

First Reading: Genesis 31:25–27, 43–50

²⁵Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsfolk camped in the hill country of Gilead. ²⁶And Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done? You have robbed my heart and herded off my daughters like captives of the sword. ²⁷Why did you sneak to run away and rob me and not tell me? I would have sent you away with celebration and singing, with drumming and strumming.”

⁴³Then Laban said to Jacob, “These daughters are my daughters, these children are my children, these flocks are my flocks, and all that you see, it is mine. Now what can I do today about these my daughters, or about their children whom they have birthed? ⁴⁴Now, come, let us make a covenant, I and you, and let it be a witness between me and you.” ⁴⁵So Jacob took a stone, and set it up as a pillar. ⁴⁶Then Jacob said to his kin, “Gather stones,” and they took stones, and made a *gal*, a heap; and they ate there by the heap. ⁴⁷Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Gal-Ed (Heap of Witness). ⁴⁸Laban said, “This heap is a witness between me and you today.” Therefore, he called it Gal-Ed, ⁴⁹and the pillar Mizpah (Watchtower), for he said, “The HOLY ONE watch between me and you, when we are out of sight of the other. ⁵⁰If you treat my daughters violently, or if you take women in addition to my daughters, though no one else is with us, see, that God is witness between me and you.”

Psalm: Psalm 144:3-4, 12-15

³WOMB OF LIFE, what is humanity that you even know them,
or the woman-born that you think of them?

⁴Humanity is like a breath;
whose days are like a passing shadow.

¹²Our sons in their youth
are like plants full grown,
our daughters are like cornerstones,
cut for the building of a palace.

¹³Our barns are full,
from produce of every kind;
our sheep have increased by thousands,
many thousands in our surroundings.

¹⁴Our cattle are heavy,
there is no breach in the walls, no exile,
and no cry of distress in our surroundings.

¹⁵Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall;
happy are the people whose God is the WOMB OF LIFE.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:13-21

¹³By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us God's own Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and so testify that the Father has sent the Son of God as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in order that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in the world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, rather perfect love casts out fear, for fear relates to punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because God first loved us. ²⁰If someone says, "I love God," and hates their sister or brother, they are a liar; for those who do not love a sister or brother whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their sisters and brothers also.

Gospel: Matthew 12:46–50

⁴⁶While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his siblings were standing outside, seeking to speak to him. ⁴⁷Someone told him, “Look, your mother and your siblings are standing outside, seeking to speak to you.” ⁴⁸But to the one who had told him this, Jesus said, “Who is my mother, and who are my siblings?” ⁴⁹And pointing his hand to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my siblings! ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Abba in the heavens is my mother and sister and brother.”