

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter began to speak to them:

"I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
but in every nation anyone who fears him
and does what is right is acceptable to him.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel,
preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and with power;
how he went about doing good and healing
all who were oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did
both in Judea and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;
but God raised him on the third day
and allowed him to appear,
not to all the people
but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses,
and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead

He commanded us to preach to the people
and to testify that he is the one ordained by God
as judge of the living and the dead.
All the prophets testify about him
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name".

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Therefore, since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we
boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

And not only that,
but we also boast in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope,
and hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person
- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his
Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

But more than that,
we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

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

{NEW TESTAMENT READING #4}

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Do you not know that all of us
who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried
with him by baptism into death, so that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,
so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him
so that the body of sin might be destroyed,
and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

For whoever has died is freed from sin.
But if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.

We know that Christ,
being raised from the dead,
will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

All who are led by the Spirit of God
are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, "Abba! Father!"
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ
- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing
with the glory about to be revealed to us.

For the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the children of God;
for the creation was subjected to futility,
not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it,
in hope that the creation itself will be set free
from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom
of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning
in labor pains until now;
and not only the creation, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption,
the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us will he not with him
also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.
Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes,
who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress,
or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things
we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all of creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

We do not live to ourselves,
and we do not die to ourselves.

If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord;
so then, whether we live or whether we die,
we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ died and lived again,
so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister?
Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister?
For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord,
every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord

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 died.

For since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;
for as all die in Adam,
so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in his own order:
Christ the first fruits,
then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end,
when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father,
after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet."
But when it says, "All things are put in subjection,"
it is plain that this does not include
the one who put all things in subjection under him.

When all things are subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected
to the one who put all things in subjection under him,
so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Listen, I will tell you a mystery.
We will not all die,
but we will all be changed,
in a moment,
in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound,
and the dead will be raised imperishable,
and we will be changed.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability,
and this mortal body must put on immortality.

When this perishable body puts on imperishability,
and this mortal body puts on immortality,
then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:
"Death has been 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

{NEW TESTAMENT READING #10}

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will transform the body of our humiliation
that it may be conformed to the body of his glory
by the power that also enables him
to make all things subject to himself.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be uninformed,
brothers and sisters,
about those who have died,
so that you may not grieve as others do
who have no hope.

For since we believe
that Jesus died and rose again,
even so, through Jesus,
God will bring with him those who have died.

For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will by no means precede those who have died.

For the Lord himself,
with a cry of command,
with the archangel's call
and with the sound of God's trumpet,
will descend from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive who are left,
will be caught up in the clouds
together with them to meet the Lord in the air;
and so we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

Remember Jesus Christ,
raised from the dead,
a descendant of David -
that is my gospel,
for which I suffer hardship,
even to the point of being chained like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore I endure everything
for the sake of the elect,
so that they may also obtain the salvation
that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

"The saying is sure:

If we have died with him,
we will also live with him;
if we endure,
we will also reign with him;
if we deny him,
he will also deny us;
if we are faithless,
he remains faithful -
for he cannot deny himself."

The Word of the Lord

{NEW TESTAMENT READING #13}

A Reading from the First Letter of John

See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God;
and that is what 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 will be
has not yet been revealed.
What we do know is this:
when he is revealed,
we will be like him,
for we will see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord

{NEW TESTAMENT READING #14}

A Reading from the First Letter of John

We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love one another.

Whoever does not love abides in death.

All who hate a brother or sister are murderers,
and you know that murderers
do not have eternal life abiding in them.

We know love by this,
that he laid down his life for us -
and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

The Word of the Lord

{NEW TESTAMENT READING #15}

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I heard a voice from heaven saying,

"Write this:

Blessed are the dead
who from now on die in the Lord."

"Yes,"

says the Spirit,
"they will rest from their labors,
for their deeds follow them."

The Word of the Lord

{NEW TESTAMENT READING #16}

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Then I saw a great white throne
and the one who sat on it;
the earth and the heaven
fled from his presence,
and no place was found for them.

And I saw the dead,
great and small,
standing before the throne,
and books were opened.

Also another book was opened,
the book of life.

And the dead were judged
according to their works,
as recorded in the books.

And the sea gave up the dead that were in it,
Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them,
and all were judged according to what they had done.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.
This is the second death, the lake of fire;
and anyone whose name was not found written in the
book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city,
the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
 "See, the home of God is among mortals.
 He will dwell with them as their God;
 they will be his peoples,
 and God himself will be with them;
 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
 Death will be no more;
 mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
 for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said,

"See, I am making all things new.
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give water
as a gift from the spring of the water of life.
Those who conquer will inherit these things,
and I will be their God and they will be my children."

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from Paul to the Corinthians

So we do not lose heart.
Even though our outer nature is wasting away,
Our inner nature is being renewed day by day.
For this slight momentary affliction
is preparing us for an eternal weight
of glory beyond all measure,
because we look not at what can be seen
but at what cannot be seen;
for what can be seen is temporary,
but what cannot be seen is eternal,

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared,
he saved us,
not because of any works of righteousness that we had done,
but according to his mercy,
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

This Spirit he poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
so that, having been justified by his grace,
we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

As for me,
I am already being poured out
As a libation
And the time of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.

From now on there is reserved for me
The crown of righteousness,
Which the Lord, the righteous judge,
Will give me on that day,
And not only to me
But also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ.
Even if we are troubled or worried,
or being persecuted,
or lacking food or clothes,
or being threatened or even attacked.
These are the trials through which we triumph,
by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this:
neither death nor life,
no angel, no prince,
nothing that exists,
nothing still to come,
not any power or height or depth,
nor any created thing,
can ever come between us and the love of God
made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

This, then, is what I pray,
kneeling before the father,
from whom every family,
whether spiritual or natural,
takes its name

Out of his infinite glory,
may he give you the power
Through the spirit
For your hidden self to grow strong,
So that Christ
May live in your hearts through faith,
And then, planted in love
And built on love,
You will with all the saints
Have strength to grasp
The breadth and the length,
The height and the depth,
Until knowing the love of Christ,
Which is beyond all knowledge,
You are filled with the utter fullness of God,

Glory be to him whose power,
Working in us,
Can do infinitely more
Than we can ask or imagine;
Glory be to him
From generation to generation
In the church
And in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

You have been taught
that when we were baptized in Christ Jesus
we were baptized in his death;
in other words,
when we were baptized,
we went into the tomb with him
and joined him in death,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead
by the Fathers glory,
we too might live a new life.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the First letter of Peter

Blessed be god the father of our lord Jesus Christ
who in his great mercy
has given us a new birth as his sons and daughters,
by raising Jesus Christ from the dead,
so that we have a sure hope
and the promise of an inheritance
that can never be spoiled or soiled
and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens.

Through your faith,
God's power will guard you until the salvation
which has been prepare is revealed at the end of time.

This is a cause of great joy for you,
even though you may for a short time
have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials;
so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed,
your faith will have been tested
and proved like gold
only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible,
even though it bears testing by fire
and then you will have praise and glory and honour.
You did not see him, yet you loved him;
and still without seeing him,
you are already filled with a joy so glorious
that it cannot be described,
because you believe;
and you are sure of the end
to which your faith looks forward,
that is the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from Paul to the Corinthians

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The Word of the Lord