**Psalm 121**

**A song of ascents.**

**1**I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
    where does my help come from?  
**2**My help comes from the Lord,  
    the Maker of heaven and earth.

**3**He will not let your foot slip—  
    he who watches over you will not slumber;  
**4**indeed, he who watches over Israel  
    will neither slumber nor sleep.

**5**The Lord watches over you—  
    the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
**6**the sun will not harm you by day,  
    nor the moon by night.

**7**The Lord will keep you from all harm—  
    he will watch over your life;  
**8**the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
    both now and forevermore.

**Old Testament Reading – Genesis 32:22-30**

**Jacob Wrestles With God**

**22**That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23**After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. **24**So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. **25**When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. **26**Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.”

But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

**27**The man asked him, “What is your name?”

“Jacob,” he answered.

**28**Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+32&version=NIV#fen-NIV-957f)] because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

**29**Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.”

But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

**30**So Jacob called the place Peniel,[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+32&version=NIV#fen-NIV-959g)] saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”

**Epistle Reading - 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5**

**14**But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, **15**and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17**so that the servant of God[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+timothy+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29871a)] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**4**In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: **2**Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. **3**For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **4**They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. **5**But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

**Gospel Reading - Luke 18:1-8**

**The Parable of the Persistent Widow**

**18**Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. **2**He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. **3**And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

**4**“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, **5**yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

**6**And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. **7**And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? **8**I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”