**Psalm 24**

**Of David. A psalm.**

**1**The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,  
    the world, and all who live in it;  
**2**for he founded it on the seas  
    and established it on the waters.

**3**Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?  
    Who may stand in his holy place?  
**4**The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
    who does not trust in an idol  
    or swear by a false god.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+24&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14246a)]

**5**They will receive blessing from the Lord  
    and vindication from God their Savior.  
**6**Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
    who seek your face, God of Jacob.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+24&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14248b)][[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+24&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14248c)]

**7**Lift up your heads, you gates;  
    be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
    that the King of glory may come in.  
**8**Who is this King of glory?  
    The Lord strong and mighty,  
    the Lord mighty in battle.  
**9**Lift up your heads, you gates;  
    lift them up, you ancient doors,  
    that the King of glory may come in.  
**10**Who is he, this King of glory?  
    The Lord Almighty—  
    he is the King of glory.

**Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 7:10-17**

**10**Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, **11**“Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

**12**But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

**13**Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? **14**Therefore the Lord himself will give you[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17797c)] a sign: The virgin[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17797d)] will conceive and give birth to a son, and[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17797e)] will call him Immanuel.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17797f)] **15**He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, **16**for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. **17**The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.”

**Epistle Reading - Romans 1:1-7**

**1**Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— **2**the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures **3**regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27934a)] was a descendant of David, **4**and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27935b)] by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. **5**Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27936c)] faith for his name’s sake. **6**And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

**7**To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Reading – Matthew 1:18-25**

**Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son**

**18**This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23163d)]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. **19**Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23164e)] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

**20**But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21**She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23166f)] because he will save his people from their sins.”

**22**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23**“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23168g)] (which means “God with us”).

**24**When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. **25**But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.