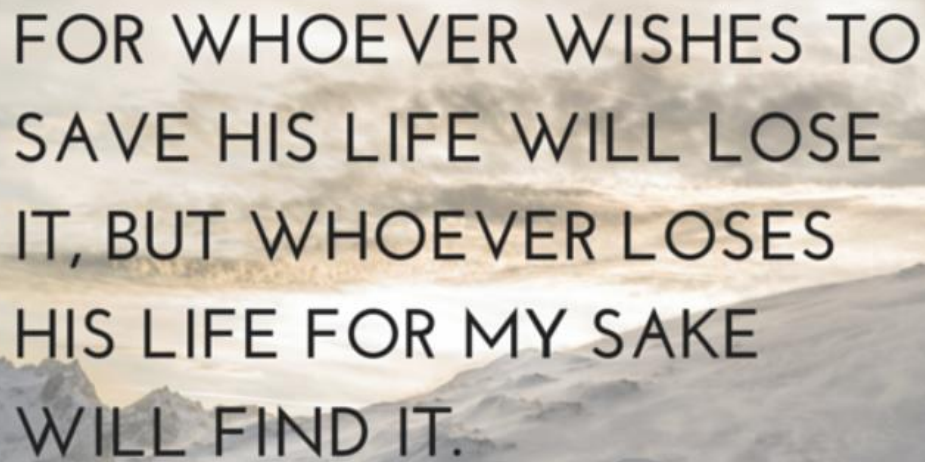


FOR WHOEVER WISHES TO
SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE
IT, BUT WHOEVER LOSES
HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE
WILL FIND IT.

A landscape photograph showing a cross on a hill under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

COLLECT

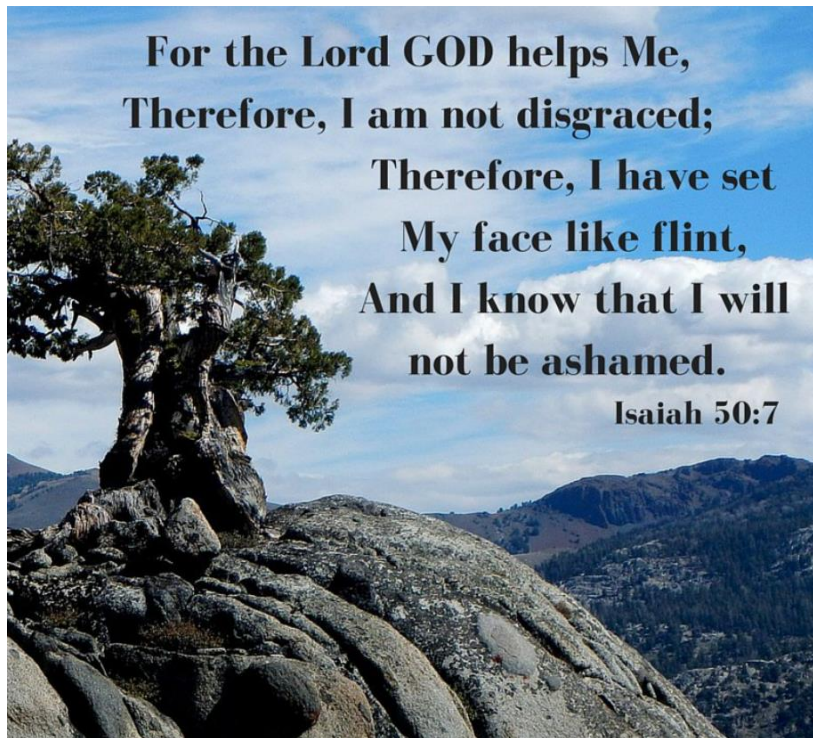
Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of
all things, and, that
we may feel the
working of your
mercy, grant that we
may serve you with
all our heart.

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

The Greatest Commandment
Love God with All your Heart

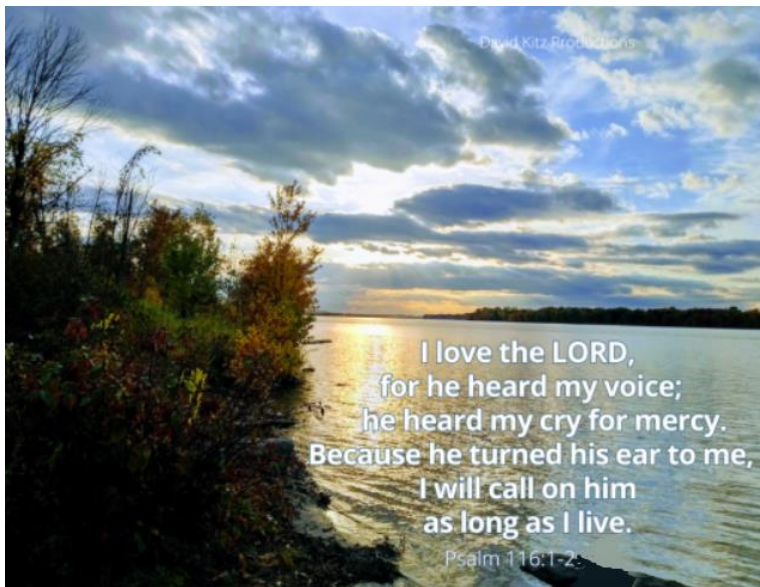
An open book with text on the pages, set against a dark background. The text is overlaid on the top of the image.



READING 1 – Isaiah 50:5-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

- ⁵ The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.
- ⁶ I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.
- ⁷ Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,
I will not be disgraced.
Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.
- ⁸ He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!
Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!
- ⁹ It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.
Who will condemn me?



RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

I love the LORD because he has heard
my voice in supplication,
because he has inclined his ear to me
the day I called.

/R/ I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

The cords of death encompassed me;
the snares of the netherworld seized upon me;
I fell into distress and sorrow,
and I called upon the name of the LORD,
"O LORD, save my life!"

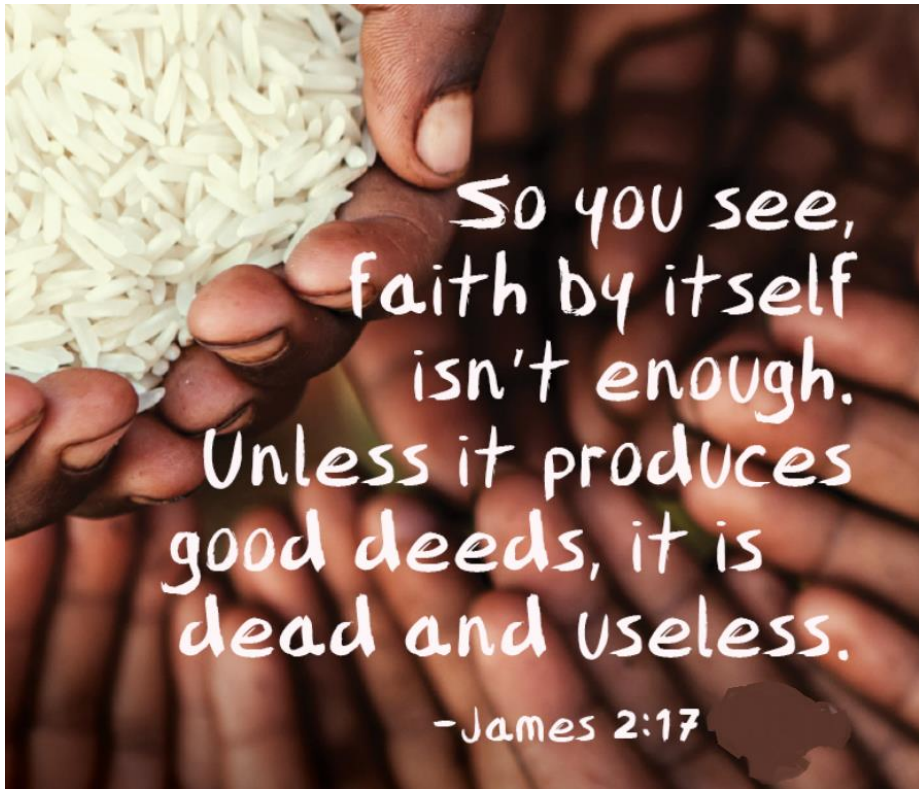
/R/ I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Gracious is the LORD and just;
yes, our God is merciful.
The LORD keeps the little ones;
I was brought low, and he saved me.

/R/ I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

For he has freed my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.

/R/ I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.



READING 2 – James 2:14-18

A reading from the Letter of Saint James

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?

Can such faith save them?

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.

¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

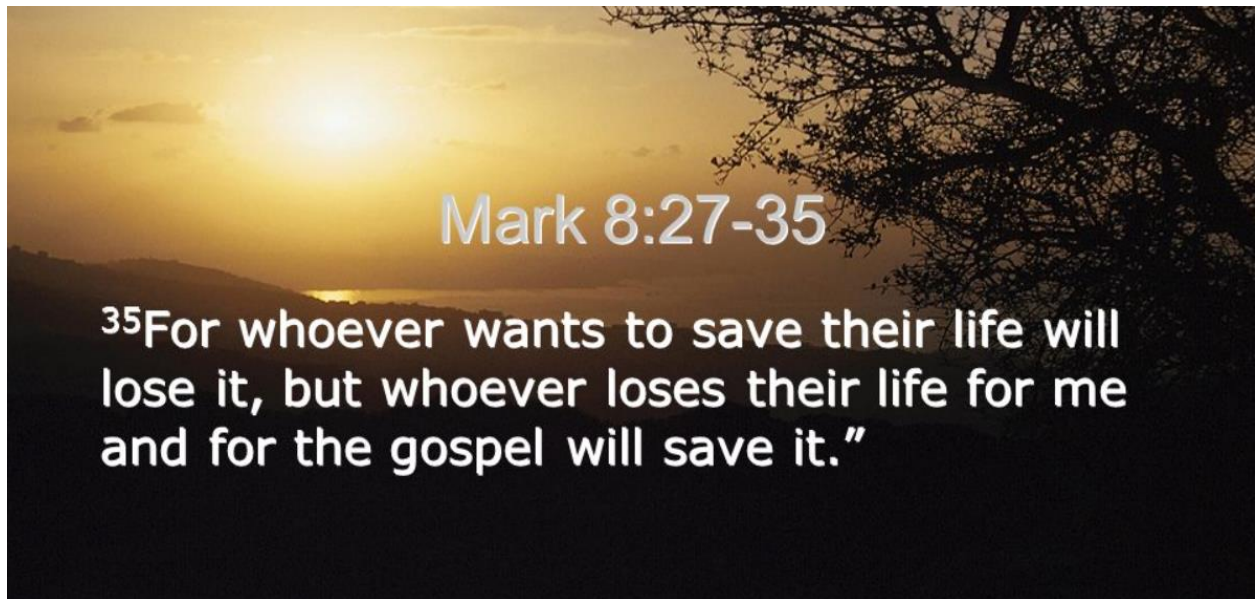
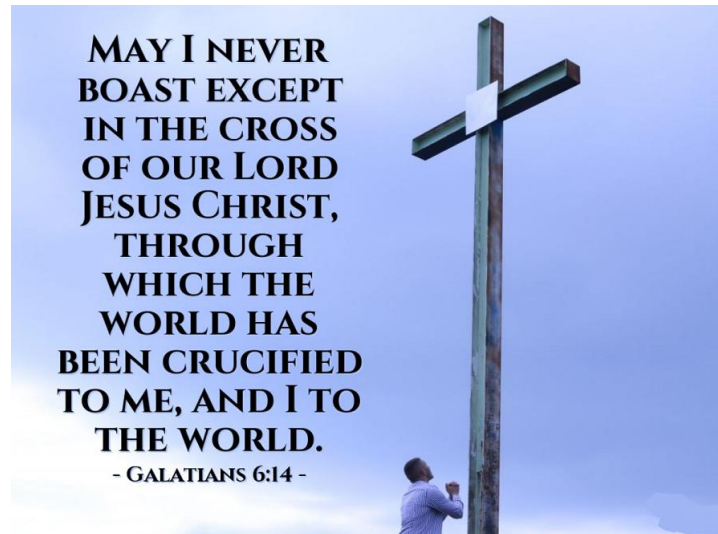
Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

(Galatians 6:14)



GOSPEL – Mark 8:27-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

A PRAYER CONCERNING HOW GOD BRIDGES THE GAPS (2 Corinthians 12:9)

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Dear God,
When I am struggling with a heavy load of any kind, it is wonderful when someone offers to help, or insists that I rest as they take care of things for a while.

I have come to realize this is what happens in my life when I accept you and remain in a trusting relationship with you. You have said that as I grow closer to you, you will work to "fine-tune" your perfection in me. Help me understand that, when I am faced with such difficulties, I do not have to struggle, strive, or wear myself out – you will work in and for me – in your timing, using your methods, and all for your purposes. Teach me that no one can be the best always – nobody gets it right every time. But it is in these times of weakness and failure that I have the capacity to grow the most. Remind me that when I have fallen short, I am in a perfect position to trust you to cover my failings, and to provide me with opportunities to grow closer to you.

Amen

