**Psalm 148**

**1**Praise the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+148&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16373a)]

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
    praise him in the heights above.  
**2**Praise him, all his angels;  
    praise him, all his heavenly hosts.  
**3**Praise him, sun and moon;  
    praise him, all you shining stars.  
**4**Praise him, you highest heavens  
    and you waters above the skies.

**5**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
    for at his command they were created,  
**6**and he established them for ever and ever—  
    he issued a decree that will never pass away.

**7**Praise the Lord from the earth,  
    you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,  
**8**lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
    stormy winds that do his bidding,  
**9**you mountains and all hills,  
    fruit trees and all cedars,  
**10**wild animals and all cattle,  
    small creatures and flying birds,  
**11**kings of the earth and all nations,  
    you princes and all rulers on earth,  
**12**young men and women,  
    old men and children.

**13**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
    for his name alone is exalted;  
    his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.  
**14**And he has raised up for his people a horn,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+148&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16386b)]  
    the praise of all his faithful servants,  
    of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

**Old Testament Reading – Acts 5:12-20**

**The Apostles Heal Many**

**12**The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. **13**No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. **14**Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. **15**As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. **16**Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

**The Apostles Persecuted**

**17**Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. **18**They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. **19**But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. **20**“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

**Epistle Reading – Revelation 1:4-18**

**Greetings and Doxology**

**4**John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelations+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30702a)] before his throne, **5**and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, **6**and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

**7**“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelations+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30705b)]  
    and “every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him”;  
    and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelations+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30705c)]  
So shall it be! Amen.

**8**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**John’s Vision of Christ**

**9**I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. **10**On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, **11**which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

**12**I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, **13**and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelations+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30711d)] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. **14**The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. **15**His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. **16**In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

**17**When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. **18**I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

**Gospel Reading – John 20:19-31**

**Jesus Appears to His Disciples**

**19**On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **20**After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

**21**Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” **22**And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

**Jesus Appears to Thomas**

**24**Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+20&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26892a)]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. **25**So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

**26**A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **27**Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

**28**Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

**29**Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

**The Purpose of John’s Gospel**

**30**Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **31**But these are written that you may believe[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+20&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26899b)] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.