

August 23, 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from the 51st Chapter of Isaiah.

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

A reading from the 12th Chapter of Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God,
which is your reasonable act of worship.
Do not be conformed to this age,
but be transformed by the renewing of the mind,
so that you may discern what is the will of God—
what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you
not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think
but to think with sober judgment,
each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
For as in one body we have many members
and not all the members have the same function,
so we, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.
We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us:
prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering;
the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement;
the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence;
the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**