

READINGS FOR THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Readings are found in the Lectionary, Volume 4, #764

FIRST READING (from the Old Testament) (5 options)

Isaiah 11:1-4ab

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
A Spirit of counsel and of strength, a Spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.
Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide,
But he shall judge the poor with justice and decide aright for the land's afflicted.

Isaiah 42:1-3

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
Upon whom I have put my Spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench.

Isaiah 61:1-3abcd, 6ab, 8c-9

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God,
to comfort all who mourn;
To place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes,
To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a listless Spirit.
You yourselves shall be named priests of the LORD,
ministers of our God you shall be called.
I will give them their recompense faithfully,
a lasting covenant I will make with them.
Their descendants shall be renowned among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
All who see them shall acknowledge them
as a race the LORD has blessed.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Thus says the Lord GOD:
For I will take you away from among the nations,

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gather you from all the foreign lands,
and bring you back to your own land.
I will sprinkle clean water upon you
to cleanse you from all your impurities,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
I will give you a new heart and place a new Spirit within you,
taking from your bodies your stony hearts
and giving you natural hearts.
I will put my Spirit within you and make you live by my statutes,
careful to observe my decrees.
You shall live in the land I gave your fathers;
you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Joel 2:23a, 26-3:1-3a

Children of Zion, exult
and rejoice in the LORD, your God!
You shall eat and be filled,
and shall praise the name of the LORD, your God,
Because he has dealt wondrously with you;
my people shall nevermore be put to shame.
And you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel;
I am the LORD, your God, and there is no other;
my people shall nevermore be put to shame.
Then afterward I will pour out
my Spirit upon all mankind.
Your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
your young men shall see visions;
Even upon the servants, in those days,
I will pour out my Spirit.
And I will work wonders in the heavens and on the earth

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RESPONSORIAL PSALMS (6 options)

Psalm 22:23-24, 26-27, 28 and 31-32

R. (23a) I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.

or:

R. (John 15:26-27) When the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will be my witnesses.

I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;

in the midst of the assembly, I will praise you:

"You who fear the LORD, praise him;

all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him."

R. I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.

or:

R. When the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will be my witnesses.

By your gift will I utter praise in the vast assembly;

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear him.

The lowly shall eat their fill;

they who seek the LORD shall praise him:

"May your hearts be ever merry!"

R. I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.

or:

R. When the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will be my witnesses.

All the ends of the earth

shall remember and turn to the LORD;

All the families of the nations

shall bow down before him;

my descendants shall serve him.

Let the coming generation be told of the LORD

that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born

the justice he has shown.

R. I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.

or:

R. When the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will be my witnesses.

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Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5-6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 9-10a, 11-12

R. (3) Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands;
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Announce his salvation, day after day.

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Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Worship the LORD in his holy attire.
Tremble before him, all the earth;
say among the nations: The LORD is king.

R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Psalm 104: 1ab and 24, 27-28, 30-31, 33-34

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have wrought them all-
the earth is full of your creatures.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

They all look to you
to give them food in due time.
When you give it to them, they gather it;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

I will sing to the LORD all my life;

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I will sing praise to my God while I live.
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Psalm 117: 1, 2

R. (Acts 1:8) You will be my witnesses to all the world.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Praise the LORD, all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples!

R. You will be my witnesses to all the world.

or:

R. Alleluia.

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.

R. You will be my witnesses to all the world.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Psalm 145: 2-3, 4-5, 8-9, 10-11, 15-16, 21

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD and highly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

Generation after generation praises your works
and proclaims your might.
They speak of the splendor of your glorious majesty
and tell of your wondrous works.

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

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The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your Kingdom
and speak of your might.

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you
and you give them their food in due season;
You open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

May my mouth speak the praise of the LORD,
and may all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

SECOND READING (New Testament) (12 options)

Acts 1:3-8

Jesus showed the Apostles that he was alive
by many proofs after he had suffered,
appearing to them during forty days
and speaking about the kingdom of God.
While meeting with them,
he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,
but to wait for "the promise of the Father
about which you have heard me speak;
for John baptized with water,
but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
When they had gathered together they asked him,
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore
the kingdom to Israel?"
He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons
that the Father has established by his own authority.

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But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
throughout Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2:1-6, 14, 22b-23, 32-33

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.
Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem.
At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,
but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed
to them: "You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem.
Let this be known to you, and listen to my words.
Jesus the Nazorean was a man commended to you by God
with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs,
which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.
This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God,
you killed, using lawless men to crucify him.
God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses.
Exalted at the right hand of God,
he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father
and poured it forth, as you both see and hear.

