

1 Corinthians 12: 31—13: 8a

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

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

but I shall show you a still more excellent way.

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, it 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.

The Word of the Lord.

1 John 4: 7-12

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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 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.

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 18b

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

*Brothers and sisters,
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 Lord will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.
To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

The Word of the Lord.

Philippians 4:4-9

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

Brothers and sisters,

Rejoice in the Lord always!

I say it again: Rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding

will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,

whatever is true, whatever is honorable,

whatever is just, whatever is pure,

whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,

if there is any excellence

and if there is anything worthy of praise,

think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned

and received and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

*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.”
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.

Romans 5:5-11

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

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,

*because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

For Christ, while we were still helpless,

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.

Romans 6:3-9

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

Brothers and sisters:

*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.

Short form

Romans 6:3-4,8-9

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

Bothers and sisters:

*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.

Romans 8:31b-35,37-39

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

Brothers and sisters:

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,

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?

*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.