

FIRST READING:
OLD TESTAMENT
READING

Index of Readings

Old Testament Readings

- *2 Maccabees 12:43-46 *It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.*
- *Job 19:1, 23-27a *I know that my Redeemer lives.*
- Proverbs 4: 1-9 *A father invites his children to seek wisdom.*
- Proverbs 31: 10-31 *The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 *There is a time and season for everything.*
- *Wisdom 3:1-9 *Those who live a virtuous life may have a difficult time here, but God will reward them with immortality in the life to come.*
- *Wisdom 4:7-15 *A blameless life is a ripe old age.*
- Sirach 2:1-9 *God upholds those who serve Him in the many trials they encounter.*
- Sirach 4: 11-19 *Wisdom instructs her children.*
- Sirach 25: 1, 3-11 *How great is the one who finds wisdom!*
- *Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 *The Lord God will destroy death forever.*
- Isaiah 35:1-6a *The prophet gives a message of hope for those who are afflicted and afraid.*
- Isaiah 41:9-11, 13-14 *These words of reassurance were spoken to God's people during a dark time in their history and are spoken to us today.*
- Isaiah 49: 8, 14-16 *Just as a mother cannot forget her child, so God cannot forget us.*
- Isaiah 65: 17-20 *Isaiah has a vision of the new heaven and the new earth.*
- *Lamentations 3:17-26 *It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.*
- *Daniel 12:1-3 *Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*

FIRST READING
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.

FIRST READING
Job 19:1, 23-27a

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad 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.

FIRST READING
Proverbs 4: 1-9

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Hear, O children, a father's instruction,
be attentive, that you may gain understanding!
Yes, excellent advice I give you;
my teaching do not forsake.
When I was my father's child,
tender, the darling of my mother,
He taught me and said to me:
"Let your heart hold fast my words:
keep my commands, and live!
Get wisdom, get understanding!
Do not forget or turn aside from the words of my mouth.
Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;
love her, and she will safeguard you;
The beginning of wisdom is: get wisdom;
whatever else you get, get understanding.
Extol her, and she will exalt you;
she will bring you honors if you embrace her;
She will put on your head a graceful diadem;
a glorious crown will she bestow on you."

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING
Proverbs 31: 10-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

**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 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 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.
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.

**FIRST READING
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14**

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

**There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every thing 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 the sons of men to be busied about.
He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into their hearts,
without man's ever discovering,
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.
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.

FIRST READING
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 his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING
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, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved.
Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING
Sirach 2:1-9

A reading from the Book of Sirach

My son, when you come to serve the LORD, prepare yourself for trials.

Be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in time of adversity.

Cling to him, forsake him not; thus will your future be great.

Accept whatever befalls you, in crushing misfortune be patient;

For in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation.

Trust God and he will help you;

make straight your ways and hope in him.

You who fear the LORD, wait for his mercy, turn not away lest you fall.

You who fear the LORD, trust him,

and your reward will not be lost.

You who fear the LORD, hope for good things,

for lasting joy and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING
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.

FIRST READING
Isaiah 49: 8, 14-16

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

In a time of favor I answer you,
on the day of salvation I help you,
To restore the land and allot the desolate heritages,
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;
your walls are ever before me.

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING
Isaiah 65: 17-20

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Lo, I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the things of the past shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

Instead, there shall always be rejoicing
and happiness in what I create;
for I create Jerusalem to be a joy
and its people to be a delight;

I will rejoice in Jerusalem and exult in my people.
No longer shall the sound of weeping be heard there,
or the sound of crying;
no longer shall there be in it an infant
who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not round out his full lifetime;
He dies a mere youth who reaches but a hundred years.

They shall live in the houses they build,
and eat the fruit of the vineyards they plant;
they shall not build houses for others to live in,
or plant for others to eat.

As the years of a tree, so the years of my people;
and my chosen ones shall long enjoy
the produce of their hands.

They shall not toil in vain,
nor beget children for sudden destruction;
for a race blessed by the LORD are they and their offspring. Before they
call, I will answer;
while they are yet speaking, I will hearken to them.

The wolf and the lamb shall graze alike,
and the lion shall eat hay like the ox
(but the serpent's food shall be dust).
None shall hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING
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 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.

FIRST READING
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.