

## **Scriptures: July 23, 2023**

### **Psalm 116:1-9 The Message**

1 I love God because he listened to me, listened as I begged for mercy.  
2 He listened so intently as I laid out my case before him.  
3 Death stared me in the face, hell was hard on my heels.  
4 Up against it, I didn't know which way to turn; then I called out to God for help:  
5 Please, God!" I cried out.  
    "Save my life!"  
God is gracious—it is he who makes things right, our most compassionate God.  
6 God takes the side of the helpless; when I was at the end of my rope, God saved me.  
7 I said to myself, "Relax and rest.  
    God has showered you with blessings.  
    Soul, you've been rescued from death;  
8 Eye, you've been rescued from tears;  
    And you, Foot, were kept from stumbling."  
9 I'm striding in the presence of God,  
    alive in the land of the living!

### **Gospel Reading:**

#### **Mark 8:31-38**

8:31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.  
8:32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.  
8:33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."  
8:34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.  
8:35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.  
8:36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

8:37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

8:38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."