**Psalm 22:23-31**

**23**You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
    All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!  
    Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!  
**24**For he has not despised or scorned  
    the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
    but has listened to his cry for help.

**25**From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;  
    before those who fear you[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+22&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14230f)] I will fulfill my vows.  
**26**The poor will eat and be satisfied;  
    those who seek the Lord will praise him—  
    may your hearts live forever!

**27**All the ends of the earth  
    will remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
    will bow down before him,  
**28**for dominion belongs to the Lord  
    and he rules over the nations.

**29**All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;  
    all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—  
    those who cannot keep themselves alive.  
**30**Posterity will serve him;  
    future generations will be told about the Lord.  
**31**They will proclaim his righteousness,  
    declaring to a people yet unborn:  
    He has done it!

**Old Testament Reading - Genesis 17:1-7 & 15-16**

**The Covenant of Circumcision**

**17**When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-399a)]; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. **2**Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

**3**Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4**“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5**No longer will you be called Abram[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-403b)]; your name will be Abraham,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-403c)] for I have made you a father of many nations. **6**I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7**I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

**15**God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. **16**I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

**New Testament Reading - Romans 5:1-11**

**Peace and Hope**

**5**Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28049a)] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2**through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28050b)] boast in the hope of the glory of God. **3**Not only so, but we[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28051c)] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4**perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5**And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

**6**You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7**Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**9**Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! **10**For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! **11**Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**Gospel Reading - Mark 8:27-38**

**Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah**

**27**Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

**28**They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

**29**“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

**30**Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

**Jesus Predicts His Death**

**31**He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. **32**He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

**33**But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

**The Way of the Cross**

**34**Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35**For whoever wants to save their life[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24536b)] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. **36**What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? **37**Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? **38**If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”