

FIRST READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1

A reading from the book of Job

19:1. 23–27

Job said:

‘Ah, would that these words of mine were written down,
inscribed on some monument
with iron chisel and engraving tool, cut into the rock for ever.
This I know: that my Avenger lives,
and he, the last, will take his stand on earth.
After my awaking, he will set me close to him,
and from my flesh I shall look on God.
He whom I shall see will take my part:
these eyes will gaze on him and find him not aloof.’

The Word of the Lord

2

A reading from the book of Wisdom

3:1–9

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them.
In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation;
but they are in peace.
If they experienced punishment as men see it,
their hope was rich with immortality;
slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.
God has put them to the test
and proved them worthy to be with him;
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,
and accepted them as a holocaust.
When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out;
as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.

They shall judge nations, rule over peoples,
and the Lord will be their king for ever.

They who trust in him will understand the truth,
those who are faithful will live with him in love;
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The Word of the Lord

Shorter form

A reading from the book of Wisdom

3:1–6. 9

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The Word of the Lord

3

A reading from the book of Wisdom

4:7–15

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest.
Length of days is not what makes age honourable,
nor number of years the true measure of life;
understanding, this is man's grey hairs,
untarnished life, this is ripe old age.
He has sought to please God, so God has loved him;
as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.
He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding
or treachery seduce his soul;
for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade,
and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.
Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life;
his soul being pleasing to the Lord,
he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.
Yet people look on, uncomprehending;
it does not enter their heads
that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,
and protection, his holy ones.

The Word of the Lord

4

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

25:6–9

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;

he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us.

The Word of the Lord

5

A reading from the book of Lamentations

3:17–26

My soul is shut out from peace;
I have forgotten happiness.
And now I say, 'My strength is gone,
that hope which came from the Lord'.
Brooding on my anguish and affliction
is gall and wormwood.
My spirit ponders it continually
and sinks within me.
This is what I shall tell my heart,
and so recovers hope:
the favours of the Lord are not all past,
his kindnesses are not exhausted;
every morning they are renewed;
great is his faithfulness.
'My portion is the Lord' says my soul
'and so I will hope in him.'
The lord is good to those who trust him,
to the soul that searches for him.
It is good to wait in silence
for the Lord to save.

The Word of the Lord

6

A reading from the prophet Daniel

12:1–3

I, Daniel, was doing penance when I received this message from the Lord:

‘At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.’

The Word of the Lord

7

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

12:43–45

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae, and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

In the Easter Season

1

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:

‘The truth I have now come to realise’ he said, ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

‘It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism.’ God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.’

The word of the Lord.

Shorter form

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-36.42-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:

‘The truth I have now come to realise’ he said, ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

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The word of the Lord.

2

A reading from the book of the Apocolypse

14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me, 'Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.'

The word of the Lord.

3

A reading from the book of the Apocolypse

20:11-21:1

I, John, saw a great white throne and the One who was sitting on it. In his presence, earth and sky vanished, leaving no trace. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of his throne, while the book of life was opened, and other books opened which were the record of what they had done in their lives, by which the dead were judged.

The sea gave up all the dead who were in it; -Death and Hades were emptied of the dead that were in them; and every one was judged according to the way in which he had lived. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the burning lake. This burning lake is the second death; and anybody whose name could not be found written in the book of life was thrown into the burning lake.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea.

The word of the Lord.

4

A reading from the book of the Apocolypse

21:1-7

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. 'Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new,' he said. I will give water from the well of life free to anybody who is thirsty; it is the rightful inheritance of the one who proves victorious; and I will be his God and he a son to me.'

The word of the Lord..

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Psalm is usually sung. It is a response to the Word of God which is proclaimed in the First Reading. The following are suggestions.

1

Psalm 22

**℟ℵ The Lord is my Shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
There is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
Where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
To revive my drooping spirit. ℟ℵ

He guides me along the right path;
He is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
No evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
With these you give me comfort. ℟ℵ

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
My cup is overflowing. ℟ℵ

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
All the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
For ever and ever. ℟ℵ

2

Psalm 24

6-7.17-18.20-21

℟̕ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me.
because of your goodness, O Lord. ℟̕

Relieve the anguish of my heart
and set me free from my distress.
See my affliction and my toil
and take all my sins away. ℟̕

Preserve my life and rescue me.
Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge.
May innocence and uprightness protect me:
for my hope is in you, O Lord. ℟̕

3

Psalm 26

1.4.7-9.13-14

**℟̕ I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.**

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? ℟̕

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. ℟̕

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face. ℟̕

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! R̄

4

Psalm 41

2.3.4

R̄ **My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life.**

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God. R̄

My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God? R̄

These things will I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng wild with joy. R̄

5

Psalm 62

2.3.5

R̄ **For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord, my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. R̄

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. ℣

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. ℣

You have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. ℣

6

Psalm 102.

8. 10. 13-18. Rv8

℣ **The Lord is compassion and love.**

The Lord is compassion and love,
Slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
Nor repay us according to our faults. ℣

As a father has compassion on his children,
The Lord has pity on those who fear him;
For he knows of what we are made of
He remembers that we are dust. ℣

As for man, his days are like grass;
He flowers like the flowers of the field;
The wind blows and he is gone
and his place never sees him again. ℣

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
His justice reaches out to children's children
When they keep his covenant in truth. ℣

Psalm 114

5-6; 115:10-11.15-16

**℟̕ I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living**

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.

The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me. ℟̕

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted,'
and when I said in my alarm:
'No man can be trusted.' ℟̕

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds. ℟̕

Psalm 121

**℟̕ I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'**

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. ℟̕

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. ℟̕

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
here were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David. ℟̕

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' ℟̕

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you.'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. ℟̕

9

Psalm 129

℟̕ **Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. ℟̕

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. ℟̕

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak. ℟̕

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. ℟̕

Psalm 142

℟ Lord listen to my prayer.

Lord, listen to my prayer:
turn your ear to my appeal.
You are faithful, you are just; give answer.
Do not call your servant to judgment
for no one is just in your sight. ℟

I remember the days that are past:
I ponder all your works.
I muse on what your hand has wrought
and to you I stretch out my hands.
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you. ℟

Lord, make haste and give me answer;
for my spirit fails within me.
In the morning let me know your love
for I put my trust in you. ℟

Teach me to do your will
for you, O Lord, are my God.
Let your good spirit guide me
in ways that are level and smooth. ℟