

January 4, 2026

Psalms 147 v12-20

12Extol the Lord, Jerusalem; praise your God, Zion

13He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you.

14He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

15He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

16He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.

17He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast?

18He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

19He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel.

20He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws.

Jeremiah 31:7-14

This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, 'LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. "Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD – the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of

sorrow. I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty," declares the LORD.

Ephesians 1 3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us[a] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known[b] to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ[c] 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee[d] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,[e] to the praise of his glory.

John 1:(1-9),10-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God;all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.7 He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.9 The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world.10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.11 He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God;13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us

, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. and from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; no one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.