

## **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**1**

A reading from the book of Job.

19:1, 23-27

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 in rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my redeemer 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.

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 humanity, 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 a sacrificial offering 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.

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

4:7-15

The just person, 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 honorable crown for all God's people, and a pure life, the attainment of old age. They who pleased God were loved; they who live among sinners was transported; snatched away, lest wickedness pervert their mind or deceit, affect their soul.

For the witchery of worthless things obscures what is right and the movement of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, they reach the fullness of a long career; for their souls were pleasing to the Lord. Therefore, they ran 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.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 25:6a, 7-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all people. 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 for he has saved us!”

The word of the Lord.

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.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**6**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

3:1-11

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 for all to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without one's ever discovering, from the beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Proverbs. 31:10-13, 19-20,30-31

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 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.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**8**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah. 1:4-10

The word of the Lord came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. “Ah, Lord God!” I said, “I know not how to speak; I am too young.”

But the Lord answered me, “Say not, I am too young. To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you”, says the Lord.

Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying, “See, I place my words in your mouth! This day I set you over nations and over kingdoms, to root up and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant.”

The word of the Lord.