

## COLLECT

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



Amen



**READING 1 – Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**

***A reading from the Book of Wisdom***

The wicked say:

<sup>12</sup> Let us wait in hiding for the righteous man,  
for he inconveniences us and opposes our deeds.

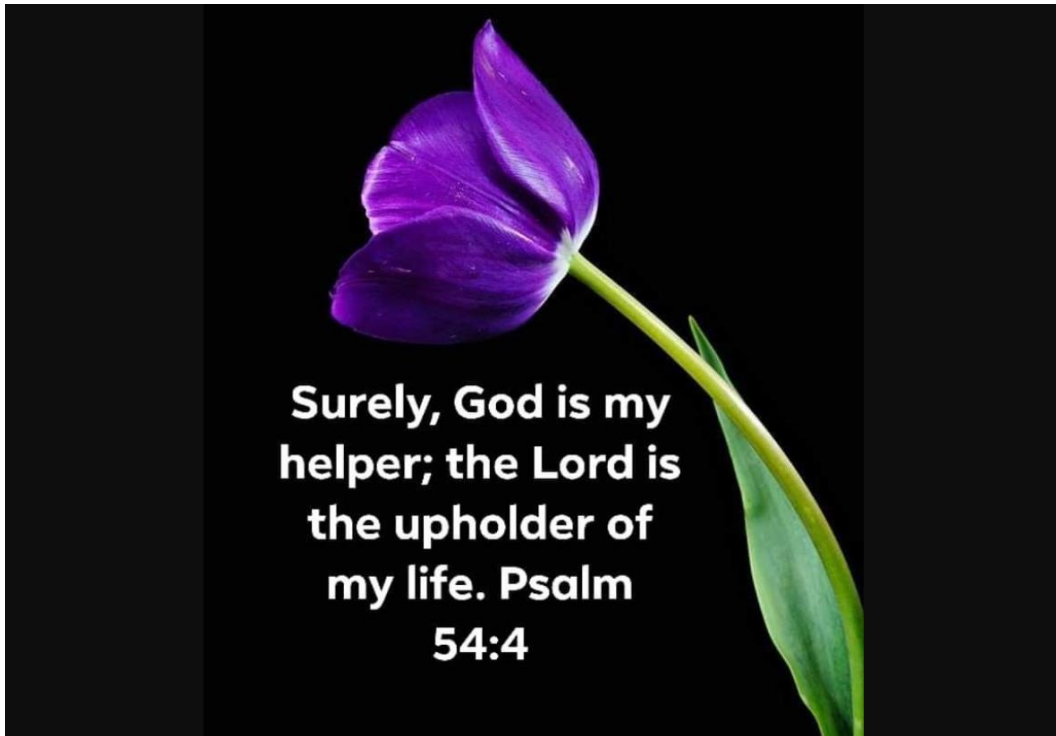
He reproaches us for our sins against the law  
and accuses us of failures in what we have been taught.

<sup>17</sup> Let us see if what he says is true,  
and let us probe what will happen at the conclusion of his life.

<sup>18</sup> For if the righteous man is a child of God, he will defend him  
and deliver him from the power of his enemies.

<sup>19</sup> Let us test him with insults and torments  
so that we may be able to measure his gentleness  
and ascertain the depths of his forbearance of evil.

<sup>20</sup> Let us condemn him to a shameful death,  
since, according to his words, he will be protected.”



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6, and 8**

**R. The Lord upholds my life.**

O God, by your name save me,  
and by your might defend my cause.

O God, hear my prayer;  
hearken to the words of my mouth.

**/R/ The Lord upholds my life.**

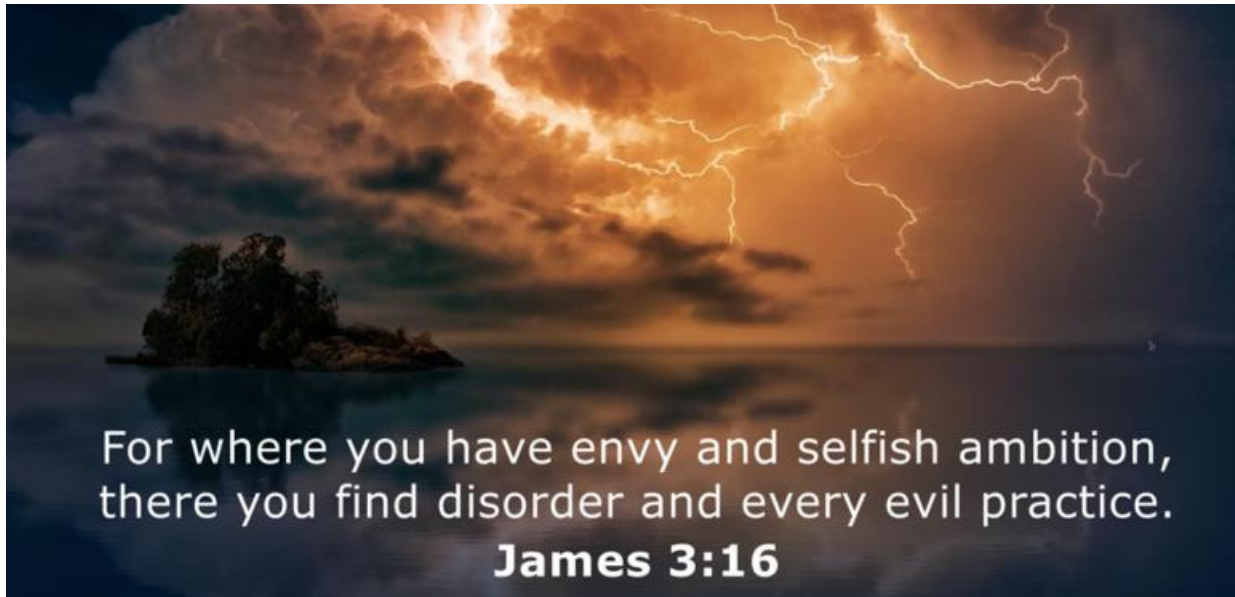
For the haughty men have risen up against me,  
the ruthless seek my life;  
they set not God before their eyes.

