

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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.
How much more then,
since we are now justified by his Blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.
Indeed, if, while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.
Not only that,
but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

ROMANS 6: 3-9

SECOND READING #6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him
through a death like this,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who can be against us?
He did not spare his own Son
 but handed him over for us all,
 will he not also give us everything else along with him?
Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
It is God who acquits us.
Who will condemn?
It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,
 who also is at the right hand of God,
 who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
 or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly
 through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
 nor angels, nor principalities,
 nor present things, nor future things,
 nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
 nor any other creature will be able to separate us
 from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

ROMANS 14: 7-9, 10b-12 SECOND READING #10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the ,Romans

None of us lives for oneself,
and no one dies for oneself.
For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
for it is written:

*"As /live, says the Lord, every knee
shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."*

So then all of us shall give an account
of ourselves to God.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

There are different gifts but the same spirit;
there are different ministries but the same Lord;
there are different works but the same God
who accomplishes all of them in everyone.

To each person
the manifestation of the spirit is given
for the common good.

To one the Spirit give wisdom in discourse,
to another the power to express knowledge.

Through the Spirit one receives faith;
by the same Spirit another is given the gift of healing,
and still another miraculous powers.

Prophecy is given to one;
to another to distinguish one spirit from another.

One receives the gift of tongues,
another that of interpreting the tongues.

But it is one and the same Spirit
who produces these gifts,
distributing them to each as the Spirit wills.

The word of the Lord.

I CORINTHIANS 15:20-23 SECOND READING #13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.
For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the first fruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

I CORINTHIANS 15: 51-57 SECOND READING #14

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Behold, I tell you a mystery.
We shall not all fall asleep,
but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.
For that which is corruptible
must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
and that which is mortal
must clothe itself with immortality.
And when that which is corruptible
clothes itself with incorruptibility
and that which is mortal
clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

*"Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"*

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

II CORINTHIANS 4: 14-5: 1 SECOND READING #15

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance
on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged;
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction
is producing for us an eternal weight of glory
beyond all comparison,
as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen;
for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed, we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

PHILIPPIANS 3: 20-21

SECOND READING #17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING #18

1 THESSALONIANS 4: 13-14, 18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware,
brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest,
who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

I JOHN 3: 1-2

SECOND READING #20

A reading from the first letter of John

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed. ·

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

REVELATION 14:13 SECOND READING #23

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say,
"Write this:
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
"Yes," said the Spirit,
"let them find rest from their labors,
for their works accompany them.

The word of the Lord.

REVELATION 21:1-5a, 6b-7 SECOND READING #24

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning,
wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new.
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.
The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God, and he will be my Son."

The word of the Lord.

II TIMOTHY 4: 6-8

SECOND READING #26

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

As for me,
my life is already being poured away as a libation
and the time has come for me to be gone.
I have fought the good fight to the end;
I have run the race to the finish;
I have kept the faith;
all there is to come now
is the crown of righteousness reserved for me,
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will give to me on the Day;
and not only to me,
but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The word of the Lord.