The Collect

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "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 forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."
Psalm 66:7-18  Jubilate Deo

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 tried us just as silver is tried.
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 and water; *
     but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings 
     and will pay you my vows, *
     which I promised with my lips 
     and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
13 I will offer you sacrifices 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 attended to the voice of my prayer.
18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
     nor withheld his love from me.

I 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 good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you— not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.