**1st Reading (Old Testament) 2 Maccabees 12:43-46**

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

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 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.

**1st Reading (Old Testament) Job 19:1, 23-27**

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;

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.

**1st Reading (Old Testament) Proverbs 31:10, 12, 20, 25-26, 28-31**

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

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 praised.

Acclaim her for the work of her hands, and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

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

A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to sow, and a time to reap.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 14-15

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

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

A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to sow, and a time to reap.

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.

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:

God retrieves what has gone by.

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Ecclesiastes 3:1-9, 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

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

A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to sow, and a time to reap.

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 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.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

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

A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to sow, and a time to reap.

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.

**1st Reading (Old Testament) Wisdom 3:1-6, 9**

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.

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.

**1st Reading (Old Testament) 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 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.

**1st Reading (Old Testament) Wisdom 4:7-15**

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.

**1st Reading (Old Testament) Wisdom 6:12-16**

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom,

and she is readily perceived by those who love her,

and found by those who seek her.

She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her;

one who watches for her at dawn will not be disappointed,

for she will be found sitting at the gate.

For setting your heart on her is the perfection of prudence,

and whoever keeps vigil for her is quickly free from care;

Because she makes her rounds, seeking those worthy of her,

and graciously appears to them on the way,

and goes to meet them with full attention.

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Sirach 2:2-6

A reading from the book of Sirach

Be sincere of heart, be steadfast,
and do not be alarmed when disaster comes.

Cling to him and do not leave him,
so that you may be honored at the end of your days.

Whatever happens to you, accept it,
and in the uncertainties of your humble state, be patient,
since gold is tested in the fire,
and the chosen in the furnace of humiliation.

Trust him and he will uphold you,
Follow a straight path and hope in him.

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Sirach 3:1-15

A reading from the book of Sirach

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.

In time of trouble it will be recalled to your advantage, like warmth upon frost it will melt away your sins.

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) 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.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Isaiah 40:28-31

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Do you not know or have you not heard?

The Lord is the eternal God,
creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint nor grow weary,
and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.

He gives strength to the fainting;
for the weak he makes vigor abound.

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 as with eagles' wings;

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

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Isaiah 43:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

But now, thus says the LORD,

who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through waters, I will be with you;

through rivers, you shall not be swept away.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned,

nor will flames consume you.

For I, the LORD, am your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your savior.

I give Egypt as ransom for you,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my eyes

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you

and nations in exchange for your life.

Fear not, for I am with you;

from the east I will bring back your offspring,

from the west I will gather you.

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Isaiah 43:1-3a, 4-5a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

But now, thus says the Lord,
who created you, O Jacob,
and formed you, O Israel:

Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through the water, I will be with you;
in the rivers you shall not drown.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned;
the flames shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your savior.

Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious,
and because I love you,
I give men in return for you
and peoples in exchange for your life.

Fear not, for I am with you.

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Isaiah 49:13-16a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth,
break forth into song, you mountains.
For the Lord comforts his people
and shows mercy to his afflicted.

But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me.”

Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her womb?

Even should she forget, I will never forget you.
See, upon the palms of my hands
I have written your name;

The Word of the Lord.

**1st Reading (Old Testament) Isaiah 55:8-13**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways—oracle of the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways,

my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Yet just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down

And do not return there till they have watered the earth,

making it fertile and fruitful,

Giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats,

So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;

It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me,

achieving the end for which I sent it.

Yes, in joy you shall go forth, in peace you shall be brought home;

Mountains and hills shall break out in song before you,

all trees of the field shall clap their hands.

In place of the thornbush, the cypress shall grow, instead of nettles, the myrtle.

This shall be to the LORD’s renown,

as an everlasting sign that shall not fail.

The Word of the Lord.

**1st Reading (Old Testament) Isaiah 60:19-20**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

No longer shall the sun be your light by day,

Nor shall the brightness of the moon give you light by night;

Rather, the LORD will be your light forever,

your God will be your glory.

No longer will your sun set, or your moon wane;

For the LORD will be your light forever,

and the days of your grieving will be over.

The Word of the Lord.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt;

For they broke my covenant and
I had to show myself their master, says the Lord.

But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, says the Lord.

I will place my law within them,
and write it upon their hearts;

I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

No longer will they have need to teach
their friends and kinsmen how to know the Lord.

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord,
for I will forgive their evildoing
and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

**1st Reading (Old Testament) 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.

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.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Daniel 12:1-3

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.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Micah 6:1-2, 8

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah

Hear, then, what the Lord says:

Arise, present your plea before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice!

Hear, O mountains, the plea of the Lord,
pay attention, O foundations of the earth!

For the Lord has a plea against his people,
and he enters into trial with Israel.

You have been told, O man, 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.

1st Reading (Old Testament) Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers:

The LORD said to Moses:

Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them:

The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace![\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/numbers/6#04006026-1)

So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.

The Word of the Lord.