

# 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

*3:1–6. 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.  
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

### 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

# FIRST READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

## In the Easter Season

### 1

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.

‘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, 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.

### 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.

# 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

**℟ 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. ℟

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. ℟

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

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. ℟

**Psalm 26****1.4.7-9.13-14**

**R̄ 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? R̄

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. R̄

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. R̄

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

**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?  ℟̕

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.  ℟̕

5

**Psalm 62**

**2.3.5**

℟̕           **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.  ℟̕

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.  ℟̕

**Psalm 102.****8. 10. 13-18. Rv8****℟ℵ 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. ℟ℵ

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. ℟ℵ

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. ℟ℵ

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. ℟ℵ

**Psalm 114****5-6; 115:10-11.15-16****℟ℵ 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. ℟ℵ

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

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.   ℞

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.   ℞

## SECOND READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

### 3

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3–4.8–9

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

The Word of the Lord

### 5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31–35. 37–39

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us — he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us. Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this :neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and he love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

## 6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

14:7–12

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life — it is the Lord who speaks — every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

The Word of the Lord

## 8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul  
to the Corinthians

15:51–57

I will tell you something that has been secret: that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed. This will be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed as well, because our present perishable nature must put on imperishability and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of flesh is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

## 11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3:20–21

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

The Word of the Lord

## 12

A reading from the first letter of St Paul  
to the Thessalonians 4:13–18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord

## 13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 2:8–13

Remember the Good News that I carry, ‘Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David’; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal —but they cannot chain up God’s news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it. Here is a saying that you can rely on: If we have died with him, then we shall live with him. If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him. If we disown him, then he will disown us. We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self.

The Word of the Lord

## 14

A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1–2 .

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord

# GOSPEL READING

## 1

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, you whom my Father has blessed,  
says the Lord;  
take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you  
since the foundation of the world.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew *5:1–12*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.  
Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.  
Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.  
Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.  
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth;  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom  
to mere children.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew *11:25–30*

Jesus exclaimed, ‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son;  
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Alleluia!

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. ‘It is nearly evening,’ they said, ‘and the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, ‘Yes it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord

## 11

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, you whom my Father has blessed,  
says the Lord;  
take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you  
since the foundation of the world.

Alleluia!

Jesus said to the Jews:

I tell you most solemnly,  
whoever listens to my words,  
and believes in the one who sent me  
has eternal life;  
without being brought to judgement  
he has passed from death to life.

I tell you most solemnly,  
the hour will come — in fact it is here already —  
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,  
and all who hear it will live.

For the Father, who is the source of life,  
has made the Son the source of life;  
and, because he is the Son of Man,  
has appointed him supreme judge.

Do not be surprised at this,  
for the hour is coming  
when the dead will leave their graves  
at the sound of his voice;  
those who did good will rise again to life;  
and those who did evil, to condemnation.  
I can do nothing by myself;  
I can only judge as I am told to judge,  
and my judging is just,  
because my aim is to do not my own will,  
but the will of him who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord

## 12

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord,  
that I should lose nothing  
of all that he has given me,  
and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Alleluia!

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘All that the Father gives me will come to me,  
and whoever comes to me  
I shall not turn him away;  
because I have come from heaven,  
not to do my own will,  
but to do the will of the one who sent me.  
Now the will of him who sent me  
is that I should lose nothing  
of all that he has given to me,  
and that I should raise it up on the last day.  
Yes, it is my Father’s will  
that whoever sees the Son and believes in him  
shall have eternal life,  
and that I shall raise him up on the last day.’

The Gospel of the Lord

### 13

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread  
which has come down from heaven,  
says the Lord.  
Anyone who eats this bread  
will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Jesus said to the crowd:

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;  
and the bread that I shall give  
is my flesh, for the life of the world.

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied:

‘I tell you most solemnly,  
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink his blood,  
you will not have life in you.  
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood  
has eternal life,  
and I shall raise him up on the last day.  
For my flesh is real food  
and my blood is real drink.  
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
lives in me and I live in him.  
As I, who am sent by the living Father,  
myself draw life from the Father,  
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.  
This is the bread come down from heaven;  
not like the bread our ancestors ate:  
they are dead,  
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

The Gospel of the Lord

## 14

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life,  
says the Lord:  
whoever believes in me will never die.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*11:21-27*

Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you’. ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day’. Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.  
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me  
will never die.  
Do you believe this?

Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,  
the one who was to come into this world.'

The Gospel of the Lord

## 16

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are those who die in the Lord!  
Now they can rest for ever after their work,  
since their good deeds go with them.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*12:23-28*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Now the hour has come  
for the Son of Man to be glorified.  
I tell you, most solemnly,  
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single grain;  
but if it dies,  
it yields a rich harvest.  
Anyone who loves his life loses it;  
anyone who hates his life in this world  
will keep it for the eternal life.  
If a man serves me,  
he must follow me,  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.  
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.  
Now my soul is troubled.  
What shall I say:  
Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.  
Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again’.

The Gospel of the Lord

## 17

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father’s will, says the Lord,  
that whoever believes in the Son  
shall have eternal life,  
and that I shall raise him up on the last day.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*14:1-6*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Trust in God still, and trust in me.  
There are many rooms in my Father’s house;  
if there were not, I should have told you.  
I am going now to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,  
I shall return to take you with me;  
so that where I am  
you may be too.  
You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way? Jesus said:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord,  
that I should lose nothing  
of all that he has given to me,  
and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*17:24-26*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Father,  
I want those you have given me  
to be with me where I am,  
so that they may always see the glory  
you have given me  
because you loved me  
before the foundation of the world.  
Father, Righteous One,  
the world has not known you,  
but I have known you,  
and these have known  
that you have sent me.  
I have made your name known to them  
and will continue to make it known,  
so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,  
and so that I may be in them.

The Gospel of the Lord

That very same day, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then answered 'About Jesus of Nazareth, who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive.

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. .And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight.

The Gospel of the Lord