

## **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 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.**

## **A Reading from the Book of Job**

Job answered 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 into 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**

## **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 in the eyes of 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 around 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.....**

#3 (Wisdom 3:1-9 (longer version))

## **A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The just one, 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 passes for gray hair,  
    and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.  
The one who pleased God was loved,  
    living among sinners, was transported—  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind  
    or deceit beguile his soul;  
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right  
    and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.  
Having become perfect in a short while,  
    he reached the fullness of a long career;  
    for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,  
    therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.  
But the people saw and did not understand,  
    nor did they take that consideration into account.

The Word of the Lord

## **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...**

## **A Reading from the Book of Daniel**

I, Daniel, mourned and I 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.**

## **A Reading from the Book of Proverbs**

When one finds a worthy woman, her value is beyond pearls.  
Her family, entrusting their hearts to her, has an unfailing prize.

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

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to  
the needy.

She enjoys the success of all her dealing.

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.

She watches the conduct of her household and eats not her food in  
idleness.

Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her  
saying:

“Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled  
them all.”

Charm is deceptive and beauty does not last; the woman who fears  
the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works bring her praise.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A Reading from the Book of Sirach:**

The Lord honors a father above his children, and he confirms a mother's right over her children.

Those who honor their father atone for sins, and those who respect their mother are like those who lay up treasure.

Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children, and when they pray they will be heard.

Those who respect their father will have a long life, and those who honor their mother obey the Lord.

Honor your father by word and deed, that his blessing may come upon you. For a father's blessing strengthens the houses of the children.

My child, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if his mind fails, be patient with him;

For kindness to a father will not be forgotten and will be credited to you against your failings;

In the day of your distress it will be remembered in your favor like frost in fair weather, your sins will melt away.

## **The Word of the Lord.**



## **A Reading from the Prophet Micah**

“This is what God asks of you, only this:

To act justly,

To love tenderly,

And to walk humbly with your God.”

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes**

There is an appointed time for everything,  
And a time for every concern 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 hurt 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 embracing.  
A time to seek and a time to lose;  
A time to hold tight and a time to let go.  
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 refrain from loving;  
A time of war and a time of peace.

**The Word of the Lord**

## **A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

God does not faint or grow weary,  
    And God's knowledge is beyond scrutiny,  
Giving strength to the fainting  
    And making vigor abound for the weak.

Though the young faint and grow weary,  
    And they stagger and fall,  
They who hope in God will renew their strength.

They will soar as with eagles' wings.  
They will run and not grow weary,  
    Walk and not grow faint.

## **The Word of the Lord**

Isaiah 40:28 – 31

## **A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

But now, thus says the Lord,

Who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel:

Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name:

You are Mine.

When you pass through the water,

I will be with you;

In the rivers you will not drown.

When you walk through fire,

You shall not be burned;

The flames shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord, your God,

The Holy One of Israel, your Savior,

Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious,

And because I love you.

Do not be afraid – I am with you!

**The Word of the Lord**