Old Testament Job 19:23-27a

Whatever the circumstances, and Job has surely suffered deep distress, may we, too, trust in the Lord, knowing that it is God who is the author of salvation, even of our salvation.

A reading from the Book of Job:

Job said, "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, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 17:1-9

- 1 Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD; give heed to my <u>cry</u>; * *listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying <u>lips</u>.*
- 2 Let my vindication come forth from your <u>presence</u>; * *let your eyes be fixed on justice.*
- 3 Weigh my heart, summon me by <u>night</u>, *

 melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.
- 4 I give no offense with my mouth as <u>others do</u>; *

 I have heeded the words of <u>your lips</u>.
- 5 My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your <u>law;</u> * *in your paths my feet shall not <u>stumble</u>.*
- 6 I call upon you, O God, for you will <u>answer me</u>; *

 incline your ear to me and hear my <u>words</u>.
- 7 Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, *

 O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise up against them.
- 8 Keep me as the apple of your <u>eye</u>; *

 hide me under the shadow of your <u>wings</u>,
- 9 From the wicked who as sault me, *

 from my deadly enemies who surround me.

There are so many excuses for becoming anxious and complicating the simple work of following Jesus. May we continue to keep our eyes and hearts focused on the truth of God rather than the distractions of the evil one.

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and

sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

The Word of the Lord