

Old Testament Readings

OT 1

A Reading from the Book of Job

Then 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 the 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.

OT 2

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

God formed Adam to be imperishable;
the image of His own nature He made him.
But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world,
and those who are in his possession experience it.

But the souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died;
and their departure was thought an affliction,
and their going from us to be their destruction.
But they are in peace.

For if in the sight of mortals, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Having been disciplined a little, they shall receive great good,
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 elect,
and He watches over His holy ones.

The Word of the Lord.

OT 3

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

But the just man, though He die early, shall be at rest.
For old age is not honored for length of time,
nor measured by number of years;
but understanding is gray hair for us,
and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There was one who pleased God and was loved by him,
and while living among sinners he was taken up;
Was caught up lest evil change his understanding
or guile deceive his soul.

For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.
Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years;
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
this into account.
Because grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care
is with His elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OT 4

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain, the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples
A feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

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.

OT 5

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.

OT 6

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.

OT 7

A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees

He then 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.

OT 8

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

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 appointed toil and labor? I have seen the business that God has given to the offspring of Adam to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time;

He has also put eternity into the minds of Adam's children, yet even so, they cannot discover what God has done from the beginning to the end.

I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; also that it is God's gift to humanity that every one should eat and drink and take pleasure in the results of all labors.

I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor can anything be taken from it; God has made it so, in order that we should be in awe before Him.

That which is, already has been;
That which is to be, already has been;
and God seeks that which has been driven away.

The Word of the Lord.