

A Reading from Lamentations (3:31-36)

31 For the Lord will not reject for ever.

32 Although he causes grief, he will have compassion

according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

33 for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

34 When all the prisoners of the land are crushed under foot,

35 when human rights are perverted in the presence of the Most High,

36 when one's case is subverted—does the Lord not see it?

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Psalm: 36 (SAID TOGETHER)

¹ There is a voice of rebellion deep in the heart of the wicked; *

there is no fear of God before his eyes.

² He flatters himself in his own eyes *

that his hateful sin will not be found out.

³ The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful, *

he has left off acting wisely and doing good.

⁴ He thinks up wickedness upon his bed and has set himself

in no good way; *

he does not abhor that which is evil.

⁵ Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, *

and your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶ Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like

the great deep; *

you save both man and beast, O Lord.

⁷ How priceless is your love, O God! *

your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

⁸ They feast upon the abundance of your house; *

you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹ For with you is the well of life, *

and in your light we see light.

¹⁰ Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *

and your favor to those who are true of heart.

¹¹ Let not the foot of the proud come near me, *

nor the hand of the wicked push me aside.

¹² See how they are fallen, those who work wickedness! *

they are cast down and shall not be able to rise.

Gospel: Luke (12:22-31)

²² He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.