

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Common English Bible

24 Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. **25** While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. **26** When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared. **27** “The servants of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Master, didn’t you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?’ **28** “An enemy has done this,’ he answered. “The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather them?’ **29** “But the landowner said, ‘No, because if you gather the weeds, you’ll pull up the wheat along with them. **30** Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvesttime I’ll say to the harvesters, “First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.”” **36** Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” **37** Jesus replied, “The one who plants the good seed is the Human One. **38** The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. **39** The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels. **40** Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. **41** The Human One will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. **42** He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Those who have ears should hear.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

The Common English Bible

Lord, you have examined me. You know me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up. Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

You study my traveling and resting. You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways. There isn’t a word on my tongue, Lord, that you don’t already know completely.

You surround me - front and back. You put your hand on me. That kind of knowledge is too much for me; it’s so high above me that I can’t reach it.

Where could I go to get away from your spirit? Where could I go to escape your presence? If I went up to heaven, you would be there. If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!

If I could fly on the wings of dawn, stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean - even there your hand would guide me; even there your strong hand would hold me tight!

If I said, “The darkness will definitely hide me; the light will become night around me,” even then the darkness isn’t too dark for you!

Nighttime would shine bright as day, because darkness is the same as light to you! Examine me, God! Look at my heart! Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!

Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me, then lead me on the eternal path!

Romans 8:12 thru 25

The Common English Bible

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. **13** If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. **14** All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. **15** You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." **16** The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. **17** But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him. **18** I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. **19** The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. **20** Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice - it was the choice of the one who subjected it - but in the hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. **22** We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. **23** And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. **24** We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? **25** But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.