

## OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 46

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

<sup>5</sup> God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

<sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

<sup>8</sup> Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## EPISTLE

Romans 3:19-28

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

<sup>22</sup>This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,

<sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

<sup>24</sup>and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

<sup>25</sup>God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

<sup>26</sup>he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.

<sup>28</sup>For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

**THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.**

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## HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

<sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

<sup>35</sup>Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.

<sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.