

First Reading

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

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 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.

Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Job 19: 1, 23-26

A reading from the Book of Job:

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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 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.

Thanks be to God!

First Reading *Wisdom 3: 1-9*

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 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 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.

Thanks be to God!

First Reading *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 obscure 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.

Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Isaiah 25: 6,7-9

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 the 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.

Thanks be to God!

First Reading *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.

Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Daniel 12: 1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel:

In those days, 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 of 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.

Thanks be to God!

First Reading *Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8,11*

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes: (EE-KLEE-Z-ASTEES)

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 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 men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

First Reading *Proverbs*

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

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.

Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar.
She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household.
She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms.

She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed.
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.
She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are double clothed.

She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing.
Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the
land.
She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts.
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:
“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.
Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!