

ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Refrain

God holds our souls in life.

Psalm 66:7-18 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- 7 Bless our God, you
peoples; * make the
voice of his praise to be
heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in
life, * and will not
allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have
proved us; * you have
- 10 You brought us into the
snare; * you laid heavy
burdens upon our
backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride
over our heads; we
went through fire
- 12 I will enter your house
with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my
vows, * which I prom-
ised with my lips and
spoke with my mouth
when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacri-
fices of fat beasts with
the smoke of rams; * I
will give you oxen and
goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all
you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what
he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him
with my mouth, * and
his praise was on my
tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in
my heart, * the Lord
would not have heard
me;
- 17 But in truth God has
heard me; * he has at-
tended to the voice of
my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who
has not rejected my
prayer, * nor withheld
his love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

NOW WHO WILL harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing