

Sentence of Scripture

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.

James 2.13

Prayer of the day

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase our faith, hope, and love,
and, that we may receive all you promise,
make us love what you command;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

¹A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.

²The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.

⁸Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

⁹Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

²³for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

(NRSV)

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

Psalm 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

2 One day tells it to another:
and night to night communicates knowledge.

3 There is no speech or language:
nor are their voices heard;

4 Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:
and their words to the ends of the earth.

5 There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
**which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.**

6 Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:
the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:

the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold:

sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.

11 Moreover, by them is your servant taught:

and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can know their own unwitting sins?:

O cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the mastery over me:

so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.

14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight:

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

James 2:18–26

¹⁸ Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”

¹⁹ You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. ²⁰ How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

²¹ Don’t you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. ²³ And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God. ²⁴ So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

²⁵ Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. ²⁶ Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works. (NLT)

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

Mark 8:27–38

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

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ 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. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ 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.”

³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ 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.**