

## **A reading from the Book of Job**

Job 19:1, 23-26

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.

## **A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

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 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.

## **A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

Wisdom 4:7-15

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes notwith 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.

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 Isaiah**

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

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.

## **A reading from the Book of Lamentations**

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.

## **A reading from the Book of Daniel**

Daniel 12:1-3

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.

## **A reading from the second Book of Maccabees**

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

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 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.

## **A reading from the book of Jeremiah**

Jeremiah 29:11-14

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, and I will change your lot; I will gather you together from all the nations and all the places to which I have banished you, says the LORD, and bring you back to the place from which I have exiled you.

The Word of the Lord.



## **A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Isaiah 35:1-6

The desert and the parched land will exult;  
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.

They will bloom with abundant flowers,  
and rejoice with joyful song.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

They will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble,  
make firm the knees that are weak.

Say to those whose hearts are frightened:  
Be strong, fear not!

Here is your God,  
he comes with vindication;

With divine recompense, he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,  
The ears of the deaf be cleared.

Then will the lame leap like a stag,  
then the tongue of the dumb will sing.

The Word of the Lord

## **A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes**

Ecclesiastes: 3:1-8

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher,

Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.”

What advantage does man have in all his work

Which he does under the sun?

A generation goes and a generation comes,

But the earth remains forever.

Also, the sun rises and the sun sets;

And [e]hastening to its place it rises there again.

Blowing toward the south,

Then turning toward the north,

The wind continues swirling along;

And on its circular courses the wind returns.

All the rivers flow into the sea,

Yet the sea is not full.

To the place where the rivers flow,

There they flow again.

All things are wearisome;

Man is not able to tell it.

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,

Nor is the ear filled with hearing.

That which has been is that which will be,

And that which has been done is that which will be done.

So there is nothing new under the sun.

Is there anything of which one might say,

“See this, it is new”?

Already it has existed for ages

Which were before us.

There is no remembrance of earlier things;

And also of the later things which will occur,

There will be for them no remembrance

Among those who will come later still.

The Word of the Lord.

## **A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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.

The Word of the Lord.

## **A reading from the Book of Proverbs**

Proverbs 31: 1-9

What, O my son?

And what, O son of my womb?

And what, O son of my vows?

Do not give your strength to women,

Or your ways to that which destroys kings.

It is not for kings, O Lemuel,

It is not for kings to drink wine,

Or for rulers to desire strong drink,

For they will drink and forget what is decreed,

And pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

Give strong drink to him who is perishing,

And wine to him whose life is bitter.

Let him drink and forget his poverty

And remember his trouble no more.

Open your mouth for the mute,

For the rights of all the unfortunate.

Open your mouth, judge righteously,

And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

The Word of the Lord.

## **A reading from the Book of Proverbs**

Proverbs 31:25-31

Strength and dignity are her clothing,

And she smiles at the future.

She opens her mouth in wisdom,

And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

She looks well to the ways of her household,

And does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and bless her;

Her husband also, and he praises her, saying:

“Many daughters have done nobly,

But you excel them all.”

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,

But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

Give her the product of her hands,

And let her works praise her in the gates.

The Word of the Lord.

## **A reading from the first Book of Kings**

1 Kings 3: 5-12

In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, “Ask what you wish Me to give you.

Then Solomon said, “You have shown great loving kindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. “Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. “Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. “So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?

It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. God said to him, “Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.

The Word of the Lord.

## **A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Is 54: 5-14

For your husband is your Maker,  
Whose name is the Lord of hosts;  
And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,  
Who is called the God of all the earth.

For the Lord has called you,  
Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,  
Even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected,"  
Says your God.

For a brief moment I forsook you,  
But with great compassion I will gather you.

In an outburst of anger  
I hid My face from you for a moment,  
But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you,  
Says the Lord your Redeemer.

