

First Reading

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

(Please Choose One (1) from this Section)

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A reading from the book of Job

19:1, 23 - 27

I know that my Redeemer lives.

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!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,

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

Whom I myself shall see:

 my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him,

And from my flesh I will see God;

 my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A reading from the book of Wisdom

3: 1 - 9

He accepted them as a holocaust.

The souls of the just 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 before men, indeed, they be 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 visitation they shall shine
and shall 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 READINGS

Shorter Form:

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

3:1 - 6, 9

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and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
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and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

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and his care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A reading from the book of Wisdom

4: 7 - 15

A blameless life is a ripe old age.

The just man, 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 is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved,
he who lived 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.
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

25:6a, 7 - 9

The Lord God will destroy death for ever.

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:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the Lord for whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

3:17 - 26

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my wretched homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over,
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind;
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.
Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

12:1 - 3

Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will wake.

“At that time there shall arise
 Michael, the great prince,
 guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
 since nations 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 shall live forever,
 others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

12:43 - 46

It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.

Judas [the ruler of Israel] 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.

Old Testament Readings

A reading from the Book Proverbs

31:10 - 31

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.
Like a merchant fleet, she secures her provisions from afar.
She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household, a
portion to her
 maidservants.

She picks out a field and acquires it; from her earnings she plants a
vineyard.
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 makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing.
Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of
the land.

She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts.
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
 raised.

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 Readings

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

40:28 - 31

Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is God from of old,
creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary,
and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.
He gives power to the faint,
abundant strength to the weak.
Though young men faint and grow weary,
and youths stagger and fall,
They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength,
they will soar on eagles' wings;
They will run and not grow weary,
walk and not grow faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

A reading from the Song of Songs

2:10b - 13

“Arise, my friend, my beautiful one,
and come!
For see, the winter is past,
the rains are over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of pruning the vines has come,
and the song of the turtledove is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance.
Arise, my friend, my beautiful one,
and come!

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

3:1 - 11

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.
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.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

A reading from the Book of Sirach

3:1 - 14

Children, listen to me, your father;
act accordingly, that you may be safe.
For the Lord sets a father in honor over his children
and confirms a mother's authority over her sons.
Those who honor their father atone for sins;
they store up riches who respect their mother.
Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children,
and when they pray they are heard.
Those who respect their father will live a long life;
those who obey the Lord honor their mother.
Those who fear the Lord honor their father,
and serve their parents as masters.
In word and deed honor your father,
that all blessings may come to you.
A father's blessing gives a person firm roots,
but a mother's curse uproots the growing plant.
Do not glory in your father's disgrace,
for that is no glory to you!
A father's glory is glory also for oneself;
they multiply sin who demean their mother.
My son, be steadfast in honoring your father;
do not grieve him as long as he lives.
Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him;
do not revile him because you are in your prime.
Kindness to a father will not be forgotten;
it will serve as a sin offering—it will take lasting root.

The Word of the Lord.