

**A reading from the book of Lamentations**

**My soul is deprived of peace;  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
So I say, "Gone is my glory,  
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord."**

**The thought of my affliction and my homelessness  
is wormwood and gall;  
My soul continually thinks of it  
and is bowed down within me.**

**But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.**

**"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."**

**The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.**

**It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.**

**The Word of the Lord.**