

Old Testament Reading #1

A reading from the book of Job (19:23-27)

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with 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.

Old Testament Reading #2a

(Long Form)

A reading from the book of Proverbs (31:10-31)

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household.
She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms.
She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed.
She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.
She fears not the snow for her household, all her charges are doubly clothed.
Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land.
She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel.
Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols 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.
Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Proverbs (31:10-ff.)

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.

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.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;

The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward of her labors,

and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading #3

A reading from the Book of Sirach (3:1-ff.)

Children listen to your father, do what I tell you, and so be safe;
For the Lord honors the father in his children,
and holds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins;
he who honors his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own.
He shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honors his father,
He who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.
He serves his parents as he does his Lord.
Respect your father in deed as well as word,
so that blessing may come on you from him;
Since a father's blessing makes the houses of his children firm.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-11)

There is a time for everything under heaven.
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 us to be busied about. He has made every thing 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.

The Word of the Lord.

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The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading #5

A reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-9)

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, now 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.

Old Testament Reading #6

A reading from the Book of Wisdom (4:7-15)

The just ones, though they 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 us, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

The one who pleased God was loved; those who lived among sinners were transported, snatched away, lest wickedness pervert their minds or deceit beguile their souls.

Having become perfect in a short while, they reached the fullness of a long career; for their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore He sped them 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.

Old Testament Reading #7

A reading from the book of Sirach (44:10-15)

Now will I praise those godly people,
our ancestors, each in their own time.

These were godly people 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 family 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.

Old Testament Reading #8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

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 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 saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading #9

A reading from the book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading #10

A reading from the book of Sirach (6:5-17)

When one finds a faithful friend,
His value is far beyond gold.
He is clothed with strength and dignity,
and he laughs at the days to come.
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.
Let your acquaintances be many,
But one in a thousand your faithful friend.
For he who loves his friends behaves accordingly,
and his friends will be like himself.

The Word of the Lord.