

Lamentations
3: 17-26

Selection A11

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

**My life is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
my enduring hope, I said,
has perished before the LORD.**

**The thought of my wretched homelessness
is wormwood and poison;
remembering it over and over,
my soul is downcast.**

**But this I will call to mind;
therefore I will hope:
the LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted,
his compassion is not spent;
they are renewed each morning—
great is your faithfulness!**

**The LORD is my portion, I tell myself,
therefore I will hope in him.**

**The LORD is good to those who trust in him,
to the one that seeks him;
it is good to hope in silence
for the LORD's deliverance.**

The Word of the Lord

(No one can determine the right time to act)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to give birth, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What profit have workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be busied about. God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah
25: 6,7-9

Selection A7

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.**

**On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
the web that is woven over all nations.**

He will destroy death forever.

**The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
the reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth;
for the LORD has spoken.**

On that day it will be said:

**“Indeed, this is our God;
we looked to him, and he saved us!
This is the LORD to whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”**

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

My life is deprived of peace,

I have forgotten what happiness is;

my enduring hope, I said,

has perished before the LORD.

The thought of my wretched homelessness

is wormwood and poison;

remembering it over and over,

my soul is downcast.

But this I will call to mind;

therefore I will hope:

the LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted,

his compassion is not spent;

they are renewed each morning—

great is your faithfulness!

The LORD is my portion, I tell myself,

therefore I will hope in him.

The LORD is good to those who trust in him,

to the one that seeks him;

it is good to hope in silence

for the LORD's deliverance.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

**The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.**

**They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.**

But they are in peace.

**For if to others, indeed, they seem punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.**

**As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.**

**In the time of their judgment they shall shine
and dart about as sparks through stubble;
they shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.**

**Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with the elect.**

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

**The righteous one, though he die early, shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing
of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding passes for gray hair,
and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.
The one who pleased God was loved,
living among sinners, was transported —
snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;
for the witchery of paltry things
obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.
Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take that consideration into account.**

The Word of the Lord

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

Selection B24

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

1 Thessalonians

4: 13-18

Selection B17

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

**We do not want you to be unaware, brothers,
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

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

Brothers and Sisters:

**Knowing 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

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

**I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who will judge the living and the dead,
and by his appearing and his kingly power:
proclaim the word; be persistent
whether it is convenient or inconvenient;
convince, reprimand, encourage
through all patience and teaching.**

**For I am already being poured out like a libation,
and the time of my departure is at hand.**

**I have competed well;
I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.**

**From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,
which the Lord, the just judge,
will award to me on that day, and not only to me,
but to all who have longed for his appearance.**

The Word of the Lord

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

Brothers and Sisters:

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 his,

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 St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters:

**Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**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,
yet 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.**

Continued on the Next Page

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