**Psalm 46**

**1**God is our refuge and strength,
    an ever-present help in trouble.
**2**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
    and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
**3**though its waters roar and foam
    and the mountains quake with their surging.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+46&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14618c)]

**4**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
    the holy place where the Most High dwells.
**5**God is within her, she will not fall;
    God will help her at break of day.
**6**Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
    he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

**7**The Lord Almighty is with us;
    the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**8**Come and see what the Lord has done,
    the desolations he has brought on the earth.
**9**He makes wars cease
    to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
    he burns the shields[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+46&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14624d)] with fire.
**10**He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
    I will be exalted among the nations,
    I will be exalted in the earth.”

**11**The Lord Almighty is with us;
    the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**Old Testament Reading – Malachi 3:13-18**

**Israel Speaks Arrogantly Against God**

**13**“You have spoken arrogantly against me,” says the Lord.

“Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’

**14**“You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty? **15**But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.’”

**The Faithful Remnant**

**16**Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

**17**“On the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. **18**And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

**Epistle Reading – Colossians 1:13-20**

**13**For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, **14**in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**The Supremacy of the Son of God**

**15**The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16**For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **17**He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18**And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. **19**For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, **20**and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**Gospel Reading – Luke 23:27-43**

 **27**A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. **28**Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. **29**For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ **30**Then

“‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!”
    and to the hills, “Cover us!”’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25966b)]

**31**For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

**32**Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. **33**When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. **34**Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25970c)] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

**35**The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

**36**The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar **37**and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

**38**There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

**39**One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

**40**But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? **41**We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

**42**Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25978d)]”

**43**Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”