**Psalm 143**

**1**Lord, hear my prayer,  
    listen to my cry for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness  
    come to my relief.  
**2**Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
    for no one living is righteous before you.  
**3**The enemy pursues me,  
    he crushes me to the ground;  
he makes me dwell in the darkness  
    like those long dead.  
**4**So my spirit grows faint within me;  
    my heart within me is dismayed.  
**5**I remember the days of long ago;  
    I meditate on all your works  
    and consider what your hands have done.  
**6**I spread out my hands to you;  
    I thirst for you like a parched land.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+143&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16300a)]

**7**Answer me quickly, Lord;  
    my spirit fails.  
Do not hide your face from me  
    or I will be like those who go down to the pit.  
**8**Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
    for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
    for to you I entrust my life.  
**9**Rescue me from my enemies, Lord,  
    for I hide myself in you.  
**10**Teach me to do your will,  
    for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
    lead me on level ground.

**11**For your name’s sake, Lord, preserve my life;  
    in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.  
**12**In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;  
    destroy all my foes,  
    for I am your servant.

**Old Testament Reading - Genesis 11:1-9**

**The Tower of Babel**

**11**Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. **2**As people moved eastward,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-269a)] they found a plain in Shinar[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-269b)] and settled there.

**3**They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. **4**Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

**5**But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. **6**The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. **7**Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

**8**So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. **9**That is why it was called Babel[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-276c)]—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

**New Testament Reading - Acts 2:1-21**

**The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost**

**2**When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2**Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3**They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26954a)] as the Spirit enabled them.

**5**Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6**When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. **7**Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? **8**Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? **9**Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26959b)] **10**Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11**(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” **12**Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

**13**Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

**Peter Addresses the Crowd**

**14**Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15**These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! **16**No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

**17**“‘In the last days, God says,  
    I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
    your young men will see visions,  
    your old men will dream dreams.  
**18**Even on my servants, both men and women,  
    I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
    and they will prophesy.

**19**I will show wonders in the heavens above  
    and signs on the earth below,  
    blood and fire and billows of smoke.  
**20**The sun will be turned to darkness  
    and the moon to blood  
    before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.  
**21**And everyone who calls  
    on the name of the Lord will be saved.’[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26971c)]

**Gospel Reading - John 14:23-31**

**23**Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **24**Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

**25**“All this I have spoken while still with you. **26**But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **27**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**28**“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. **29**I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. **30**I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, **31**but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

“Come now; let us leave.