

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

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.
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.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, 14 - 15

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes:

There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven:

A time for giving birth,
a time for dying;
a time for planting,
a time for uprooting what has been planted.

A time for killing.
a time for healing;
a time for knocking down,
a time for building.

A time for tears,
a time for laughter;
a time for mourning,
a time for dancing.
a time for throwing stones away,
a time for gathering them up;
a time for embracing,
a time to refrain from embracing.

A time for searching,
a time for losing;
a time for keeping,
a time for throwing away.

A time for tearing,
a time for sewing;
a time for keeping silent,
a time for speaking.

A time for loving, a time for hating;
A time for war, a time for peace.

I know that whatever God does endures forever.

Nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it.

God has done this so all should stand in awe before Him.

The Word of the Lord.

Wisdom 3: 1-6, 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 seem, 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.

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.

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.

First Reading: #5

Isaiah 25:6a, 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 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.

Isaiah 40: 1-2, 9-11

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;

Indeed, she has received from the
hand of the Lord
double for all her sins.

Go up onto a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!

Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
here is our God!

Here comes with power
the Lord God,
who rules by his strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 66: 12-13

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

For this what the Lord says:

“I will spread prosperity over her

like a river,

And the wealth of the nations

like an overflowing torrent.

As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms,

and fondled in her lap;

As a mother comforts her child,

so I will comfort you;

In Jerusalem you shall find you comfort.”

The Word of the Lord.

Jeremiah 29: 10-14

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

I [will] visit you and fulfill for you my promise
to bring you back to this place.

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare, not for woe!

Plans to give you a future full of hope.

When you call me, when you go to pray to me,
I will listen to you.

When you look for me, you will find me.

Yes, when you seek me with all your heart,
you will find me with you, says the Lord

The Word of the Lord.