

Isaiah 11:1–5

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch from his roots
shall bear fruit.

2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,

the Spirit of wisdom
and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge
and the fear of the Lord.

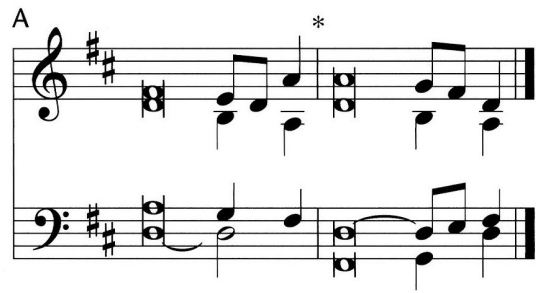
3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes
by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness
he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity
for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with
the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips
he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt
of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

**Psalm 138**

1 I give you thanks,

O Lord, with | my whole heart;*

before the gods I | sing your praise;

2 I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your

steadfast love and your | faithfulness;*

for you have exalted above all things
your name | and your word.

3 On the day I called, you | answered me;*
my strength of soul | you increased.

4 All the kings of the earth
shall give you thanks, | O Lord,*
for they have heard
the words | of your mouth,

5 and they shall sing of the ways |
of the Lord,*

for great is the glory | of the Lord.

6 For though the Lord is high,
he regards the | lowly;*

but the haughty he knows | from afar.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you pre- | serve my life;*

you stretch out your hand
against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand de- | livers me.

8 The Lord will fulfill
his pur- | pose for me;*

your steadfast love, O Lord,
endures forever.

Do not forsake the work |
of your hands.

Romans 12:9–16

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited.

Luke 1:39–45

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."