For this is like the days of Noah to Me,  
When I swore that the waters of Noah  
Would not flood the earth again;  
So I have sworn that I will not be angry with you  
Nor will I rebuke you.

For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake,  
But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you,  
And My covenant of peace will not be shaken,"  
Says the Lord who has compassion on you.

O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted,  
Behold, I will set your stones in antimony,  
And your foundations I will lay in sapphires.  
Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies,  
And your gates of crystal,  
And your entire wall of precious stones.



All your sons will be [i]taught of the Lord;  
And the well-being of your sons will be great.  
In righteousness you will be established;  
You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear;  
And from terror, for it will not come near you.

The Word of the Lord.

## **A reading from the Book of Ezekiel**

Ez 36: 16-17a, 18-28

The word of the LORD came to me saying: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in its land, they defiled it with their behavior and their deeds. Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols. Also I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them. When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name, because it was said of them, ‘These are the people of the Lord; yet they have come out of His land.’ But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.

Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord,” declares the Lord God, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Baruch

Baruch 3: 9-15, 32-38; 4:1-4

Hear, Israel, the commandments of life:

listen, and know prudence!

How is it, Israel, that you are in the land of your foes,

grown old in a foreign land,

Defiled with the dead, counted among those destined for Hades?

You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom!

Had you walked in the way of God, you would have dwelt in enduring peace.

Learn where prudence is, where strength, where understanding;  
That you may know also where are length of days, and life, where light of the eyes, and peace.

Who has found the place of wisdom?

Who has entered into her treasuries?

But the one who knows all things knows her;

he has probed her by his knowledge—

The one who established the earth for all time, and filled it with four-footed animals,

Who sends out the lightning, and it goes, calls it, and trembling it obeys him;

Before whom the stars at their posts shine and rejoice.

When he calls them, they answer, “Here we are!”

shining with joy for their Maker.

Such is our God; no other is to be compared to him:

He has uncovered the whole way of understanding,

and has given her to Jacob, his servant, to Israel, his beloved.

Thus she has appeared on earth,

is at home with mortals.

She is the book of the precepts of God, the law that endures forever;  
All who cling to her will live, but those will die who forsake her.  
Turn, O Jacob, and receive her: walk by her light toward splendor.  
Do not give your glory to another, your privileges to an alien nation.  
Blessed are we, O Israel; for what pleases God is known to us!

The Word of the Lord.

## **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Is 55:1-11

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!

You who have no money, come, buy grain and eat;

Come, buy grain without money, wine and milk without cost!

Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what does not satisfy?

Only listen to me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare.

Pay attention and come to me; listen, that you may have life.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, the steadfast loyalty promised to David.

As I made him a witness to peoples, a leader and commander of peoples,

So shall you summon a nation you knew not, and a nation that knew you not shall run to you,

Because of the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake their way, and sinners their thoughts;

Let them turn to the Lord to find mercy, to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways—  
oracle of the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Yet just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down

And do not return there, till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful,

Giving seed to the one who sow, and bread to the one who eats,

So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;

It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me,  
achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.

## **A reading from the Book of Proverbs**

Proverbs 31:10-31

A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

The heart of her husband trusts in her,

and he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good, and not harm,

all the days of her life.

13 She seeks wool and flax,

and works with willing hands.

She is like the ships of the merchant,

she brings her food from far away.

She rises while it is still night

and provides food for her household

and tasks for her servant-girls.

She considers a field and buys it;

with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

She girds herself with strength,

and makes her arms strong.

She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.

Her lamp does not go out at night.

She puts her hands to the distaff,

and her hands hold the spindle.

She opens her hand to the poor,

and reaches out her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid for her household when it snows,

for all her household are clothed in crimson.

She makes herself coverings;

her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Her husband is known in the city gates,

taking his seat among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she supplies the merchant with sashes.  
Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
She looks well to the ways of her household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and call her happy;  
her husband too, and he praises her:  
“Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.”  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.