Grief - Sorrow

**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 the Lord’.

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 the Lord are not all past,

his kindnesses are not exhausted;

every morning they are renewed;

great is his faithfulness.

‘My portion is the Lord’ says my soul

‘and so I will hope in him.’

The lord is good to those who trust him,

to the soul that searches for him.

It is good to wait in silence

for the Lord to save.

***The Word of the Lord***

**2) A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (25,6-9)**

 **On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations. He will destroy death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and rejoice that he has saved us.
 *The Word of the Lord***

**3) A reading from the second book of Samuel (19,1-5)**

 **The king shuddered. He went up to the room over the gate and burst into tears, and weeping said, ‘My son Absalom! My son! My son Absalom! Would I had died in your place! Absalom, my son, son!’ Word was brought to Joab, ‘The king is now weeping and mourning for Absalom’. And the day’s victory was turned to mourning for all the troops, because they learned that the king was grieving for his son. And the troops returned stealthily that day to the town, as troops creep back ashamed when routed in battle. The king had veiled his face and was crying aloud, ‘My son Absalom! Absalom, my son, my son!’.**

***The Word of the Lord***

**New Testament Readings**

**4) A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (4,13-18)**

 We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.


*The Word of the Lord*