

A reading from the book of Job

Do not human beings have a hard service on earth,
and are not their days like the days of a labourer?

Like a slave who longs for the shadow,
and like labourers who look for their wages,
so I am allotted months of emptiness,
and nights of misery are apportioned to me.

When I lie down I say, "When shall I rise?"

But the night is long,
and I am full of tossing until dawn.

My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt;
my skin hardens, then breaks out again.

My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,
and come to their end without hope.

'Remember that my life is a breath;
my eye will never again see good.

The eye that beholds me will see me no more;
while your eyes are upon me, I shall be gone.

As the cloud fades and vanishes,
so those who go down to Sheol do not come up;

they return no more to their houses,
nor do their places know them any more.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 88

Refrain: You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

All: You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

1 O Lord, God of my salvation, ♦
I have cried day and night before you.

2 Let my prayer come into your presence; ♦
incline your ear to my cry.

3 For my soul is full of troubles; ♦
my life draws near to the land of death.

4 I am counted as one gone down to the Pit; ♦
I am like one that has no strength,

5 Lost among the dead, ♦
like the slain who lie in the grave,

6 Whom you remember no more, ♦
for they are cut off from your hand.

All: You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

You have laid me in the lowest pit, ♦
in a place of darkness in the abyss.

8 Your anger lies heavy upon me, ♦
and you have afflicted me with all your waves.

9 You have put my friends far from me ♦
and made me to be abhorred by them.

10 I am so fast in prison that I cannot get free; ♦
my eyes fail from all my trouble.

All: You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

- 11 Lord, I have called daily upon you; ♦
I have stretched out my hands to you.
- 12 Do you work wonders for the dead? ♦
Will the shades stand up and praise you?
- 13 Shall your loving-kindness be declared in the grave, ♦
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?
- 14 Shall your wonders be known in the dark ♦
or your righteous deeds in the land where all is forgotten?

All: *You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.*

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an account to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.