

Proper 6 ~ June 18, 2023

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

¹I love the Lord, because he hears me; he listens to my prayers.

²He listens to me every time I call to him.

¹²What can I offer the Lord for all his goodness to me?

¹³I will bring a wine offering to the Lord, to thank him for saving me.

¹⁴In the assembly of all his people, I will give him what I have promised.

¹⁵How painful it is to the Lord when one of his people dies!

¹⁶I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did. You have saved me from death.

¹⁷I will give you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and offer my prayer to you.

¹⁸In the assembly of all your people, in the sanctuary of your Temple in Jerusalem, I will give you what I have promised.

¹⁹Praise the Lord!

Genesis 18:1 - 15

¹The Lord appeared to Abraham at the sacred trees of Mamre. As Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent during the hottest part of the day, ²he looked up and saw three men standing there. As soon as he saw them, he ran out to meet them. Bowing down with his face touching the ground, ³he said, "Sirs, please do not pass my home without stopping; I am here to serve you. ⁴Let me bring some water for you to wash your feet; you can rest here beneath this tree." ⁵I will also bring a bit of food; it will give you strength to continue your journey; you have honored me by coming to my home; so let me serve you." They replied "Thank you; we accept." ⁶Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick, take a sack of your best flour, and bake some bread." ⁷Then he ran to the herd and picked out a calf that was tender and fat, and gave it to a servant, who hurried to get it ready. ⁸He took some cream, some milk, and the meat, and set the food before the men. There under the tree he served them himself, and they ate. ⁹Then they asked him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" "She is there in the tent." He answered. ¹⁰One of them said, "Nine months from now I will come back, and your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah was behind him, at the door of the tent listening. ¹¹Abraham and Sarah were very old, and Sarah had stopped having her monthly periods. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself and said "Now that I am old and worn out, can I still enjoy sex? And besides, my husband is old too. ¹³Then the Lord asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Can I really have a child when I am so old? ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the Lord? As I said, nine months from now I will return, and Sarah will have a son." ¹⁵Because Sarah was afraid, she denied it. "I didn't laugh," she said. "Yes, you did." He replied. "You laughed."

Romans 5:1-8

¹Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²He has brought us by faith into this experience of God's grace, in which we now live. And so we boast of the hope we have of sharing God's glory! ³We also boast of our troubles, because we know that trouble produces endurance, ⁴endurance brings God's approval, and his approval creates hope. ⁵This hope does not disappoint us, for God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us. ⁶For when we were still helpless, Christ died for the wicked at the time that God chose. ⁷It is a difficult thing for someone to die for a righteous person. It may even be that someone might dare to die for a good person. ⁸But God has shown us how much he loves us - it was while we were sinners that Christ died for us!

Matthew 9:35-10:8

³⁵Jesus went around visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness. ³⁶As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷So he said to his disciples "The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it in. ³⁸Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest.

¹Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles; first, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Patriot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus. ⁵These twelve men were sent out by Jesus with the following instructions; "Do not go to any Gentile territory or any Samaritan towns. ⁶Instead, you are to go to those lost sheep, the people of Israel. ⁷Go and preach, 'The Kingdom of heaven is near!' ⁸Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons. You have received without paying, so give without being paid.