

## A reading from the book of Job

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

they were cut in the rock forever!

As for me, I know that my vindicator lives,

and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust.

I will see for myself,

my own eyes, not another's, will behold him:

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

Job 19:1, 23-27

## A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if to others, indeed, they seem punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

In the time of their judgment they shall shine  
and dart about as sparks through stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the LORD shall be their King forever.

The Word of the Lord.

[long form], Wisdom 3:1-9

## A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if to others, indeed, they seem punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings<sup>[c]</sup> he took them to himself.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

[short form], Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9

## A reading from the book of Wisdom

But the righteous one, though he die early, shall be at rest.  
For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,  
nor can it be measured in terms of years.  
Rather, understanding passes for gray hair,  
and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.  
The one who pleased God was loved,  
living among sinners, was transported—  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind  
or deceit beguile his soul;  
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right  
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.  
Having become perfect in a short while,  
he reached the fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.  
But the people saw and did not understand,  
nor did they take that consideration into account.

The Word of the Lord.

Wisdom 4: 7-14

## A reading from the book of Wisdom

But the righteous one, though he die early, shall be at rest.  
For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,  
nor can it be measured in terms of years.  
Rather, understanding passes for gray hair,  
and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.  
Having become perfect in a short while,  
he reached the fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

The Word of the Lord.

[short form] Wisdom 4: 7-9, 13-14

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts  
will provide for all peoples

On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,  
The web that is woven over all nations.

He will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

“Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us!  
This is the Lord to whom we looked;  
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 25: 6-9

## A reading from the book of Lamentations

My life is deprived of peace,  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
My enduring hope, I said,  
has perished before the LORD.

The thought of my wretched homelessness  
is wormwood and poison;  
Remembering it over and over,  
my soul is downcast.

But this I will call to mind;  
therefore I will hope:

The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted,  
his compassion is not spent;  
They are renewed each morning—  
great is your faithfulness!

The LORD is my portion, I tell myself,  
therefore I will hope in him.

The LORD is good to those who trust in him,  
to the one that seeks him;  
It is good to hope in silence  
for the LORD's deliverance.

## The Word of the Lord.

Lamentations 3: 17-26

## A reading from the prophet Daniel

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

Dan 12: 1-3

## A reading from the book of Sirach

Children, pay heed to a father's right; do so that you may live.

God sets a father in honor over his children

Those who honor their father atone for sins;

Those who honor their father are gladdened.

When they pray they are heard.

In word and deed honor your father

that his blessings may come upon you.

For a father's blessing gives a family firm roots,

Those who obey their father bring comfort to their mother.

And so, take care of your father when he is old;

grieve him not as he lives.

Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him;

revile him not all the days of his life;

Kindness to a father will not be forgotten;

it will take lasting root.

The Word of the Lord.

Sirach

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold

My chosen one with whom I am pleased.

I have formed you and I grasped you by the hand.

Do not be afraid, for I have called you by name and you are mine.

You are precious in my eyes;

You are honored and I love you.

You are my witness, my servant whom I have chosen

That people may know and believe in Me

And understand that it is I.

I am the Lord, there is no other savior but Me.

I have formed you for Myself, to sing My praises

And I am your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 43

## A reading from the book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,  
her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,  
has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil,  
all the days of her life.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to  
the needy.

She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
and she laughs at the days to come.

She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
and on her tongue is kindly counsel.

Her children rise up and praise her;  
her husband, too, extols her:

“Many are the women of proven worth,  
but you have excelled them all.”

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;  
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

### The Word of the Lord.

Prov 31

## A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to give birth, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;  
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;  
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time of war, and a time of peace.

God has made everything appropriate to its time.

Whatever God does will endure forever, there is no adding to it,  
Or taking from it.

The Word of the Lord.

Ec 4: 1-8