

FUNERAL LITURGY FIRST READING

JOB 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job:

Job said:

Oh, that my words were written down! Oh, that they were inscribed in some book with an iron stylus, or with an engraving tool cut into a rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives; who will, at last, stand on the earth; and though flesh and bone are no longer together, without my body I will see God, whom I myself will behold and whom I will see—it is God and no other! My inmost being is consumed with longing.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.



WISDOM 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom:

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment will touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; their passing away was thought an affliction, and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as we might see it, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they will be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them to be worthy. They were proved in the furnace by God; they were taken to God, as sacrificial offerings.

In the time of their visitation, they will shine; they will dart about as sparks running through stubble. They will judge nations and rule over peoples and God will be their ruler forever.

Those who trust in God will understand truth, and the faithful will abide in God in love; for grace and mercy await God's chosen ones.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

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WISDOM 4:7-14

A reading from the book of Wisdom:

When just people die, even if it is before their time, they will find rest.

It's not a long life that brings esteem to people, nor can honor be measured by the number of their years. Understanding gives value to one's gray hair, and an unsullied life seasons one's old age.

Those who pleased God in life, God loves in eternity; they are set free and no longer have to put up with sinners. Delivered, they won't have their mind twisted, nor will hypocrisy corrupt the soul—for the enticement of wickedness overshadows what is good, and the rush of desire seduces the simple soul. Because they fulfilled their life's purpose in so short a time, their life was rich and long; since their souls were so pleasing to Our God, the Most High delivered them from the wickedness that surrounded them.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.



ISAIAH 25:6-9

A reading from the book of Isaiah:

On this mountain, Our God will provide for all peoples. On this mountain, the Most high will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud covering all nations, destroying Death forever.

God will wipe away the tears from every cheek, and take away the people's shame everywhere on earth, for Our God has said so.

On that day it will be said, "This is Our God, this is the One for whose salvation we waited. Adonai is the One in whom we hoped. We exalt and we rejoice for we have been saved, for the Hand of the Most High rests on this mountain."

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

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LAMENTATIONS 3:17-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations:

My soul is devoid of peace, I have forgotten how to be happy. I say to myself, “My inner power has fled and so has my hope from Our God.” I am homeless and poverty stricken—this is wormwood and gall to me. I remember better days, and my spirit drowns even more.

But I rekindle hope within me as I bring this to mind: Our God’s love and tenderness never ends; Our God’s mercy is never spent. Each dawn they are renewed, as proof that God is still faithful.

“My portion is the Most High” says my soul; “that’s where I’ll draw my hope.” Our God is good to those who wait patiently, to those who seek God earnestly. It is good to wait in silence for the salvation of Our God.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

