

## **A Reading from the Book of Kings**

One day Elisha came to Shunem,  
where there was a woman of influence, who urged him to dine  
with her.

Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop there to dine.  
So she said to her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of  
God.

Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof  
and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp,  
so that when he comes to us he can stay there."

Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room overnight.

Later Elisha asked, "Can something be done for her?"

His servant Gehazi answered, "Yes!

She has no son, and her husband is getting on in years."

Elisha said, "Call her."

When the woman had been called and stood at the door,

Elisha promised, "This time next year  
you will be fondling a baby son."

**The Word of the Lord!**

## **A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God.

Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

**The Word of the Lord!**