

FIRST READING

Old Testament #1-Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom:

-pause-

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 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.
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.

-pause-

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Old Testament #2- Ecclesiastes 3: 1-12

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes:

(eck-lees-ee-ass-tees)

-pause -

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 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 which God has appointed
for men to be busied about.
He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into their hearts,
without men's 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 in life.

-pause -

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Old Testament #3-Sirach 6: 14-17

A reading from the book of Sirach:

pause

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;
he who finds one finds a treasure.

A faithful friend is beyond price,
no sum can balance his worth.

A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy,
such as he who fears God finds;

For he who fears God behaves accordingly,
and his friend will be like himself.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Old Testament #4-Job 19: 1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job: *(jobe)*

pause

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.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Old Testament #5-Wisdom 4: 7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom:

pause

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 crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among the 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.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Old Testament #6-Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah:

pause

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!”

pause

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Old Testament #7-Lamentations 3: 17-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations:

pause

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 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.

pause

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Old Testament #8-Daniel 12: 1-3

A reading from the book of the Prophet Daniel:

pause

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 many to justice

shall be like the stars forever.

pause

The Word of the Lord.