

Exodus 32:1-14

The Common English Bible

¹The people saw that Moses was taking a long time to come down from the mountain. They gathered around Aaron and said to him, “Come on! Make us gods who can lead us. As for this man Moses who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don’t have a clue what has happened to him.” ²Aaron said to them, “All right, take out the gold rings from the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” ³So all the people took out the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He collected them and tied them up in a cloth. Then he made a metal image of a bull calf, and the people declared, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf. Then Aaron announced, “Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord!” ⁶They got up early the next day and offered up entirely burned offerings and brought well-being sacrifices. The people sat down to eat and drink and then got up to celebrate. ⁷The Lord spoke to Moses: “Hurry up and go down! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, are ruining everything! ⁸They’ve already abandoned the path that I commanded. They have made a metal bull calf for themselves. They’ve bowed down to it and offered sacrifices to it and declared, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” ⁹The Lord said to Moses, “I’ve been watching these people, and I’ve seen how stubborn they are. ¹⁰Now leave me alone! Let my fury burn and devour them. Then I’ll make a great nation out of you.” ¹¹But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, “Lord, why does your fury burn against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and amazing force? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say,

‘He had an evil plan to take the people out and kill them in the mountains and so wipe them off the earth’? Calm down your fierce anger. Change your mind about doing terrible things to your own people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, whom you yourself promised, ‘I’ll make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky. And I’ve promised to give your descendants this whole land to possess for all time.’” ¹⁴Then the Lord changed his mind about the terrible things he said he would do to his people.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

The Common English Bible

¹Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love endures forever.

²Who could possibly repeat all of the Lord's mighty acts or publicly recount all his praise?

³The people who uphold justice, who always do what is right, are truly happy!

⁴Remember me, Lord, with the favor you show your people. Visit me with your saving help...

⁵so I can experience the good things your chosen ones experience, so I can rejoice in the joy of your nation, so I can praise along with your possession.

⁶We have sinned - right along with our ancestors.

We've done what is wrong. We've acted wickedly.

¹⁹They made a calf at Horeb, bowing down to a metal idol.

²⁰They traded their glorious God for an image of a bull that eats grass.

²¹They forgot the God who saved them - the one who had done great things in Egypt, ²²wondrous works in the land of Ham, awesome deeds at the Reed Sea.

²³So God determined that he would destroy them - except for the fact that Moses, his chosen one, stood in the way, right in front of him, and turned God's destructive anger away.

Matthew 22:1-14

The Common English Bible

¹Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. ³He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn't want to come. ⁴Again he sent other servants and said to them, ‘Tell those who have been invited, ‘Look, the meal is all prepared. I've butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything's ready. Come to the wedding party!’” ⁵But they paid no attention and went away - some to their fields, others to their businesses. ⁶The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them. ⁷“The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren't worthy. ⁹Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.’ ¹⁰“Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. ¹¹Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn't wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ But he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to his servants, ‘Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.’ ¹⁴“Many people are invited, but few people are chosen.”