

A reading from the letter of 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me:

“Write this down: happy now are the dead who die ~~the~~ in the Lord!”

The Spirit added,

“ Yes, they shall find rest from their labors, for their good works accompany them”.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master. While we live, we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die, we die as his servants. Both in life and in death, we are the Lord's. That is why Christ died and came to life again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

We shall all have to appear before the judgment seat of God. 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."

Every one of us will have to give an account of himself before God.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of John

See what love the Father 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 the Son.

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 him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. 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.”

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

I am going to tell you a mystery.

Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed – in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality.

When the corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility, and the mortal immortality, then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory. O death where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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 second letter of Paul to Timothy

As for me, I am already being poured out as 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.

A Reading from the letter of Paul 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

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every Spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the letter of 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. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord