

Collect: Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Romans 4:13-25 (Good News Translation)

¹³When God promised Abraham and his descendants that the world would belong to him, he did so, not because Abraham obeyed the Law, but because he believed and was accepted as righteous by God. ¹⁴For if what God promises is to be given to those who obey the Law, then faith means nothing and God's promise is worthless. ¹⁵The Law brings down God's anger; but where there is no law, there is no disobeying of the law. ¹⁶And so the promise was based on faith, in order that the promise should be guaranteed as God's free gift to all of Abraham's descendants—not just to those who obey the Law, but also to those who believe as Abraham did. For Abraham is the spiritual father of us all; ¹⁷as the scripture says, "I have made you father of many nations." So the promise is good in the sight of God, in whom Abraham believed—the God who brings the dead to life and whose command brings into being what did not exist. ¹⁸Abraham believed and hoped, even when there was no reason for hoping, and so became "the father of many nations." Just as the

scripture says, "Your descendants will be as many as the stars." ¹⁹He was then almost one hundred years old; but his faith did not weaken when he thought of his body, which was already practically dead, or of the fact that Sarah could not have children. ²⁰His faith did not leave him, and he did not doubt God's promise; his faith filled him with power, and he gave praise to God. ²¹He was absolutely sure that God would be able to do what he had promised. ²²That is why Abraham, through faith, "was accepted as righteous by God." ²³The words "he was accepted as righteous" were not written for him alone. ²⁴They were written also for us who are to be accepted as righteous, who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from death. ²⁵Because of our sins he was given over to die, and he was raised to life in order to put us right with God.

Mark 8:31-9:1 (NIV)

³¹He 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. ³²He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But 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." ³⁴Then 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. ³⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶What good is it for someone to

gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

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Weekly News Sheet: Please send any items for the news sheet to Bevaly: call 407432 or email bevalyrackett@hotmail.com by Thursday 2pm

Post Communion: Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray for: Messy church and all who help or attend. All of the Lent events going on in churches around the country. All those involved in the Winter Olympics – for good sportsmanship and friendship.

Those who are unwell: Lottie Rann, Eiry Longhurst, Albert Smith, Dorothy Wood, Noel Toogood, Mary Teague, Norman, Henry Adams, Janice Jacobs, Michael West and Kaye Miles.

RIP: Nicholas Frampton, Phil Brown, Daphne Young, Peter Atkins, Brian Casterton, Barry Mills, and Billy Graham.

RIP Anniversaries: Rose Snook (Sun), Maisie Scovell (Mon), Chris Robson (Sat)