

Sentence of Scripture

We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4.4

Prayer of the day

Almighty God,
whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet did not sin:
give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your will,
that, as you know our weakness,
so we may know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. (NRSV)

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

Psalm 32

1 Blessed are those whose sin is forgiven:

whose iniquity is put away.

2 Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no blame:

and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 For whilst I held my tongue:

my bones wasted away with my daily complaining.

4 Your hand was heavy upon me day and night:

and my moisture was dried up like a drought in summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you:

and my iniquity I did not hide;

6 I said 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord':

and so you forgave the wickedness of my sin.

7 For this cause shall everyone that is faithful make their prayer to you in the day of trouble:

**and in the time of the great water-flood,
it shall not come near them.**

8 You are a place to hide me in, you will preserve me from trouble:

you will surround me with deliverance on every side.

9 'I will instruct you, and direct you in the way that you should go:

I will fasten my eye upon you, and give you counsel.

10 'Be not like horse or mule, that have no understanding:

whose forward course must be curbed with bit and bridle.'

11 Great tribulations remain for the ungodly:

**but whoever puts their trust in the Lord,
mercy embraces them on every side.**

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and be glad:

and shout for joy, all you that are true of heart.

Romans 5:12–21

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned. ¹³ In fact, sin was in the world before the law, but sin is not charged to a person's account when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam's transgression. He is a type of the Coming One.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if by the one man's trespass the many died, how much more have the grace of God and the gift which comes through the grace of the one man Jesus Christ overflowed to the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the one man's sin, because from one sin came the judgment, resulting in condemnation, but from many trespasses came the gift, resulting in justification. ¹⁷ Since by the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ So then, as through one trespass there is condemnation for everyone, so also through one righteous act there is justification leading to life for everyone. ¹⁹ For just as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ The law came along to multiply the trespass. But where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more ²¹ so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness, resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (NRSV)

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

Matthew 4:1–11

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

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. (NRSV)

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