

**A Reading from the Book of Lamentations**

*It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.*

Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace,  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
I tell myself my future is lost,  
all that I hoped for from the Lord.  
The thought of my homeless poverty  
is wormwood and gall;  
remembering it over and over  
leaves my soul downcast within me.

But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope:  
the favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are  
not spent;

They are renewed each morning, so great is his  
faithfulness.

My portion is the Lord says my soul; therefore I will hope  
in him.

Good is the Lord to one who waits for him, to the soul  
that seeks him;

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the  
Lord.

**The Word of the Lord**