### The First Lesson Job 23:1-9, 16-17

### *Introduction:* A reading from the Book of Job.

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ob said:

“Today also my complaint is bitter;  
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

Oh, that I knew where I might find him,  
that I might come even to his dwelling!

I would lay my case before him,  
and fill my mouth with arguments.

I would learn what he would answer me,  
and understand what he would say to me.

Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?  
No; but he would give heed to me.

There an upright person could reason with him,  
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

If I go forward, he is not there;  
or backward, I cannot perceive him;

on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;  
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

God has made my heart faint;  
the Almighty has terrified me;

If only I could vanish in darkness,  
and thick darkness would cover my face!”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Second Lesson** Hebrews 4:12-16

### *Introduction:* A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

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he word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**