <i>Shoonoyo</i> )	The Feast commemorates the dormition or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 September, Wednesday	<b>Eight Day Lent Starts</b>	This is an eight-day fast, historically celebrated in India, where the women observe fast for their own protection. It is not obligatory.

Date/Day	Feasts	Description
8 September, Wednesday	Great Feast: <b>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b>	The Feast commemorates the birth of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
14 September, Tuesday	Great Feast: <b>FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS</b>	The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine.
23 October, Saturday	Feast of St James, the Apostle	Remembering the life of St. James, the brother of our Lord Jesus and the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

## SPECIAL DAYS

Special Days	Week	Date
Children Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Clergy Welfare Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2021
Women Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
Mission Sunday	33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Seminary Sunday	36 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
Youth Sunday	41 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
SOC Sunday	49 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2021

