

**Sentence of Scripture**

The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Matthew 23.11–12

**Prayer of the day**

Creator God,  
you have filled the world with beauty:  
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works,  
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,  
we may learn to serve you with gladness,  
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings**

**Revelation 7:9-17**

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

(NRSV)

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

## Psalm 34:1-10, 22

<sup>1</sup> I will bless the Lord continually:

**his praise shall be always in my mouth.**

<sup>2</sup> Let my soul boast of the Lord:

**the humble shall hear it and rejoice.**

<sup>3</sup> O praise the Lord with me:

**let us exalt his name together.**

<sup>4</sup> For I sought the Lord's help and he answered:

**and he freed me from all my fears.**

<sup>5</sup> Look towards him and be bright with joy:

**your faces shall not be ashamed.**

<sup>6</sup> Here is a wretch who cried, and the Lord heard me:

**and saved me from all my troubles.**

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord encamps round those who fear him:

**and delivers them in their need.**

<sup>8</sup> O taste and see that the Lord is good:

**happy are they that hide in him!**

<sup>9</sup> Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones:

**for those who fear him never lack.**

<sup>10</sup> Lions may suffer want and go hungry:

**but those who seek the Lord lack nothing good.**

<sup>22</sup> The Lord ransoms the lives of his servants:

**and none who hide in him will be destroyed.**

## 1 John 3:1-3

<sup>1</sup> See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. (NRSV)

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

## **Matthew 5:1-12**

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(NRSV)

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