Lamentations 3:22-31, 33-35 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)

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. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God)
The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)
Job answered, "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, my Maker, who formed me in my mother's womb. Of earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, my Maker, who formed me in my mother's womb. Why do you pursue me, as if I were a rebel or as if I were a sinner before you? I am clean in your sight, and with you I do not commit theft. My foot is set in theWay of righteousness, and I have walked in my integrity. I have never worshipped God with falsehood; I have never taught falsehood to my lips. I have kept my words within, and my tongue has withstood my mouth. I have held my steps within my house, and my paths have been before your face. My feet have not slipped away from your paths; my steps have not been turned away from your laws. I have not known rebellion, nor turned away from your judgments. You, O God, are in the right; when I am afflicted, then I will judge, for you are with me in my7 sufferings and in my disasters you have been my helper. Send forth your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling place. For then will I understand the way of your commandments, that I may meditate on your word with my heart. I hate the way of the sinner, for I love your law. Forsake me not, for you are my helper; uphold me, and I shall live. Save your servant, for I am your servant.

Psalm 23:1-6 (The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want)
23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
24 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside stillwaters.
25 He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
26 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
27 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
28 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

New Testament Lessons

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him, consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 38-42, 54-55 (The imperishable body)
Christ has been raised from the dead. Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting? Where, O grave, your victory? For the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:6-9 (Things that are seen are temporal)
We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Gospel Lessons

John 5:24-25 (He who believes has everlasting life)
Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my words and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man."

John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to me)
Jesus said, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the day he will judge the world. Anyone who receives me receives him who sent me, but he who receives me receiveth him who sent me. For this reason I have been given authority from the Father to judge anyone, and to live forever; and I will judge anyone on the day of his coming. It is good to wait for the world."

Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robes in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great trial, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 21:1-7 (Behold, I make all things new)
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; he will be their God, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."
John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

John 14:1-6 (In my Father’s house are many mansions)
Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

8: “Morning has broken” .............................................Baumen
24: “The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended” .........................St. Clement
175: “Hail thee, festival day!” ........................................Salve festa des
180: “He is risen, he is risen!” ........................................Unser Herrscher
204: Now the green blade riseth…” ..................O fili et filiae
207: “Jesus Christ is risen today” ...............................Easter Hymn
208: Alleluia, the stife is o’er” .........................................Victory
210: “The day of resurrection!” .....................................El caloubo
238: “Blessed feasts of blessed martyrs” .........................Holy Manna
287: “For all the saints” .....................................................Stir Nunnie
376: “Joyful, joyful we adore thee” ................................Hymn to Joy
383: “Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature” ......................St. Edgwyn
390: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty!” ..........................Lobe den Herren
410: “Praise my soul, the King of heaven” ........................Lauda anima

427: “When morning gilds the skies” ..............................Lande Domini
439: “What wondrous love is this” .................................Wondrous Love
441: “In the cross of Christ I glory” ..................................Rallhan
442: “O love, how deep, how broad, how high” ..................Deus inveniunt salutem
450: “All hail the power of Jesus’ Name!” .........................Cantillation
453: “Thou art the Way” ....................................................St. James
460: “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!” .........................................Hyfrydol
473: “Lift high the cross” ...............................................Cruifler
482: “Lord of all hopefulness” .................................St. Luke
486: “Hosanna to the living Lord” .................................Hosanna
491: “I want to walk as a child of the light” ......................Houston
492: “O for a thousand tongues to sing” .........................Azeigen
494: “Crown him with many crowns” .........................Diademata
524: “I love thy kingdom, Lord” .................................St. Thomas (Williams)
539: “O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling” ...............Tidings
550: “Jesus calls; o’er the tumult” .....................................Restoration
561: “Stand up, stand up for Jesus” ...............................Morning Light
618: “Ye watchers and ye holy ones” .............................Last aus efaröen
620: “Jerusalem, my happy home” .................................Land of Rest
626: “Ye holy angels bright” .............................................Darmall’s 148th
636: “How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord” ..........Foundation
637: “How firm a foundation” ..........................................Lyons
645/6: “The King of Love my Shepherd is” ..................St. Columba
657: “Love divine, all loves excelling” ............................Hyfrydol
660: “O Master let me walk with thee” ............................Maryton
662: “Abide with me” ......................................................Eventide
675: “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound” ......................New Britain
769: “Surely it is God who saves me” .............................Thomas Merton
800: “O God, our help in ages past” ..............................St. Anne
868: “Rock of ages” ......................................................Toplady
886: “Come, thou font of every blessing” ......................Nettleton
687/688: “A mighty fortress is our God” ........................Eis feite Burg
696: “By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered” ..........Le Cénacle

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)
The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

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