

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH (1:8-18)

Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband."

Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said,

"Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?

Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge;

your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she
said no more to her.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 118:8–14

⁸ It is better to rely on the Lord *
than to put any trust in flesh.

⁹ It is better to rely on the Lord *
than to put any trust in rulers.

¹⁰ All the ungodly encompass me; *
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.

¹¹ They hem me in, they hem me in on every side; *
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.

¹² They swarm about me like bees;
they blaze like a fire of thorns; *
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.

¹³ I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, *
but the Lord came to my help.

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.