



Call up - on me in the day of trou - ble, says your God.

⁷“Listen, my people, and I will speak:
Israel, I will bear wit- | ness against you;

for I am | God, your God.

⁸**I do not accuse you because | of your sacrifices;
your burnt offerings are al- | ways before me.**

⁹I will not accept a calf | from your stalls,

nor goats | from your pens;

¹⁰**for all the wild animals of the for- | est are mine,
the cattle on a | thousand hills. R**

¹¹I know every bird | of the mountains,

and the creatures of the | fields are mine.

¹²**If I were hungry, I | would not tell you,**

for the whole world is | mine and all | that is in it.

¹³Do you think I eat the | flesh of bulls,

or drink the | blood of goats?

¹⁴**Offer to God a sacrifice | of thanksgiving**

and make good your vows to | the Most High.

¹⁵Call upon me in the | day of trouble;

I will deliver you, and you shall | honor me.” **R**

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the

father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.”

¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “It was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’” For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her,

and she will live.” ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread through all of that district.