A reading from the book of Wisdom: 13:1-9

Foolish by nature were all who were in ignorance of God,
and who from the good things seen did not succeed
in knowing the one who is,
and from studying the works did not discern the artisan;
Instead either fire, or wind, or the swift air,
or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water,
or the luminaries of heaven, the governors[c] of the world,
they considered gods.
Now if out of joy in their beauty they thought them gods,
let them know how far more excellent is the Lord than these;
for the original source of beauty fashioned them.

Or if they were struck by their might and energy,
let them realize from these things how much more powerful
is the one who made them.
For from the greatness and the beauty of created things
their original author, by analogy, is seen.

But yet, for these the blame is less;
For they have gone astray perhaps,
though they seek God and wish to find him.
For they search busily among his works,
but are distracted by what they see, because the things seen are fair.

But again, not even these are pardonable.
For if they so far succeeded in knowledge
that they could speculate about the world,
how did they not more quickly find its Lord?

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians: Col 1: 15-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dom inions or principalities or powers;
all things were created through him and for him.

He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in all things he himself might be preeminent.

For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile all things for him,
whether those on earth or those in heaven,
making peace by the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew: 8:23-27

Jesus got into a boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

He said to them, “Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?” Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, “What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?”

The Gospel of the Lord