**Psalm 23**

**A psalm of David.**

**1**The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
**2**    He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
**3**    he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
    for his name’s sake.  
**4**Even though I walk  
    through the darkest valley,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14240a)]  
I will fear no evil,  
    for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
    they comfort me.

**5**You prepare a table before me  
    in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
    my cup overflows.  
**6**Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
    all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
    forever.

**Old Testament Reading - Jeremiah 23:1-6**

**The Righteous Branch**

**23**“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. **2**Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the Lord. **3**“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. **4**I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the Lord.

**5**“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
    “when I will raise up for David[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=jeremiah+23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19490a)] a righteous Branch,  
a King who will reign wisely  
    and do what is just and right in the land.  
**6**In his days Judah will be saved  
    and Israel will live in safety.  
This is the name by which he will be called:  
    The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

**Epistle Reading - Ephesians 2:11-22**

**Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ**

**11**Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— **12**remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. **13**But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**14**For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15**by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16**and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. **17**He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. **18**For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

**19**Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, **20**built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **21**In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **22**And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

**Gospel Reading - Mark 6:30-44**

**Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

**30**The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. **31**Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

**32**So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. **33**But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. **34**When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

**35**By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. **36**Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

**37**But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mark+6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24445e)]! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

**38**“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

**39**Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. **40**So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. **41**Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. **42**They all ate and were satisfied, **43**and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. **44**The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.