Acts 8:1bc, 4, 14-17

On that day, there broke out a severe persecution
of the church in Jerusalem,
and all were scattered throughout the countryside
of Judea and Samaria, except the Apostles.
Those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.
When the Apostles in Jerusalem
heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God,
they sent them Peter and John,
who went down and prayed for them,
that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

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for he had not yet fallen upon any of them;
they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Then they laid hands on them
and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:1, 33-34a, 37-44

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius,
a centurion of the Cohort called the Italica.
Cornelius said to Peter: I sent for you immediately,
and you were kind enough to come.
Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God
to listen to all that you have been commanded by the Lord."
Then Peter proceeded to speak and said,
You know what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil,
for God was with him.
We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.
This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,
not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
He commissioned us to preach to the people
and testify that he is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.
To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."
While Peter was still speaking these things,
the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word.

Acts 19:1b-6a

Paul traveled came to Ephesus where he found some disciples.
He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"
They answered him, "We have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
He said, "How were you baptized?"
They replied, "With the baptism of John."
Paul then said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance,
telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus."
When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them.

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Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Brothers and sisters,
Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand,
and we boast in hope of the glory of God and hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 8:14-17

Brothers and Sisters:
For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
For you did not receive a Spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you received a Spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"
The Spirit itself bears witness with our Spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:26-27

Brothers and Sisters:
The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.
And the one who searches hearts
knows what is the intention of the Spirit,
because it intercedes for the holy ones
according to God's will.

1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Brothers and Sisters:
There are different kinds of Spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;

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there are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone.
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.
To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;
another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit;
another faith by the same Spirit;
another gifts of healing by the one Spirit;
another mighty deeds;
another prophecy;
another discernment of spirits;
another varieties of tongues;
another interpretation of tongues.
But one and the same Spirit produces all of these,
distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.
As a body is one though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,
so also Christ.
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23a, 24-25

Brothers and sisters:
Live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh.
For the flesh has desires against the Spirit,
and the Spirit against the flesh;
these are opposed to each other,
so that you may not do what you want.
In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh
with its passions and desires.
If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.

Ephesians 1:3a, 4a, 13-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He chose us in him, before the foundation of the world.
In him you also, who have heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the
promised Holy Spirit,
which is the first installment of our inheritance
toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.
Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus

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and of your love for all the holy ones,
do not cease giving thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers,
that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him.
May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened,
that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call,
what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones,
and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Brothers and Sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace:
one body and one Spirit,
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.

GOSPEL VERSE (6 options)

- 1) The Father will send you the Holy Spirit, says the Lord, to be with you for ever.
- 2) The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.
- 3) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will teach you all truth and bring to your mind all I have told you.
- 4) Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead; you have made us a kingdom of priests to serve our God and Father.
- 5) Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in them the fire of your love.
- 6) Come, Holy Spirit shine on us the radiance of your light.

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GOSPEL (12 options)

Matthew 5:1-12a

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:
"Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Matthew 16:24-27

Jesus said to his disciples,
"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?
Or what can one give in exchange for his life?
For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory,
and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct."

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
"A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them.
To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—
to each according to his ability.
Then he went away.
Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them,
and made another five.
Likewise, the one who received two made another two.
But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground
and buried his master's money.
After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them.
The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five.

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He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.'
His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.
Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'
Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said,
'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.'
His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.
Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'
Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said,
'Master, I knew you were a demanding person,
harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter;
so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.'
His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant!
So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter?
Should you not then have put my money in the bank
so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?
Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten.
For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich;
but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.
And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside,
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'

Mark 1:9-11

Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized in the Jordan by John.
On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open
and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.
And a voice came from the heavens,
"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 4:16:22a

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom
into the synagogue on the sabbath day.
He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah.
Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.
Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down,
and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.
He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."
And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.

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Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15

When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable.

"A sower went out to sow his seed.

And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up.

Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture.

Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it.

And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold."

After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."

Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be.

He answered, the seed is the word of God.

Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved.

Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of temptation.

As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit.

But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.

Luke 10:21-24

Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

Turning to the disciples in private he said,

"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.

For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see,

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but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

John 7:37b-39

Jesus stood up and exclaimed,
"Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink.
Whoever believes in me, as scripture says:
Rivers of living water will flow from within him.
He said this in reference to the Spirit
that those who came to believe in him were to receive.
There was, of course, no Spirit yet,
because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

John 14:15-17

Jesus said to his Disciples,
"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,
the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept,
because it neither sees nor knows it.
But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.

John: 14:23-26

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.
Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
yet the word you hear is not mine
but that of the Father who sent me.
"I have told you this while I am with you.
The Advocate, the Holy Spirit
that the Father will send in my name—
he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

John: 15:18-21, 26-27

Jesus said to his disciples:
"If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first.
If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own;
but because you do not belong to the world,

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and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you.
Remember the word I spoke to you,
'No slave is greater than his master.'
If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.
If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.
And they will do all these things to you on account of my name,
because they do not know the one who sent me.
"When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.
And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:5-7, 12-13a

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Now I am going to the one who sent me,
and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'
But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts.
But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go.
For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you.
But if I go, I will send him to you.
I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.
But when he comes, the Spirit of truth,
he will guide you to all truth."