

# FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

26<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Christmastide

---

### St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

26<sup>th</sup> December

*Acts 6:8-10; 7:55-60*

*The Martyrdom of St Stephen*

**THE SEVEN** deacons, appointed by the apostles to 'serve at tables', were, in fact prophets with whom the apostles were sharing the task of preaching and proclaiming. The 'serve at tables' notion is about authority to minister and we remember that the apostles themselves received their authority not least at the Last Supper with the Lord. Of these extra prophets we hear a great deal only about two: Philip and Stephen. Stephen, as today's first reading shows, came to a violent end before ever his ministry could extend beyond Israel. Though Stephen died by stoning, rather than by crucifixion, in many other ways his death mirrors that of his Lord. He has the face of an angel, is condemned by false witnesses for alleged blasphemy, prays for his persecutors, and commends his spirit to the Lord. Celebrating this feast so soon after the celebration of the birth of the Saviour reminds us of a couple of verses of the carol 'The Infant King' by Sabine Baring-Gould:

**Sing lullaby**

**Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping**

**Sing lullaby**

**Hush, do not wake the Infant King**

**Soon will come sorrow with the morning**

**Soon will come bitter grief and weeping**

**Sing lullaby**

**Sing lullaby**

**Lullaby baby, now a-dozing**

**Sing lullaby**

**Hush, do not wake the Infant King  
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing  
Then in the grave at last reposing  
Sing lullaby**

During the joyful octave of Christ's Nativity we nonetheless turn our minds towards the martyrdom of St Stephen and, closer to home, that of St Thomas Becket (29<sup>th</sup> December), and, in the meantime, remember the Holy Innocents (28<sup>th</sup> December). Our Faith comprehends Joy and Sorrow and indeed Light and Glory, as the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary remind us.

## **St John**

**27<sup>th</sup> December**

---

### **Collect**

O God, who through the blessed Apostle John have unlocked for us the secrets of your Word: grant, we pray, that we may grasp with proper understanding what he has so marvellously brought to our ears. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

---

### **Reading**

*1 John 1:1-4 (RSV)*

*The Word of Life*

**1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— **2** the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— **3** that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. **4** And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

## **Reflection**

**THE FIRST** Letter of John is recognisably from the same pen, or community, as the Gospel of John. The vocabulary – the Word, Light, Life, Love – is markedly similar and the opening chapter, from which the reading is taken, is a mini-version of the Prologue of the Fourth Gospel. As in the Gospel there is something of a struggle going on. In the Gospel it was a struggle with the synagogue and those who are referred to as ‘the Jews’ – not the Jewish race but a particular group of religious leaders. That struggle might have reflected different views of Jesus, what he taught and how to interpret that teaching. The struggle in the First Letter of John is also over how to interpret what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. One group believed that all that matters is that one believes in Jesus as the Word of God. The other group believed that it was important to lead a moral life of integrity, love being the fundamental principle. As Christina Rossetti’s poem and carol says:

**Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas;  
Star and angels gave the sign.**

**Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love divine  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?**

**Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine;  
Love to God and others,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.**

# Holy Innocents

28<sup>th</sup> December

---

## Collect

O God, whom the Holy Innocents confessed and proclaimed on this day, not by speaking but by dying: grant, we pray, that the faith in you which we confess with our lips may also speak through our manner of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

---

## Reading

*1 John 1:5-2:2 (RSV)*

*God is Light and in him is no darkness at all*

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; <sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**2** My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup> and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

## Reflection

**LIGHT** and darkness are major themes of St John. In Christ, says the first chapter of John's Gospel 'was life, and the life was the light of

men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.' (Jn 1:4-5). We see the conflict between light and darkness during Christmas week in the martyrdom of St Stephen, the slaughter of male children in Bethlehem, and the murder of St Thomas Becket. These atrocities happen against the backdrop of the coming of the Light, a light which shines amidst the darkness of winter and proclaims the victory of life over death. In today's reading, the link between light and darkness, forgiveness and sin, is explained in the advocacy of 'Jesus Christ the righteous [one]', whose sacrificial death brings us forgiveness. He enters the depths of darkness to bring us to the light. Or, to put it another way, the all-mighty, immortal Word becomes a frail, vulnerable infant in order to rescue us from our frailty and vulnerability and empower us with the gift of everlasting life.

