

*Old
Testament
Readings*

(CHOOSE ONE FOR THE 1ST READING)

Old Testament Reading # 1

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

He then took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide
for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been superfluous and foolish
to pray for the dead.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be
absolved from their sin.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Job

Then 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.

This will happen when my skin has been stripped off,

and from my flesh I will see God:

I will see for myself,

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

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading # 3

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of worth?
Far beyond jewels is her value.
Her husband trusts her judgment; he does not lack income.
She brings him profit, not loss, all the days of her life.
She seeks out wool and flax and weaves with skillful hands.
She girds herself with strength; she exerts her arms with vigor.
She enjoys the profit from her dealings;
her lamp is never extinguished at night.
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
She is not concerned for her household when it snows,
all her charges are doubly clothed.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom;
kindly instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband, too, praises 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.
Acclaim her for the work of her hands,
and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading # 4

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes **(PRONONCUNED) Eee-Clee-See-Ass-Tees**

There is an appointed time for everything,
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.
What profit have workers from their toil?
I have seen the business that God has given
to mortals to be busied about.
God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the
timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out,
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.
I recognized that there is nothing better
than to rejoice and to do well during life.
Moreover, that all can eat and drink
and enjoy the good of all their toil—this is a gift of God.
I recognized that whatever God does will endure forever; there is no
adding to it, or taking from it.
Thus has God done that he may be revered.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading # 5

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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.
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.

Old Testament Reading # 6

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.

Old Testament Reading # 7

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples
A feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.
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.

Old Testament Reading # 8

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.

Old Testament Reading # 9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and heard this word of the Lord:
“At that time there shall arise Michael,
the great prince, guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since the nation began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some to everlasting life,
others to reproach and everlasting disgrace.
But those with insight shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord.