

First Scripture Reading

John 3:14-21

from the Common English Bible

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ¹⁶God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. ¹⁷God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son. ¹⁹"This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. ²⁰All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. ²¹Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

107:1-3, 17-22

from the Common English Bible

¹"Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever!"

²**That's what those who are redeemed by the Lord say, the ones God redeemed from the power of their enemies, ³the ones God gathered from various countries, from east and west, north and south.**

¹⁷Some of the redeemed were fools because of their sinful ways. They suffered because of their wickedness.

¹⁸**They had absolutely no appetite for food; they had arrived at death's gates.**

¹⁹So they cried out to the Lord in their distress, and God saved them from their desperate circumstances.

²⁰**God gave the order and healed them; he rescued them from their pit.**

²¹Let them thank the Lord for his faithful love and his wondrous works for all people.

²²**Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and declare what God has done in songs of joy!**

Second Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

from the Common English Bible

¹At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. ²You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. ³At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else. ⁴⁻⁵However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace! ⁶And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. ⁷God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus. ⁸You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. ⁹It's not something you did that you can be proud of. ¹⁰Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.