

**FIRST READING Exodus 12.1-13**

*A reading from Exodus.*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron – in the land of Egypt:

This month shall mark for you the beginning of months;  
it shall be the first month of the year for you.

Tell the whole congregation of Israel  
that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family,  
a lamb for each household.

If a household is too small for a whole lamb,  
it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one;

the lamb shall be divided in proportion  
to the number of people who eat of it.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male;  
you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month;  
then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.

They shall take some of the blood  
and put it on the two door posts and the lintel  
of the houses in which they eat it.

They shall eat the lamb that same night;  
they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water,  
but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.

You shall let none of it remain until the morning;  
anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

This is how you shall eat it:

your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand;  
and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night,  
and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt,  
both human beings and animals;

on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD.

The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live:

when I see the blood, I will pass over you,  
and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

*For the Word of the LORD.*

**SECOND READING**            **1 Peter 1.3-12**

*A reading from the first letter of Peter.*

Blessèd be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy, he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God, through faith, for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now – for a little while – you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith (being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire) may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Although you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory.

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves – but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – things into which angels long to look!

*For the Word of the LORD.*