

Thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1014-12)

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those  
who have fallen asleep,

so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,

so too will God, through Jesus,

bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell  
you this, on the word of the Lord,

that we who are alive,

who are left until the coming of the Lord,

will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice  
of an archangel

and with the trumpet of God,

will come down from heaven,

and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left,

will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the  
Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one  
another with these words.

*The word of the Lord.*