

In this reading Paul bids the 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 with God. Now even our sufferings can lead to endurance, and this to a perseverance which strengthens our hope. God has shown great love for us in that, while we will still God's enemies because of sin, Christ died for us.

Listen now as I read from the book of Romans

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we 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<sup>gl</sup> 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.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

Matthew 9:35-38

In our gospel reading Jesus continues his mission of preaching, teaching, and healing, and he commissions his twelve disciples in this ministry with him.

Hear now these words from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Liturgist: This is the gospel message of our Lord and Savior

**All: May the reading and the hearing of Your word inform our minds, comfort our souls, and guide our feet.**

