

Sentence of Scripture

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Psalm 126.6

Prayer of the day

O God,
the Redeemer of all who trust in you:
heed the cry of your people,
and deliver us from the bondage of sin,
that we may serve you in perfect freedom
and rejoice in your unfailing love;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 43:16–21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot
rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former
things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs
forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the
desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give
water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

(NRSV)

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:
then were we like those restored to life.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
and our tongue with singing.
- 3 Then said they among the heathen:
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 Truly the Lord has done great things for us:
and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:
as the streams return to the dry south.
- 6 Those who sow in tears:
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:
shall come again in gladness, bringing their sheaves with them.

Philippians 3:3–14

³ For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (NRSV)

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

John 12:1–8

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . . .

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.

³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.

⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

(NRSV)