

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF AMOS [5:10-15]

They hate the one who reproveth in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins ---you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.

Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 34:15-22 *Said in unison*

- ¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
- ¹⁶ The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- ¹⁷ The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.
- ¹⁸ The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
- ¹⁹ Many are the trouble of the righteous,
but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.
- ²⁰ He will keep safe all his bones;
Not one of them shall be broken.
- ²¹ Evil shall slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
- ²² The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be punished who trust in him.