**/R/ The Lord upholds my life.**

Behold, God is my helper;  
the Lord sustains my life.

Freely will I offer you sacrifice;  
I will praise your name, O LORD, for its goodness.

**/R/ The Lord upholds my life.**



For where you have envy and selfish ambition,  
there you find disorder and every evil practice.  
**James 3:16**

## READING 2 – James 3:16 – 4:3

### *A reading from the Letter of Saint James*

Beloved:

③<sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

<sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

④<sup>1</sup> What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

<sup>2</sup> You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

<sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

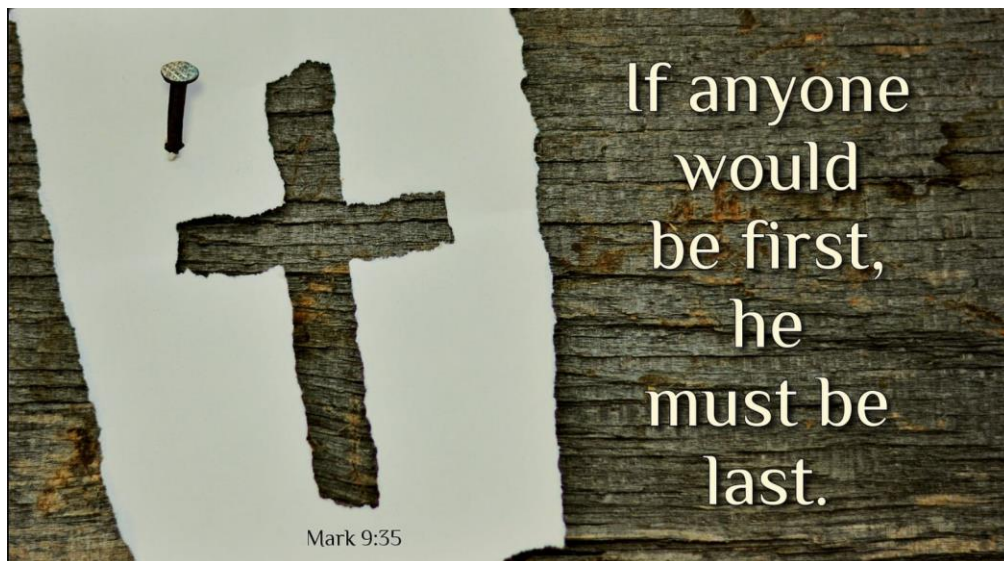
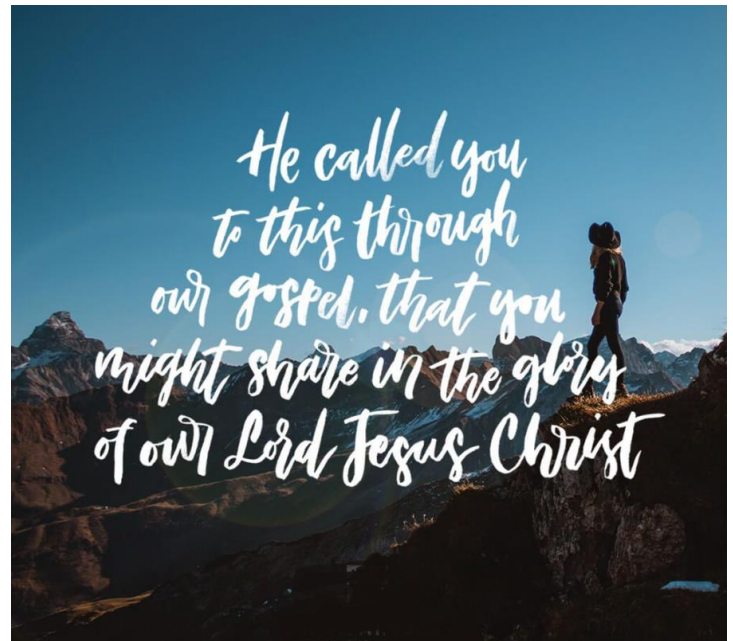


## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

God has called us through the Gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

(Thessalonians 2:14)



### GOSPEL – Mark 9:30-37

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

<sup>30</sup> They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, <sup>31</sup> because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

<sup>36</sup> He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

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### **A PRAYER CONCERNING TRUSTING IN GOD’S DISCIPLINE (Hebrews 12:5-7)**

<sup>5</sup> “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the ones he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” <sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?

Dear God,

There are times in my life when it seems that I have fallen out of favor with you. It is like my sinful thoughts and habits have caught up with me, and that you are punishing me for these wrongs. Teach me that in these seasons, you are not punishing me, but instead, you are disciplining me as any good father should. When you discipline me, I can always be assured that you are doing it out of love and for good purposes. This can be difficult for me to accept, especially as I go through painful trials, but help me to always remember that you love me and that you are always on my side – and that you are never against me. Give me the strength to understand that even in times of correction, you are working for my good - and that you use discipline to refocus my life when I have drifted from your path, or when I am refusing to submit an area of my life to you. You are not punishing me, but on the contrary, you are giving me the gift of being taught to live a godly life. Help me to realize that by submitting to your authority, I will eventually experience the overflow of your blessings, and that the greatest benefit of discipline is the potential for intimacy between us. Help me greet my adversity with humility, teach me to listen to you so that I can obey, and help me submit myself to you so that you will lift me to new heights at the proper time.

Amen