# St Thomas of Canterbury

29<sup>th</sup> December

---

## Collect

O God, who gave the Martyr Saint Thomas Becket the courage to give up his life for the sake of justice: grant, through his intercession, that, renouncing our life for the sake of Christ in this world, we may find it in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

---

## Reading

*1 John 2:3-11 (RSV)*

### *A New Commandment*

<sup>3</sup>And by this we may be sure that we know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup>He who says 'I know him' but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps his word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: <sup>6</sup>he who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. <sup>8</sup>Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup>He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. <sup>10</sup>He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling. <sup>11</sup>But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

## Reflection

**IN A WORLD** divided into Light and Darkness, the world as seen by the First Letter of John, keeping the commandments and thus perfecting the love of God is the fundamental task of the Christian life. Later we shall see that the commandment to love is love for fellow Christians. This message, which we 'heard from the beginning' (v.11), is the message first learnt by the newly-converted. It is the grace of God that we are called – and learn to become – children of God. Sin, says the letter, is lawlessness, and those who commit sin are 'of the devil' (v.8). Though the message of Love is generous and warm, it is, in the end, uncompromising. The alternative to Light is not dimness or murkiness but utter darkness. Those who are 'born of God' do not commit sin' because they share God's nature. This is the struggle of the First Letter of John, between Love and Sin, Light and Darkness, Death and Life.

## 30<sup>th</sup> December

### Reading

*1 John 2:12-17 (RSV)*

*Anyone who does the will of God remains for ever*

<sup>12</sup> I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his sake. <sup>13</sup> I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. <sup>14</sup> I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever.

## Reflection

**IN THE** reading, we have three names for those addressed. 'Children', 'fathers', and 'young men' might be simple poetic repetition or may mean different groups. 'Children' might be general – all those who belong to the Johannine community, those in the sights of the Gospel of St John. 'Fathers' might be those who are most long-established in their faith. 'Children' might be the newly-converted. All are urged not to love the world, here a transitory place dominated by sin. Lust and the sins of the flesh, as is so often the case, are heavily implicated in love of the world.

## ***New Year's Eve***

**31<sup>st</sup> December**

**Reading**

*1 John 2:18-23*

*Warning against Antichrists*

<sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come; therefore we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out, that it might be plain that they all are not of us. <sup>20</sup> But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all know. <sup>21</sup> I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and know that no lie is of the truth. <sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No one who denies the Son has the Father. He who confesses the Son has the Father also.

### **Reflection**

**THE EVIL** One, the Anti-Christ looms large in the battle that faces those who follow Christ and practise the Law of Love. The struggle is already taking place. The strategy of the Devil is to persuade us that Jesus is not the Christ. We come across this quite often with people who think that Jesus might have been a good man, a good rabbi, a healer or worker of miracles, but certainly not the Son of God. But the writer of 1 John is uncompromising: to deny Christ is to deny the Father. We thus see that the battle is not an intellectual battle, a matter of argument, but a battle



of Good versus Evil, a battle about what is really true. True believers have both eternal Life and the consolation of the Truth.

## Reflection on the Readings of Christmastide

**CHRISTMASTIDE** stretches beyond the Octave Day, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (1<sup>st</sup> January), to the Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> January), and beyond to a second manifestation of the Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ (this year on 10<sup>th</sup> January). As regards the rest of the year, you may be interested in the Epiphany Proclamation. This sets out – appropriately ‘makes manifest’ on the Epiphany – the liturgical celebrations for the year ahead, notably the impact of the moveable feast of Easter on the surrounding weeks.

During the weekdays of Christmastide we continue with the First Letter of John. This being a holiday season, you will permit an overview, rather than a reflection on each of the daily extracts. The passages themselves are given below. They are recognisably from the same pen, or community, as the Gospel of John. The vocabulary – the Word, Light, Life, Love – is clearly Johannine and, as we discovered, the struggle has moved on from the Jewish authorities in the Fourth Gospel, who opposed Jesus, to a struggle between different groups, with rival interpretations of what it might mean to be a disciple of Jesus. Is it sufficient to believe that Jesus is the Word of God or is it important to live a life of love, love for God and for one another.

Just as there is a distinction between Light and Darkness, there is a distinction between the law of Love and the life of Sin, between Death and Life. Those who are addressed as ‘children’ are ‘children’ of God because God has revealed himself as a loving father. We battle against the Evil One, the Anti-Christ, and the Devil’s weapon is to persuade us that Jesus is not the Christ. The writer of 1 John is uncompromising: to deny Christ is to deny the Father. True believers have both eternal Life and the consolation of the Truth.

The anointing which has been received from the Holy One – here meaning either the Father or the Son, or indeed both – is itself a protection from lies and false teaching. By Baptism and Sealing – what we now call ‘Confirmation’ – we learn to discern not only what is true but also that we

abide in God and God in us. This abiding is nothing less than Eternal Life and it is from this Life within us that we confess belief in the Son. Belief in the Son is also belief in the Father for 'he who confesses the Son has the Father also'.

