

Scripture Lessons:

Psalm 102

You rebuild the desolate city; you bring the exiles back home

You grant the poor abundance

You guide nations toward peace

You hear the cry of the destitute and the sobbing of the oppressed.

You soothe the pain of the captive; you set the prisoner free.

Come to me, too, in your mercy and set my heart at peace.

(abridged translation by Stephen Mitchell)

John 15: 12-17

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask in my name.

I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.