

**Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18**

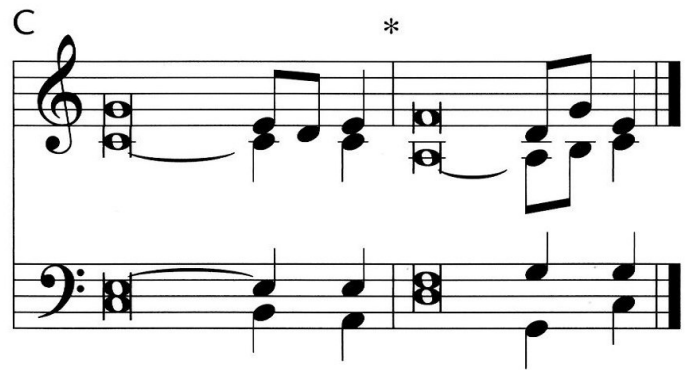
<sup>1</sup>Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, . . .

<sup>14</sup>"Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

<sup>15</sup>And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, <sup>17</sup>for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. <sup>18</sup>And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

**Psalm 34:12–22**

<sup>12</sup>What man is there who de- | sires life\*  
and loves many days,  
that he may | see good?

<sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from | evil\*  
and your lips from speak- | ing deceit.

<sup>14</sup>Turn away from evil | and do good,\*  
seek peace and pur- | sue it.

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the Lord are toward the |  
righteous\*  
and his ears | toward their cry.

<sup>16</sup>The face of the Lord is against  
those who do | evil,\*  
to cut off the memory of them |  
from the earth.

<sup>17</sup>When the righteous cry for help,  
the | Lord hears\*  
and delivers them out of all their |  
troubles.

<sup>18</sup>The Lord is near to the broken- | hearted\*  
and saves the crushed in | spirit.

<sup>19</sup>Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*  
but the Lord delivers him out |  
of them all.

<sup>20</sup>He keeps | all his bones;\*  
not one of them is | broken.

<sup>21</sup>Affliction will slay the | wicked,\*  
and those who hate the righteous will |  
be condemned.

<sup>22</sup>The Lord redeems the life of his | servants;\*  
none of those who take refuge in him  
will | be condemned.

## Ephesians 5:6–21

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

<sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

## John 6:51–69

<sup>51</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give

us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup>As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup>Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup>And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

<sup>66</sup>After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup>and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."