A clear division appears between those who are born of God and commit no sin and those who are children of the devil, who are intrinsically sinful. The hope, for those who are born of God, is that they are the object of God's love, such that he is content for us to call him and know him as 'Father'. It is clear that what the writer here is calling 'sin' is a reference to what, as Catholics, we know as 'mortal sin', the sin which separates us utterly from God. We remember a saying earlier in the letter:

**<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn 1:9)**

What is explained in the first couple of chapters of 1 John in terms of light and darkness is subsequently explained in terms of love. The message of love is that the commandment of God is to believe in the name of the Lord Jesus and express that belief – prove its efficacy – in the love we have for one another. Loving one another is the message we have heard from the very beginning. It is always a surprise to discover fellow Christians – not least in social media - who do not seem to have read and internalised this, the heart of the Gospel!

Love is no sentimental matter. The template is the love that God has shown to us, expressed in chapter 4.

**God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.**

Though we lose the rest of chapter 4 this year to the Sunday readings, these verses give us a useful summary. First:

**<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.**

Second, an epigram, or perhaps a proverb:

**<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> January

### Reading

1 John 2:22-28

*Children of God*

<sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No one who denies the Son has the Father. He who confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup> Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup> And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

<sup>26</sup> I write this to you about those who would deceive you; <sup>27</sup> but the anointing which you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that any one should teach you; as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in him.

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> January

### Reading

1 John 2:29 - 3:6

*No one born of God commits sin*

<sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that every one who does right is born of him.

**3** See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now; it

does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup> Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

<sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. He who does right is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> No one born of God commits sin; for God's nature abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this it may be seen who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not do right is not of God, nor he who does not love his brother.

## 4<sup>th</sup> January

### Reading

1 John 3:7-

10

*He who is born of God cannot commit sin*

<sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. He who does right is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> No one born of God commits sin; for God's nature abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this it may be seen who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not do right is not of God, nor he who does not love his brother.

## 5<sup>th</sup> January

### Reading

*1 John 3:11-21*

#### *Love One Another*

**11** For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, **12** and not be like Cain who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. **13** Do not wonder, brethren, that the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love remains in death. **15** Any one who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. **16** By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth.

**19** By this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him **20** whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. **21** Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; **22** and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. **23** And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **24** All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.



# Epiphany 6<sup>th</sup> January

## Readings

---

### Collect

O God, who on this day revealed your Only-Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

### First Reading

*Isaiah 60:1-6 [RSV]*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Mid'ian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

## **Epiphany**

**Psalm 72** 1-2, 7-8, 10-13 **R/** cf 11

**R/ All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

O God, give your judgment to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice,  
and your poor in right judgment. **R/**

In his days shall justice flourish,  
and great peace till the moon is no more.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the River to the bounds of the earth. **R/**

The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him. **R/**

For he shall save the needy when they cry,  
the poor, and those who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,  
and save the lives of the needy. **R/**

### **Second Reading**

*Ephesians 3:2-6 [RSV]*

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.



## **Epiphany**

Alleluia, **Alleluia.** We saw his star as it rose:  
and have come to do the Lord homage. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel**

*Matthew 2:1-12 [RSV]*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

### ***Alma Redemptoris Mater***

Mother of Christ, hear thou thy people's cry  
Star of the deep and Portal of the sky!  
Mother of Him who thee from nothing made.  
Sinking, we strive and call to thee for aid.  
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,  
Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.

# The Epiphany Proclamation 2023

## Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts

Dear brothers and sisters,  
the glory of the Lord has shone upon us,  
and shall ever be manifest among us,  
until the day of his return.

Through the rhythms of times and seasons  
let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall the year's culmination,  
the **Easter Triduum** of the Lord:  
his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial,  
and his rising celebrated  
between the evening of the Fourteenth day of April  
and the evening of the Sixth of April,  
**Easter Sunday** being on the Ninth day of April.

Each Easter -- as on each Sunday --  
the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed  
by which Christ has for ever conquered sin and death.  
From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

**Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of Lent,  
will occur on the Twenty-second day of February.

**The Ascension** of the Lord will be commemorated on  
Thursday, the Eighteen day of May.

**Pentecost**, joyful conclusion of the season of Easter,  
will be celebrated on the Twenty-eighth day of May.

And, this year the **First Sunday of Advent** will be  
on the Third day of December, 2023.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the passover of Christ  
in the feasts of the holy Mother of God,  
in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints,  
and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Lord of time and history,  
be endless praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

# 7<sup>th</sup> January

## Reading

1 John 3:22 – 4:6

*All who keep God's commandments abide in him, and he in them*

We receive from God whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

**4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist, of which you heard that it was coming, and now it is in the world already. <sup>4</sup> Little children, you are of God, and have overcome them; for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are of the world, therefore what they say is of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and he who is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.