

The Feast of St. Raphael, Archangel

The Reading from the Book of Tobit, chapter 12, beginning at the first verse.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

Tobit called his son Tobi'as and said to him, "My son, see to the wages of the man who went with you *on your journey*; and he must also be given more."

Tobias replied, "Father, it would do me no harm to give him half of what I have brought back. For he has led me back to you safely, he cured my wife, he obtained the money for me, and he also healed you." The old man said, "He deserves it."

So Tobit called the angel and said to him, "Take half of all that you two have brought back."

Then the angel called the two of them privately and said to them: "Praise God and give thanks to him; exalt him and give thanks to him in the presence of all the living for what he has done for you. It is good to praise God and to exalt his name, worthily declaring the works of God. Do not be slow to give him thanks. It is good to guard the secret of a king, but gloriously to reveal the works of God. Do good, and evil will not overtake you. Prayer is good when accompanied by fasting, almsgiving, and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with wrongdoing. It is better to give alms than to treasure up gold. For almsgiving delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who perform deeds of charity and of righteousness will have fullness of life; but those who commit sin are the enemies of their own lives.

"I will not conceal anything from you. I have said, 'It is good to guard the secret of a king, but gloriously to reveal the works of God.' And so, when you and your daughter-in-law Sarah prayed, I brought a reminder of your prayer before the Holy One; and when you buried the dead, I was likewise present with you. When you did not hesitate to rise and leave your dinner in order to go and lay out the dead, your good deed was not hidden from me, but I was with you. So now God sent me to heal you and your daughter-in-law Sarah.

I am Raph'ael, one of the seven holy angels who present the prayers of the saints and enter into the presence of the glory of the Holy One."

Tobit and Tobias were both alarmed; and they fell upon their faces, for they were afraid. But Raphael said to them, "Do not be afraid; you will be safe. But praise God for ever. For I did not come as a favor on my part, but by the will of our God. Therefore praise him for ever. All these days I merely appeared to you and did not eat or drink, but you were seeing a vision. And now give thanks to God, for I am ascending to him who sent me. Write in a book everything that has happened." Then they stood up; but they saw him no more. So they confessed the great and wonderful works of God, and acknowledged that the angel of the Lord had appeared to them.

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.

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Psalm 103 verses 1-5, 15-22

PRAISE the LORD, O my soul; * and all
that is within me, praise his holy Name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, * and forget
not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thy sin, * and healeth
all thine infirmities;

Who saveth thy life from destruction, *
and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-
kindness;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good
things, * making thee young and lusty as
an eagle.

*The LORD executeth righteousness and
judgment * for all them that are oppressed with
wrong.*

*He showed his ways unto Moses, * his works
unto the children of Israel.*

*The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
long-suffering, and of great goodness.*

*He will not alway be chiding; * neither keepeth
he his anger for ever.*

*He hath not dealt with us after our sins; * nor
rewarded us according to our wickednesses.*

*For look how high the heaven is in comparison
of the earth; * so great is his mercy also toward
them that fear him.*

*Look how wide also the east is from the west; *
so far hath he set our sins from us.*

*Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children; *
even so is the LORD merciful unto them that fear
him.*

*For he knoweth whereof we are made; * he
remembereth that we are but dust.*

The days of man are but as grass; * for he
flourisheth as a flower of the field.

For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is
gone; * and the place thereof shall know it
no more.

But the merciful goodness of the LORD
endureth for ever and ever upon them that
fear him; * and his righteousness upon
children's children;

Even upon such as keep his covenant, *
and think upon his commandments to do
them.

The LORD hath prepared his seat in
heaven, * and his kingdom ruleth over all.

O praise the LORD, ye angels of his, ye
that excel in strength; * ye that fulfil his
commandment, and hearken unto the
voice of his word.

O praise the LORD, all ye his hosts; * ye
servants of his that do his pleasure.

O speak good of the LORD, all ye works
of his, in all places of his dominion: *
praise thou the LORD, O my soul.

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A reading from the First Epistle of St. Peter, chapter one, beginning at the 10th verse

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

The *ancient* prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired about this salvation *which has come to you*; they inquired what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them when predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things which have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, **things into which angels long to look.**

Therefore gird up your minds, be sober, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.

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St. John:5:1-6

...There was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water: whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had.

One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?"

The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.