

Lent Lectures 2017

References to read alongside Lecture Two

1. 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 doorposts 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. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day shall be cut off from Israel. On the first day you shall hold a solemn assembly, and on the seventh day a solemn assembly; no work shall be done on those days; only what everyone must eat, that alone may be prepared by you. You shall observe the festival of unleavened bread, for on this very day I brought your companies out of the land of Egypt: you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a perpetual ordinance. In the first month, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day, you shall eat unleavened bread. For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether an alien or a native of the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your settlements you shall eat unleavened bread. Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go, select lambs for your families, and slaughter the passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood in the basin. None of you shall go outside the door of your house until morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike down the Egyptians; when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you down. You shall observe this rite as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children. When you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this observance. And when your children ask you, "What do you mean by this observance?" you shall say, "It is the passover sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck down the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed down and worshipped. The Israelites went and did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his officials and all the Egyptians; and there was a loud cry in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead. Then he summoned Moses and Aaron in the night, and said, 'Rise up, go away from my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD, as you said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you said, and be gone. And bring a blessing on me too!' The Egyptians urged the people to hasten their departure from the land, for they said, 'We shall all be dead.' So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading-bowls wrapped up in their cloaks on their shoulders. The Israelites had done as Moses told them; they had asked the Egyptians for jewellery of silver and gold, and for clothing, and the LORD had given the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. And so they plundered the Egyptians.

The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. A mixed crowd also went up with them, and livestock in great numbers, both flocks and herds. They baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt; it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

The time that the Israelites had lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. At the end of four hundred and thirty years, on that very day, all the companies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. That was for the LORD a night of vigil, to bring them out of the land of Egypt. That same night is a vigil to be kept for the LORD by all the Israelites throughout their generations. The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: This is the ordinance for the passover: no foreigner shall eat of it, but any slave who has been purchased may eat of it after he has been circumcised; no bound or hired servant may eat of it. It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the animal outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. The whole congregation of Israel shall celebrate it. If an alien who resides with you wants to celebrate the passover to the LORD, all his males shall be circumcised; then he may draw near to celebrate it; he shall be regarded as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it; there shall be one law for the native and for the alien who resides among you.

All the Israelites did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. That very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, company by company. *Exodus 12*

2. He sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt-offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, 'All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.' Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, 'See the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.'

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there was something like a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. God^[a] did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; also they beheld God, and they ate and drank. *Exodus 24:5-11*

3. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,^[a] says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. *Jeremiah 31:31-33*

4. the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.
Many nations will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Micah 4:1-2

And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD
to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices

will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.”

Isaiah 56:6-7

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.
All Kedar’s flocks will be gathered to you,
the rams of Nebaioth will serve you;
they will be accepted as offerings on my altar,
and I will adorn my glorious temple.

Isaiah 60:1-7

5. Then all your people will be righteous
and they will possess the land forever.
They are the shoot I have planted,
the work of my hands,
for the display of my splendour.

Isaiah 60:21

Thus says the Lord GOD: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the towns to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. The land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. And they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined towns are now inhabited and fortified.’

Ezekiel 36:33-35

6. The Bread of Life discourse in John’s Gospel

So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?’³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”³² Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.³³ For the bread of God is that which [\[a\]](#) comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’³⁴ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’

³⁵ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.³⁷ Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away;³⁸ for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.⁴⁰ This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' ⁴² They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' ⁴³ Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

John 6:30-end

7. Psalms sung at the Cup of Praise

Psalm 115

¹ Not to us, LORD, not to us
but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.

² Why do the nations say,
"Where is their God?"

³ Our God is in heaven;
he does whatever pleases him.

⁴ But their idols are silver and gold,
made by human hands.

⁵ They have mouths, but cannot speak,
eyes, but cannot see.

⁶ They have ears, but cannot hear,
noses, but cannot smell.

⁷ They have hands, but cannot feel,
feet, but cannot walk,
nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

⁸ Those who make them will be like them,
and so will all who trust in them.

- ⁹ All you Israelites, trust in the LORD—
he is their help and shield.
- ¹⁰ House of Aaron, trust in the LORD—
he is their help and shield.
- ¹¹ You who fear him, trust in the LORD—
he is their help and shield.
- ¹² The LORD remembers us and will bless us:
He will bless his people Israel,
he will bless the house of Aaron,
- ¹³ he will bless those who fear the LORD—
small and great alike.
- ¹⁴ May the LORD cause you to flourish,
both you and your children.
- ¹⁵ May you be blessed by the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- ¹⁶ The highest heavens belong to the LORD,
but the earth he has given to mankind.
- ¹⁷ It is not the dead who praise the LORD,
those who go down to the place of silence;
- ¹⁸ it is we who extol the LORD,
both now and forevermore.

Praise the LORD.^[a]

Psalm 116

- ¹ I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
- ² Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.
- ³ The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“LORD, save me!”
- ⁵ The LORD is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
- ⁶ The LORD protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- ⁷ Return to your rest, my soul,
for the LORD has been good to you.
- ⁸ For you, LORD, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
- ⁹ that I may walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.
- ¹⁰ I trusted in the LORD when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted”;
- ¹¹ in my alarm I said,
“Everyone is a liar.”

- ¹²What shall I return to the LORD
for all his goodness to me?
- ¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- ¹⁵Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful servants.
- ¹⁶Truly I am your servant, LORD;
I serve you just as my mother did;
you have freed me from my chains.
- ¹⁷I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁹in the courts of the house of the LORD—
in your midst, Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD.^[b]

Psalm 117

- ¹Praise the LORD, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.
- ²For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD.^[c]

Psalm 118

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- ²Let Israel say:
“His love endures forever.”
- ³Let the house of Aaron say:
“His love endures forever.”
- ⁴Let those who fear the LORD say:
“His love endures forever.”
- ⁵When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD;
he brought me into a spacious place.
- ⁶The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?
- ⁷The LORD is with me; he is my helper.
I look in triumph on my enemies.
- ⁸It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in humans.
- ⁹It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.
- ¹⁰All the nations surrounded me,
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.
- ¹¹They surrounded me on every side,
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹² They swarmed around me like bees,
but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹³ I was pushed back and about to fall,
but the LORD helped me.

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my defense^[a];
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory
resound in the tents of the righteous:

"The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶ The LORD's right hand is lifted high;
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"

¹⁷ I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

²³ the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

²⁵ LORD, save us!
LORD, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.
From the house of the LORD we bless you.^[a]

²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up^[b] to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

8. The Institution of the Lord's Supper

¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I tell you, I will not eat it^[a] until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' ¹⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' ¹⁹ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁰ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'

Luke 22:14-20

²⁴ He said to them, 'This is my blood of the^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

²⁶ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mark 14:24-26

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:27-30

9. It is Finished!

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst". A bowl of sour wine stood there; so they put a sponge full of the wine on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "it is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:23-30