A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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 will I 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.