

**Sentence of Scripture**

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus,  
deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him.

Mark 8.34

**Prayer of the day**

God of all times and places,  
in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross,  
you opened for us the path to eternal life:  
grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit,  
may joyfully serve you in newness of life  
and faithfully walk in your holy ways;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings**

**Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16**

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

<sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 22:24–32**

<sup>24</sup> O praise the Lord, all you that fear him:

**hold him in honour, O seed of Jacob, and let the seed of Israel stand in awe of him.**

<sup>25</sup> For he has not despised nor abhorred the poor man in his misery:

**nor did he hide his face from him, but heard him when he cried.**

<sup>26</sup> From you springs my praise in the great congregation:

**I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;**

<sup>27</sup> The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:

**and those who seek the Lord shall praise him—may their hearts rejoice for ever!**

<sup>28</sup> Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:

**and let all the families of the nations worship before him.**

<sup>29</sup> For the kingdom is the Lord's:

**and he shall be ruler over the nations.**

<sup>30</sup> How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:

**or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?**

<sup>31</sup> But he has saved my life for himself:

**and my posterity shall serve him.**

<sup>32</sup> This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:

**and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.**

## Romans 4:13–25

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup> Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

## Mark 8:31–38

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” (NRSV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Holy Communion Services

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>** 10am service & Annual Parish Meeting (7pm Tongala) Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 9am & 11am services (7pm Tongala) Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 10am  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 9am & 11am services (7pm Tongala) Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 10am  
1<sup>st</sup> April Maundy Thursday 7pm service  
2<sup>nd</sup> April Good Friday Service 7pm service  
4<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday 9am & 11am services