

Sunday, January 2 Scripture Reading

Genesis 4:1-15

New Revised Standard Version

Cain Murders Abel

4 Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced^[a] a man with the help of the LORD." **2** Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. **3** In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, **4** and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, **5** but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. **6** The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? **7** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

8 Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field."^[a] And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. **9** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" **10** And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! **11** And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. **12** When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." **13** Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! **14** Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." **15** Then the LORD said to him, "Not so!^[a] Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him.