

Reading from the Book of Job

Job answered and said:

“O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!

O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;

and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side.”

The Word of the Lord

{OLD TESTAMENT READING #2}

A Reading from the book of Wisdom

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others
they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little,
they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

In the time of their visitation
they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

But the righteous,
though they die early, will be at rest.

For old age is not honored for length of time,
or measured by number of years;
but understanding is gray hair for anyone,
and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There were some who pleased God and were loved by him,
and while living among sinners were taken up.

They were caught up so that evil
might not change their understanding
or guile deceive their souls.

For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.

Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years;
for their souls were pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness.

Yet the peoples saw and did not understand,
or take such a thing to heart,
that God's grace and mercy are
with his elect, and that he watches over his
holy ones.

The Word of the Lord

{OLD TESTAMENT READING #4}

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines.

He will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe
away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God;
we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the book of Lamentations

My soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;

I say,

“Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the LORD.
The thought of my affliction and
my homelessness is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly.
for the salvation of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

{OLD TESTAMENT READING #6}

A Reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:

"At that time Michael, the great prince,
the protector of you people, shall arise.

There shall be time of anguish,
such as has never occurred
since nations first came into existence.

But at that time your people shall be delivered,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
some to everlasting life,
and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,
and those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever."

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
took up a collection, man by man,
to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver,
and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering.

In doing this he acted very well and honorably,
taking account of the resurrection.

For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen
would rise again,
it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.

But if he was looking to the splendid reward
that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.

Therefore he made atonement for the dead,
so that they might be delivered from their sin.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading From the Prophet Isaiah

Instead of bronze I will bring you gold,
and silver in place of iron.

Instead of wood I will bring you bronze,
and iron in place of stones.

I will make peace your governor
and righteousness your ruler.

No longer will violence be heard in your land,
nor ruin or destruction within your borders,
but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

Your sun will never set again,
and your moon will wane no more;
the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your days of sorrow will end.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name, you are mine,
Should you pass through the sea, I will be with you;
or through rivers, they will not swallow you up.

Should you walk through fire, you will not be scorched
and the flames will not burn you.
For I am Yahweh, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
because you are honoured and I love you,
I give people in exchange for you,
peoples in return for your life.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you
I have created you for my glory,
And I have formed you whom I have made.
I will never forget you,
See I have carved you on the palm of my hand.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from Ecclesiastes

There is a season for everything,
a time for every occupation under heaven:
A time for giving birth,
a time for dying
A time for planting,
a time for uprooting what has been planted.
A time for killing,
a time for healing;
A time for knocking down,
a time for building.
A time for tears,
a time for laughter;
A time for mourning,
a time for dancing.
A time for throwing stones away,
a time for gathering them up.
A time for embracing,
a time to refrain from embracing.
A time for searching,
a time for losing;
A time for keeping,
a time for throwing away.
A time for tearing,
a time for sewing;
A time for keeping silent,
a time for speaking.
A time for loving,
a time for hating;
A time for war,
a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord

{OLD TESTAMENT READING #11}

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

A perfect wife - who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
From her he will derive no little profit

Advantage and not hurt she brings him
All the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,
She does her work with eager hands.
She is like a merchant vessel
Bringing her food from far away
She gets up while it is still dark
Giving her household their food
She finds her labour well worth while;
Her lamp does not go out at night.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
She opens her arms to the needy.
When she opens her mouth, she does so wisely;
On her tongue is kindly instruction.
She keeps good watch on the conduct of her household,
No bread of idleness for her.
Her sons and daughters stand up and proclaim her blessed,
Her husband, too, sings her praises:

Many women have done admirable things,
But you surpass them all!

The Word of the Lord

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 is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away.
She rises while it is still night, and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes.
Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
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.
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates

The Word of the Lord

{OLD TESTAMENT READING #13}

A reading from the book of Sirach

If you come forward to serve the Lord,
Prepare yourself for temptation.
Set your heart right and be steadfast,
And do not be hasty in time of calamity.
Hold on to God and do not depart,
That you may be honored at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you,
And in changes that humble be patient.
For gold is tested in the fire,
And acceptable people in the furnace of humiliation.
Trust in God, and god will help you;
Make your ways straight, and hope in God.

You who have awe of the Lord,
Wait for God's mercy;
And turn not aside,
Lest you fall.
You who have awe of the Lord,
Trust in God, and your reward will not fail;

You who have awe of the Lord,
Hope for the good things,
For everlasting joy and mercy will be yours.

The Word of the Lord

{OLD TESTAMENT READING #14}

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord; at the favourable time I will answer you,
On the day of salvation I will help you.
I will restore the land and assign you to the estates that lie waste.
I will say to the prisoners, 'come out',
To those who are in darkness, 'show yourselves '.

On every roadway they will graze, and each bare height shall be their pasture.
They will never hunger or thirst,
Scorching wind and sun shall never plague them;
for he who pines them will lead them
And guide them to springs of water.
I will make a highway of all the mountains,
And the high roads shall be banked up.

Some are on their way from afar,
Others from the north and the west,
Others from the land of Sinim.
Shout for joy, you heavens; exult, you earth!
You mountains, break into happy cries!
For the Lord consoles his people
And takes pity on those who are afflicted.

For Zion was saying, 'Yahweh has abandoned me,
the Lord has forgotten me'.
Does a woman forget her baby at the breast,
Or fail to cherish the child of her womb?
Yet even if these forget,
I will never forget you
See, I have carved you on the palm of my hand.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy

See, today I set before you
life and prosperity,
death and disaster.

If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God
that I enjoin on you today,
if you love Lord your God and follow his ways,
if you keep his commandments,
his laws, his customs, you will live and increase,
and the Lord your God will bless you in the land
which you are entering to make your own.

But if your heart strays,
if you refuse to listen,
if you let yourself be drawn into worshiping other gods
and serving them,
I tell you today, you will most certainly perish;
you will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan
to enter and possess.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today:
I set before you life or death,
blessing or curse.

Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live,
in the love of the Lord your God,
obeying his voice, clinging to him;
for in this your life consists,
and on this depends your long stay
in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers Abraham,
Isaac and Jacob he would give them.

The Word of the Lord

{OLD TESTAMENT READING #16}

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The hand of the lord came upon me,
And he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord
And set me down in the middle of a valley; It was full of bones.
He led me all around them;
There were very many lying in the valley,
And they were very dry.
He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?"
Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them:
O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.
Thus says the Lord God to these bones;
I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh
To come upon you, and cover you with skin,
And put breath in you, and you shall live;
And you shall know that I am the Lord.
So I prophesied as I had been commanded;
And as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise,
A rattling, and the bones came together,
Bone to its bone.
I looked, and there were sinews on them,
And flesh had come upon them,
And skin had covered them:
But there was no breath in them.
Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal -
And say to the breath; Thus says the Lord God: come from the four winds,
O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."
I prophesied as he commanded me,
And the breath came into them,
And they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel."
They say, "our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost."

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

There is in her a spirit
that is intelligent, holy,
unique, manifold, subtle,
mobile, clear, unpolluted,
distinct, invulnerable,
loving the good, keen,
irresistible, beneficent,
humane,
steadfast, sure,
free from anxiety,
all-powerful, overseeing all,
and penetrating through all spirits
that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.

For wisdom is more mobile than any motion;
because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things.

For she is a breath of the power of God,
and a pure emanation of the glory of the almighty.

The Word of the Lord