

New Testament Scripture Readings

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A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said, “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable. You know the word that God sent to the Israelites proclaiming peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. Jesus commissioned us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans

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.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

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

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 of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with Jesus 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 Christ. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption through which we cry out, “Abba Father!”. The Spirit 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 as to be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of the present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. Creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God. Creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who once 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. Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us. Indeed, the whole created world eagerly awaits the revelation of the children of God.

Creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but by the one who subjected it; yet not without hope, because the world itself will be freed from its-slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Yes, we know that all creation groans and is in agony even until now. Not only that, but we ourselves, although we have the Spirit as first fruits, groan inwardly while we await the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

If God is for us, who can be against us? God did not spare the only son but handed him over for us all. Will God 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, and is at the right hand of God and who 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 day long; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through Christ who loved us. 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.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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 judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So each of us shall give an account of himself before God.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous, it does not put on airs, 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. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish ways. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know as I am fully known. So faith, hope and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God

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

If Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ for this life only, we are the most pitiable people of all.

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians

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.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter 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.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

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

Since, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke." We too believe and therefore speak, knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in God's 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. 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. What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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

R/. Thanks be to God.

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

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 Jesus, 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 judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

We have our citizenship in heaven; it is from there that we eagerly await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body, by Christ's power to subject everything to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.

Sisters and brothers: We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death; otherwise you might yield to grief and lose all hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring forth with Jesus from the dead all those who have fallen asleep believing in Jesus. We are speaking to you now, just as if the Lord Jesus were speaking to you: We who live, who survive until the Lord Jesus returns, will have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep. The Lord Jesus, himself, will personally come down from heaven at the word of command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and the trumpet of God; and those who have died in Christ will rise first. Then we the living, the survivors, will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet Jesus in the air. Henceforth, we shall be with Jesus unceasingly. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

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 Christ
we shall also live with Christ;
if we persevere
we shall also reign with Christ.

But if we deny him
he will deny us.

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

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love God has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God! Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized Christ.

Dearly beloved,
we are God's children now;
what we shall later be has not yet come to light.
We know that when it comes to light
we shall be like God
for we shall see God as God is.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of John.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. Whoever does not love remains in death. All who hate brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life remaining in them.

The way we came to know love was that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know of God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is Love: not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I heard a voice from heaven say to me; “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.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Revelations

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaver and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Revelations.

I, John, saw new heavens and a new earth.
The former heavens and the former earth
 had passed away, and the sea was no longer.
I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city
 coming down out of heaven from God,
 beautiful as a bride prepared to meet her husband.
I heard a loud voice from the throne cry out,
“This is God's dwelling among the people.
God shall dwell with them and they shall be God's people.
 and God shall be their God who is always with them.
God shall wipe every tear from their eyes
 and there shall be no more death or mourning,
 crying out or pain,
 for the former world has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said to me,
 “See, I make all things new!
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.
To anyone who thirsts I will give to drink without cost
 from the spring of life-giving water.
Those who win the victory shall inherit these gifts.
I will be their God and they shall be my sons and daughters.”

The Word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God