

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (6:3-4, 8-9)

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 *(8:14-22a)*

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.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (8:31b-35, 37-39)

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?

As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day;

we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered."

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.

**A reading from the first letter
of St. Paul to the Corinthians** *(13:4-8a)*

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, love 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 does not come to an end.

The word of the Lord.

**A reading from the first letter
of St. Paul to the Corinthians** *(15:20-28)*

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits 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 firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
then comes the end,
when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father,
when he has destroyed every sovereignty
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 “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.

The word of the Lord.

**A reading from the second letter
of St. Paul to the Corinthians** (4:14-5:1)

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.

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to Timothy (3:1-2)

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 first letter of St. John (3:1-2)

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.

A reading from the book of Revelation *(14:13)*

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.”

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation (21:1-7)

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.”

Then he said,

“Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.”

He said to me,

“They are accomplished.

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.

