

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

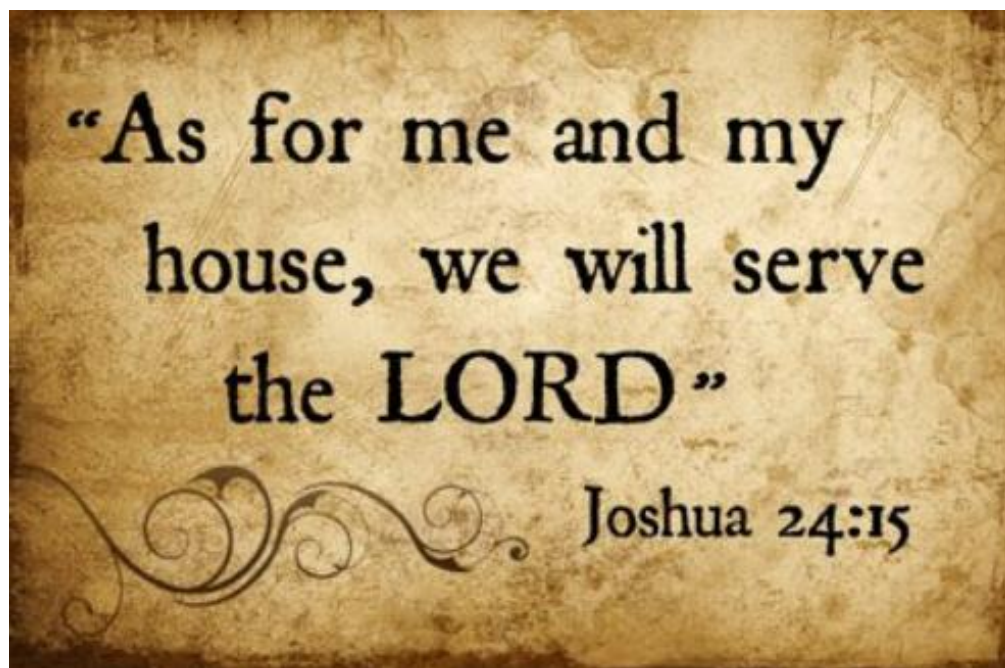
JOHN 6:68

COLLECT

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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 – Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

A reading from the Book of Joshua

¹ Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges, and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

² Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.

¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! ¹⁷ It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. ¹⁸ And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

**The face of the LORD is
against them that do evil,
to cut off the remembrance
of them from the earth.**

Psalm 34:16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.

Let my soul glory in the LORD;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

/R/ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

The LORD has eyes for the just,
and ears for their cry.

The LORD confronts the evildoers,
to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.

/R/ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

When the just cry out, the LORD hears them,
and from all their distress he rescues them.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.

/R/ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Many are the troubles of the just one,
but out of them all the LORD delivers him;

he watches over all his bones;
not one of them shall be broken.

/R/ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

READING 2 – Ephesians 5:21-32

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body.

³¹ “For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

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—EPHESIANS 5:21

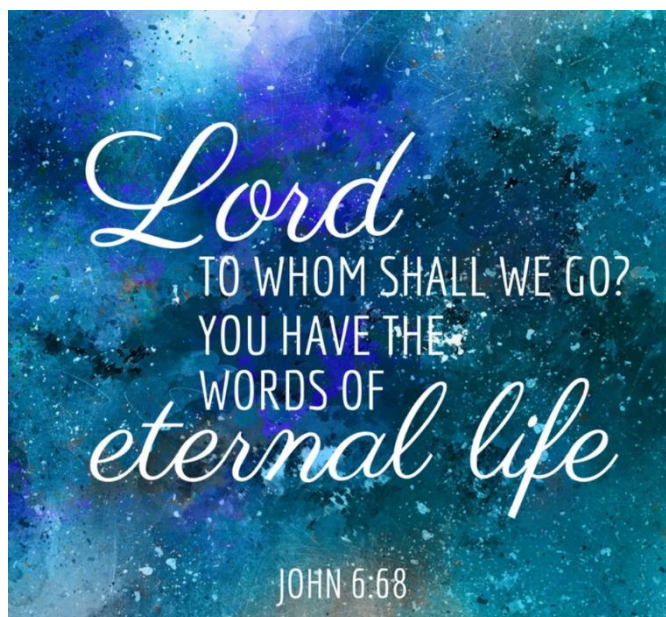


ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

(John 6:68)



GOSPEL – John 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

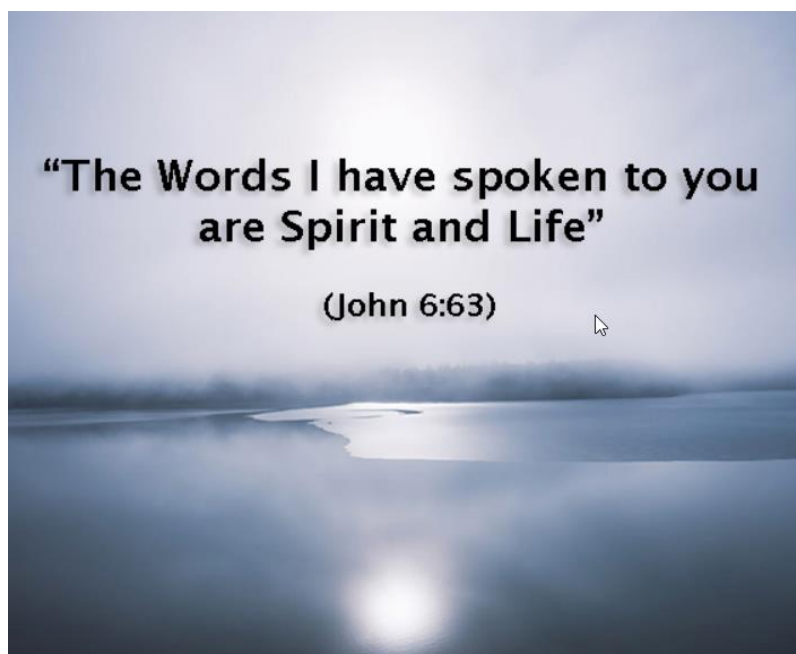
⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you?"

⁶² Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!

⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.

⁶⁵ He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."



⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷ “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”



A PRAYER CONCERNING KINDNESS (Matthew 10:42)

⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

Dear God,

You call upon me to love others and be kind. However, sometimes I think that I mistake being “nice” for being kind – being nice involves just surface politeness, but being kind is much deeper and more proactive. Help me to develop kindness in my treatment of the people around me – teach me to generously share what I have with others and to help those in need – even when I do not know them. Show me how to look for opportunities to help others when they are in trouble, and empower me to show forgiveness and mercy to people even when they might not deserve it. Train me to bring out the best in others by using kind, encouraging, and helpful words – instead of criticizing them. This is more than I can do in my own strength, God, but I know that you can help me. Teach me to start with showing kindness in the small things I do and say to others so that, in time and with your help, it will become a habit even with the big things. Thank you for noticing and rewarding every act of kindness – no matter how small.

Amen