

**Sentence of Scripture**

Will not God grant justice to those who cry to him day and night?  
Will he delay long in helping them?

Luke 18.7–8

**Prayer of the day**

Lord, tireless guardian of your people,  
teach us to rely, day and night, on your care.  
Drive us to seek your justice and your help,  
and support our prayer lest we grow weary,  
for in you alone is our strength.  
We make our prayer through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Readings**

**Jeremiah 31:27–34**

<sup>27</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. <sup>28</sup> And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> In those days they shall no longer say:

“The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”

<sup>30</sup> But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

(NRSV)

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

## Psalm 119:97–104

<sup>97</sup> Lord, how I love your law:

**it is my meditation all the day long.**

<sup>98</sup> Your commandments have made me wiser than my enemies:

**for they remain with me for ever.**

<sup>99</sup> I have more understanding than all my teachers:

**for I study your commands.**

<sup>100</sup> I am wiser than the aged:

**because I have kept your precepts.**

<sup>101</sup> I have held back my feet from every evil path:

**that I might keep your word;**

<sup>102</sup> I have not turned aside from your judgements:

**for you yourself are my teacher.**

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my tongue:

**sweeter than honey to my mouth.**

<sup>104</sup> Through your precepts I get understanding:

**therefore I hate all lying ways.**

## 2 Timothy 3:10–4:5

<sup>10</sup> Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. <sup>13</sup> But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

<sup>4:1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup> proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

(NRSV)

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

## **Luke18:1–14**

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

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup> In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ”<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

(NRSV)

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