

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!

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

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

Who I myself shall see:

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

And from my flesh I shall see God;

My inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

(from Job 19:1, 23-27)

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

**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 us, 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 his elect.**

The Word of the Lord.

(from Wisdom 3:1-9)

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

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 this into account.

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,

and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

(from Wisdom 4:7-15)

A Reading from the Book of Sirach (pronounced S-EYE-rack)

Now I will praise those godly men, our ancestors, each in his own time.

Yet these also were godly men whose virtues have not been forgotten;

Their wealth remains in their families,

their heritage with their descendants;

Through God's covenant with them their family endures,

their posterity for their sake.

And for all time their progeny will endure,

their glory will never be blotted out;

Their bodies are peacefully laid away,

but their name lives on and on.

At gatherings their wisdom is retold,

and the assembly proclaims their praise.

The word of the Lord.

(Sir 44: 1, 10-15)

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

I, Daniel, mourned and I 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 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.

(Daniel 12:1-3)

A Reading from the Book of 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:

“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.

(from Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9)

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

She seeks wool and flax and works with willing hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

She opens her hands to the poor and reaches out to the needy.

She looks well to the ways of her household,

and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her happy;

her husband, too, and he praises her:

“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,

but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

The word of the Lord.

(Proverbs 31:10-13, 27-30)

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Micah

You have been told what is good,

and what the Lord requires of you:

Only to do the right and to love goodness,

and to walk humbly with your God.”

The Word of the Lord.

(from Micah 6:8)

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

God does not faint or grow weary, and God's knowledge is beyond scrutiny,

Giving strength to the fainting, and making vigor abound for the weak.

**Though the young faint and grow weary, and they stagger and fall,
they that hope in God will renew their strength.**

They will soar as with eagle's wings.

They will run and not grow weary, walk, and not grow faint.

The Word of the Lord.

(from Isaiah 40:28c-31)

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

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

A time to be born, a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to uproot from 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 advantage has the worker from toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for us to be busied about. God has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into our hearts, without us ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

I recognize that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life. For everyone, moreover, to eat and drink and enjoy the fruit of our labor is a gift of God. I recognize that whatever God does will endure forever; there is no adding to it or taking from it. Thus, may God be revered. What now is has already been; what is to be, already is; and God restores what would otherwise be displaced.

The Word of the Lord.

(from Ecclesiastes 3:1-15)

A Reading from the Book of Sirach (pronounced S-EYE-rack)

**For the Lord honored the father above the children,
and confirmed the right of the mother over her children.**

**Honoring one's father atones for sins,
and glorifying one's mother is like laying up treasure.**

**Those who honor their father will be gladdened by their own children,
and when they pray, they will be heard.**

**Those who glorify their father will have long life,
and those who obey the Lord will refresh their mother.**

**O child, help your father in his old age,
and do not grieve him as long as he lives;**

**Even if he is lacking in understanding, show forbearance;
in all your strength do not despise him.**

**For kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
and against your sins it will be credited to you.**

The Word of the Lord.

(from Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14)

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Rise up in splendor! Your light has come,

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples;

But upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory.

Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.

Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you:

Your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see,

Your heart shall throb and overflow,

For the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you,

The wealth of nations shall be brought to you.

No longer shall the sun be your light by day,

Nor the brightness of the moon shine upon you at night;

The Lord shall be your light forever

Your God shall be your glory.

No longer shall your sun go down,

Or your moon withdraw,

For the Lord will be your light forever,

And the days of your mourning shall be at an end.

The word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 60: 1-5, 19-20)