

# First Reading



## **C0 Ecclesiastes 3:-11**

### **A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes**

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

A time to be born, 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 advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task that God has appointed for us to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without our ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life. For all of us, moreover, to eat and drink and enjoy the fruit of all our labor—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. 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

## **C1 2 Maccabees 12:43-46**

A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees

Judas the ruler of Israel  
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 of the dead in view;  
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,  
it would have been useless  
and foolish to pray for them in death.  
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 freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord

## **C2 Job 19:1, 23-27a**

A Reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad and the Shuhite 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 shall see God;  
my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

### **C3 Wisdom 3:1-9 (Long Version)**

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 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

### **C3 Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (Short Version)**

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.  
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yet is their hope full of immortality;  
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As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
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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

## **C4 Wisdom 4:7-15**

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 is 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.

The Word of the Lord

## **C5 Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

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

## **C6 Lamentations 3:17-26**

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

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 homeless poverty  
is wormwood and poison;  
remembering it over and over,  
leaves my soul downcast within me.  
But this I will call 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 I will 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

## **C7 Daniel 12:1-3**

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 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.

## **During Easter Time: New Testament**

### **C8 (Long Version) Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him  
and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel  
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism  
that John preached,

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good and healing all those  
oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did  
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by  
hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day  
and granted that he be visible,  
not to all the people, but to us,  
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,  
who ate and drank with him  
after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify  
that he is the one appointed by God  
as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him will receive  
forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

## **C8 (Short Version) Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak saying:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him  
and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel  
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord of all.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify  
that he is the one appointed by God  
as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him will receive  
forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

## **C9 Revelation 14:13**

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say,  
"Write this: Blessed are the dead  
who die in the Lord from now on."  
"Yes," said the Spirit,  
"let them find rest from their labors,  
for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord

## **C10 Revelation 20:11-21:1**

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne  
and the one who was sitting on it.  
The earth and the sky fled from his presence  
and there was no place for them.  
I saw the dead, the great and the lowly,  
standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened.  
Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.  
The dead were judged according to their deeds,  
by what was written in the scrolls.  
The sea gave up its dead;  
then Death and Hades gave up their dead.  
All the dead were judged according to their deeds.  
Then Death and Hades  
were thrown into the pool of fire.  
(This pool of fire is the second death.)  
Anyone whose name was not found  
written in the book of life  
was thrown into the pool of fire.  
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.  
The former heaven and the former earth  
had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord

## **C11 Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7**

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.  
The former heaven and the former earth  
had passed away, and the sea was no more.  
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.  
He will dwell with them and they will be his people and  
God himself will always be with them  
as their God.  
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,  
and there shall be no more death or mourning,  
wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."  
The one who sat on the throne said,  
"Behold, I make all things new."  
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.  
To the thirsty  
I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.  
The victor will inherit these gifts,  
and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.

The Word of the Lord