

In this reading Paul bids disciples to rejoice in the reconciliation and hope which are theirs because of the sacrifice of Christ on behalf of sinners. Through faith we have justification; we are given a right relationship to God. Now even our sufferings can lead to endurance, and this to a perseverance which strengthens our hope, poured into our hearts as a gift of the Holy Spirit given to us. Hear now these words from the book of Romans.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

John 16:7-15

In our gospel Jesus promises to his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit who will guide them into all truth. The Spirit will make known things that are to come, and will glorify Jesus in that everything declared by the Spirit will be received from Jesus. All that the Father has belongs to Jesus. The Spirit, then, reveals Jesus, who himself has made the Father known. Hear now the words from the Gospel of John.

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

This is the word of the Lord. **May the reading and the hearing of your word inform our minds, comfort our souls and guide our feet.**