The Goodness of God

**Old Testament Readings**

**1) A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:17-26)**

My soul is shut out from peace; I have forgotten happiness. And now I say, ‘My strength is gone, that hope which came from Yahweh’. Brooding on my anguish and affliction is gall and wormwood. My spirit ponders it continually and sinks within me. This is what I shall tell my heart, and so recover hope: the favours of Yahweh are not all past, his kindnesses are not exhausted; every morning they are renewed; great is his faithfulness. ‘My portion is Yahweh’ says my soul ‘and so I will hope in him’.

***The Word of the Lord***

**2) A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (49,13-15)

Shout for joy, you heavens; exult, you earth! You mountains, break into happy cries! For Yahweh consoles his people and takes pity on those who are afflicted. For Zion was saying, ‘Yahweh has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me’. Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.**

***The Word of the Lord***



 **New Testament Readings**

**4) A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (5,5 - 11)**

 **These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man-though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die-but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God’s anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.**

***The Word of the Lord***

**5) A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (8,31-33,37-39)**

After saying this, what can we add? With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us--he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us. Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. As scripture promised: *For your sake we are being massacred daily, and reckoned as sheep for the slaughter.* These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 ***The Word of the Lord***

**6) A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (15,51-57)**

I will tell you something that has been secret: that we are not all going to

die, but we shall all be changed. This will be instantaneous, in the twinkling

of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead

will be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed as well, because

our present perishable nature must put on imperishability and this mortal

nature must put on immortality.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this

mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will

come true: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory?*

*Death, where is your sting?* Now the sting of death is sin, and sin

gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

***The Word of the Lord***

**7) A reading from the First Letter of St. John (3,1-2)**

 **Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God, but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.**

** ***The Word of the Lord***