

Old Testament Readings

Old Testament #1

Job 19: 23-27a

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 in the 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.

Old Testament #2

Wisdom 3: 1-9

#2B *[For short form, omit bracketed text.]*

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 before others, 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 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.

Old Testament Readings

Old Testament #3

Wisdom 4: 7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The just man, 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 is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived 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 this into account.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament #4

Isaiah 25: 6-9

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.

Old Testament Readings

Old Testament #5

Lamentations 3: 17-26

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.

Old Testament #6

Daniel 12: 1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet 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.

Old Testament Readings

Old Testament #7

2 Maccabees 12: 43-46

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
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 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.

Old Testament #8

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

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 give birth, 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 profit have workers from their toil?
I have seen the business that God has given to mortals
to be busied about.
God has made everything appropriate to its time,
but has put the timeless into their hearts
so they cannot find out, from beginning to end,
the work which God has done.
The word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

Old Testament #9

Proverbs 31: 10-12, 17-18, 20, 25-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond jewels is her value.
Her husband trusts her judgment; he does not lack income.
She brings him profit, not loss, all the days of her life.
She girds herself with strength; she exerts her arms with vigor.
She enjoys the profit from her dealings;
her lamp is never extinguished at night.
She reaches out her hands to the poor
and extends her arms to the needy.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom;
kindly instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband, too, praises her:
Many are the women of proven worth,
but you have excelled them all.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Acclaim her for the work of her hands,
and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament #10

Isaiah 35: 3-6a, 10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak.
Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense, he comes to save you.
Then the eyes of the blind shall see,
and the ears of the deaf be opened;
Then the lame shall leap like a stag,
and the mute tongue sing for joy.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy;
They meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

Old Testament #11

Isaiah 41: 8-10, 13, 14b

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

You, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen,
offspring of Abraham my friend –
You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth
and summoned from its far-off places,
To whom I have said, You are my servant;
I chose you, I have not rejected you –
Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God.
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
For I am the LORD your God, who grasp your right hand;
it is I who say to you, Do not fear, I will help you.
I will help you – oracle of the LORD;
the Holy One of Israel is your redeemer.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament #12

Isaiah 49: 8, 14-16a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: In a time of favor I answer you,
on the day of salvation I help you,
I form you and set you as a covenant for the people,
To restore the land and allot the devastated heritages.
But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget, I will never forget you.
See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you.

The word of the Lord.

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Old Testament #13

Isaiah 52: 7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the one bringing good news,
Announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing
salvation,
saying to Zion, "Your God is King!"
Listen! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy,
For they see directly, before their eyes,
the LORD's return to Zion.
Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem!
For the LORD has comforted his people,
has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations;
All the ends of the earth can see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

Old Testament #14

Isaiah 61: 1-3

A reading from the book of prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God;
To comfort all who mourn;
To place on those who mourn in Zion
a diadem instead of ashes,
To give them oil of gladness instead of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of justice,
the planting of the Lord to show his glory.
The word of the Lord.

Old Testament #15

Sirach 2: 1-9

A reading from the book of Sirach

My child, when you come to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for trials.
Be sincere of heart and steadfast,
and do not be impetuous in time of adversity.
Cling to him, do not leave him,
that you may prosper in your last days.
Accept whatever happens to you;
in periods of humiliation be patient.
For in fire gold is tested,
and the chosen, in the crucible of humiliation.
Trust in God, and he will help you;
make your ways straight and hope in him.
You that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy,
do not stray lest you fall.
You that fear the Lord, trust in him,
and your reward will not be lost.
You that fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.
The word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

Old Testament #16A

Sirach 44: 1-7, 10-15 (NAB)

A reading from the book of Sirach

I will now praise the godly, our ancestors, in their own time,
The abounding glory of the Most High's portion,
 his own part, since the days of old.
Subduers of the land in kingly fashion,
 renowned for their might,
Counselors in their prudence, seers of all things in prophecy,
Resolute princes of the flock, lawgivers and their rules,
 Sages skilled in composition, authors of sharp proverbs,
Composers of melodious psalms, writers of lyric poems;
Stalwart, solidly established, at peace in their own estates—
All these were glorious in their time, illustrious in their day.
Yet these also were godly;
 their virtues have not been forgotten.
Their wealth remains in their families,
 their heritage with their descendants.
Through God's covenant their family endures,
 and their offspring for their sake.
And for all time their progeny will endure,
 their glory will never be blotted out;
Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives on and
on.
At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
 and the assembly proclaims their praises.
The word of the Lord.

Old Testament #16B

Sirach 44: 1-8, 10-15 (NJB)

A reading from the book of Sirach

Now let us praise illustrious men,
 our ancestors in their successive generations.
The Lord has created an abundance of glory
 and displayed his greatness from earliest times.
Some wielded authority as kings
 and were renowned for their strength;
Others were intelligent advisers and uttered prophetic sayings.
Others directed the people by their advice,
 by their understanding of the popular mind,
and by the wise words of their teaching;
 others composed musical melodies and set down ballads;
others were rich and powerful,
 living peacefully in their homes.
All these were honored by their contemporaries
 and were the glory of their day.
Some of them left a name behind them,
 so that their praises are still sung.
Here is a list of illustrious men
 whose good works have not been forgotten.
 In us there remains a rich inheritance born of them.
We stand by their covenants of the generous,
 and, thanks to them, so will our children's children.
The generous will last forever, their glory will not fade.
Their bodies have been buried in peace,
 and their name lives on for all generations.
The peoples will proclaim their wisdom,
 the assembly will celebrate their praises.
The word of the Lord.