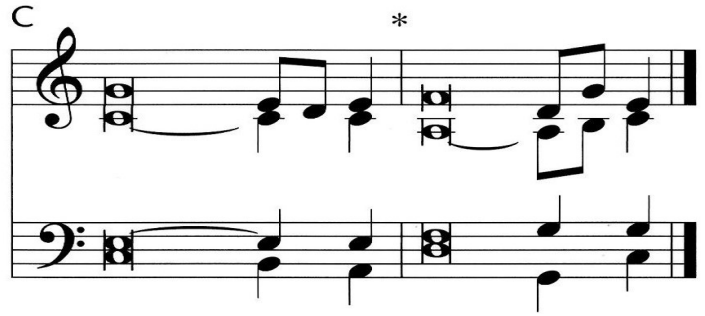


Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶"Seek the Lord while he may be found;
 call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
 and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
 let him return to the Lord,
 that he may have compassion on him,
 and to our God,
 for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 neither are your ways my ways,
 declares the Lord.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts."

**Psalms 27:1–9**

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation;
 whom | shall I fear? *
 The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
 of whom shall I | be afraid?
²When evildoers assail me
 to eat | up my flesh, *
 my adversaries and foes,
 it is they who stum- | ble and fall.
³Though an army encamp against me,
 my heart | shall not fear; *
 though war arise against me,
 yet I will be | confident.
⁴One thing have I asked of the Lord,
 that will I seek | after: *
 that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
 all the days of my life,
 to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
 and to inquire in his | temple.
⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
 in the day of | trouble; *
 he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
 he will lift me high up- | on a rock.
⁶And now my head shall be lifted up
 above my enemies all around me,
 and I will offer in his tent
 sacrifices with | shouts of joy; *
 I will sing and make melody | to the Lord.
⁷Hear, O Lord, when I | cry aloud; *
 be gracious to me and | answer me!
⁸You have said, | "Seek my face." *
 My heart says to you,
 "Your face, Lord, | do I seek."
⁹Hide not your face from me.
 Turn not your servant away in | anger, *
 O you who have been my help.
 Cast me not off; forsake me not,
 O God of my sal- | vation!

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1–16

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."