



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Bless our ¹ God, you peoples;

let the sound of ¹ praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us a- ¹ mong the living
and has not allowed our ¹ feet to slip. R**

¹⁰For you, O God, have ¹ tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- ¹ ver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us in- ¹ to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- ¹ on our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through ¹ fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place ¹ of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house ¹ with burnt offerings
and will pay ¹ you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised ¹ with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I ¹ was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the ¹ smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- ¹ en and goats. R**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you ¹ who believe,
and I will tell you what God has ¹ done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God ¹ with my mouth,
and praised the Lord ¹ with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil ¹ in my heart,
the Lord would ¹ not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth ¹ God has heard me
and has attended to the sound ¹ of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- ¹ ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing ¹ love from me. R

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defa- mation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and rever- ence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righ- teous for the unrighteous, in order

to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, au- thorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel

John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If you love me, you will keep my command- ments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot re- ceive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while

the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."