

SECOND READING

New Testament #1 - II Corinthians 4:14 - 5:1

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

-pause-

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.

-pause-

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #2 - Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the book of Revelation:

-pause -

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 is 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 life-giving water.

The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son.”

-pause -

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #3 - Romans 5: 5-11

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

pause

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.

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.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #4 - Romans 5: 17-21

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

pause

If, by the transgression of one person,
death came to reign through that one,
how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace
and the gift of justification come to reign in life
through the one person, Jesus Christ.

In conclusion,
just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all,
so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.
For just as through the disobedience of one person
the many were made sinners,
so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.
The law entered in so that transgression might increase but,
where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that,
as sin reigned in death,
grace also might reign through justification for eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #5 - Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

pause

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.

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.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #6 - Romans 8: 14-23

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

pause

Those 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 received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry,
“Abba, Father!”

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.
For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation
of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.
We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption,
the redemption of our bodies.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #7 - Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

pause

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all,
how 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.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #8 - Romans 14: 7-9, 10b-12

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

pause

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 judgement seat of God;
for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord,
every knee shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."
So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #9 - I Corinthians 15: 20-23, 24b-28

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

pause

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; then comes the end,
when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father.
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
for "he subjected everything under his feet."
But when it says that everything has been subjected,
it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.
When everything is subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected
to the one who subjected everything to him,
so that God may be all in all.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #10 - I Corinthians 15: 51-57

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

pause

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.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #11 – II Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

pause

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.

So we are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.
Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.
Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.
For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ,
so that each one may receive recompense
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #12 - Philippians 3: 20-21

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians:

pause

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.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #13 - I Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

pause

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.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #14 - II Timothy 2: 8-13

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy:

pause

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead,
a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering,
even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen,
so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him we shall also live with him;

If we persevere we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #15 - I John 3: 1-2

A reading from the First Letter of John:

pause

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 not know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

New Testament #16 - Revelation 14:13

A reading from the book of Revelation:

-pause -

I 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.”

-pause -

The Word of the Lord.