

## Introductions to the Readings – June 2010

### **The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ, June 6**

#### **First Reading: Genesis 14: 18-20**

Today's reading from the book of Genesis tells us all we know about an obscure king named Melchizedek. Abraham had just won a military victory, and Melchizedek honors him with a meal of bread and wine. Over the course of time, this meal was seen as a distant foreshadowing of the Eucharist, which is why this passage was chosen for today's feast.

#### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26**

The first letter to the Corinthians was written about 25 years after Christ's death and resurrection. Today's passage contains our earliest written account of what Jesus did at the Last Supper. It predates even the Gospels.

### **Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 13**

#### **First Reading: 2 Samuel 12: 7-10**

Today's passage concludes the well-known story of David's sin of adultery with Bathsheba and also the sin of arranging the death of her husband Uriah. Nathan the prophet confronts David with these sins.

#### **Second Reading: Galatians 2: 1, 19-21**

Galatia was a Roman province in central Turkey. Some time after Paul had preached the Gospel there, other Christians came who insisted that to be a good Christian one also had to follow the Jewish law and be circumcised. Today we hear one of the most famous passages from Paul's letter to the Galatians. In that culture and at that time, it was a remarkable statement against any form of ethnic, religious or gender discrimination.

### **Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 20**

#### **First Reading: Zechariah 12: 10-11**

The prophet Zechariah preached about the Jews returned from exile. This brief passage we will hear today is puzzling. A person is depicted as suffering and dying for the people, but we don't know who it is. In the Gospel of John, this passage is applied to Jesus on the Cross, pierced with a lance.

#### **Second Reading: Galatians 3: 26-29**

Today we hear one of the most famous passages from Paul's letter to the Galatians. In that culture and at that time, it was a remarkable statement against any form of ethnic, religious or gender discrimination.

### **Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 27**

#### **First Reading: 1 Kings 19: 16, 19-21**

Elijah lived about 800 years before Jesus, and was revered as the greatest prophet in Jewish history, although we have none of his writings. In today's passage, he is nearing the end of his life, and God instructs him to anoint a successor.

#### **Second Reading: Galatians 5: 1, 13-18**

Some time after Paul had preached the Gospel in Galatia, other Christians came who insisted that to be a good Christian one also had to follow the Jewish law and be ritually circumcised. This caused great dissension in the Church there. In today's passage, Paul reaffirms their freedom from the law, and pleads for greater harmony.