First Scripture Reading

**Mark 8:31-38**

from the Common English Bible

31Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.”  32He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him.  33Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.” 34After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me.  35All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them.  36Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives?  37What will people give in exchange for their lives?  38Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Reading

**22:23-31**

from the Common English Bible

23All of you who revere the Lord - praise him! All of you who are Jacob’s descendants - honor him! All of you who are all Israel’s offspring - stand in awe of him!

**24Because he didn’t despise or detest the suffering of the one who suffered - he didn’t hide his face from me. No, he listened when I cried out to him for help.**

25I offer praise in the great congregation because of you; I will fulfill my promises in the presence of those who honor God.

**26Let all those who are suffering eat and be full! Let all who seek the Lord praise him! I pray your hearts live forever!**

27Every part of the earth will remember and come back to the Lord; every family among all the nations will worship you.

**28Because the right to rule belongs to the Lord, he rules all nations.**

29Indeed, all the earth’s powerful will worship him; all who are descending to the dust will kneel before him; my being also lives for him.

**30Future descendants will serve him; generations to come will be told about my Lord.**

31They will proclaim God’s righteousness to those not yet born, telling them what God has done.

Second Scripture Reading

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

from the Common English Bible

1When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am El Shaddai.  Walk with me and be trustworthy.  2I will make a covenant between us and I will give you many, many descendants.”  3Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, 4“But me, my covenant is with you; you will be the ancestor of many nations.  5And because I have made you the ancestor of many nations, your name will no longer be Abram but Abraham.  6I will make you very fertile. I will produce nations from you, and kings will come from you.  7I will set up my covenant with you and your descendants after you in every generation as an enduring covenant. I will be your God and your descendants’ God after you. 15God said to Abraham, “As for your wife Sarai, you will no longer call her Sarai. Her name will now be Sarah.  16I will bless her and even give you a son from her. I will bless her so that she will become nations, and kings of peoples will come from her.”