

Sentence of Scripture

Those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for the sake of the gospel will save it.

Mark 8.35

Prayer of the day

God of mercy,
help us to forgive as you have forgiven us,
to trust you, even when hope is failing,
and to take up our cross daily
and follow you in your redeeming work;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

Proverbs 1:20–33

²⁰Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

²¹At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

²²“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

²³Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

²⁴Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

²⁵and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof,

²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you,

²⁷when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.

²⁸Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;

they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

²⁹Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

³⁰would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof,

³¹therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices.

³²For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

³³but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

(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 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? ²¹ Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. ²³ Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? ²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

(NRSV)

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.**