

Romans 8: 31-39

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Second Reading #2

1 Corinthians 2: 6-10

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians:

We speak a wisdom to those who are mature,
but not a wisdom of this age,
nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away.

Rather we speak God's wisdom,
mysterious, hidden,
which God predetermined before the ages for our glory,
and which none of the rulers of this age knew,
for if they had known it,
they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

It is written:

“What eye has not seen,
and ear has not heard,
and what has not entered the human heart,
God has prepared for those who love him,”
this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Second Reading #3

1 Corinthians 13: 1-8

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues

but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy

and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains,

but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,

and if I hand my body over so that I may boast

but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, it is not pompous,

it is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests,

it is not quick tempered, it does not brood over injury,

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing

but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15: 51-58

A reading from the letter of St. 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 this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this 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.

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

The Word of the Lord.

Second Reading #5

2 Corinthians 4:14-15:1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Second Reading #6

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of St. 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.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel
and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

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

Thus, we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Second Reading #7

2 Timothy 4: 6-8

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy

As for me,

I am already being poured out like 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.

Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7

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.