

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(5:17-21)

If, because of the one man's trespass,  
death exercised dominion through that one,  
much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace  
and the free gift of righteousness  
exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.  
Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all,  
so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.  
For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners,  
so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.  
But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied;  
but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,  
so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death,  
so grace might also exercise dominion through justification  
leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.