

First Reading (Old Testament) Reading Choice

Please choose one

OT1 – Job 19:13-26

A Reading from the Book of Job

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.

OT2A – 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 the people, 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, God proved them, and as sacrificial offerings God 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 God shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love; because grace and mercy are with God and his holy ones, and God's care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OT2B – Wisdom 3:1-6,9

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

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The Word of the Lord.

OT3 – Wisdom 4:7-15

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he dies 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. They who pleased God were loved; they who lived among sinners were transported — snatched away, lest wickedness pervert their minds or deceit beguile their souls; 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, they reached the fullness of a long career; for their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped them 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.

OT4 – Daniel 12:1-3

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.

OT5 – Proverbs 31:10-31

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

A perfect woman, who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Advantage and not hurt she brings her family all the days of her life. She is always busy with fabric and yarn. She does her work with eager hands. She gets up while it is still dark, giving her household their food. She puts her back into her work and shows how strong her arms can be. She finds her labor well worth while. Her lamp does not go out at night. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Snow may come, she has no fear for her family with all her household warmly clothed.

She makes her own quilts. She is dressed with clothes of her own making. She is clothed in strength and dignity. When she opens her mouth she does so wisely. On her tongue is kindly instruction.

Her sons stand up and proclaim her blessed, her daughters too, sing her praise. Charm is deceitful and beauty empty. The woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for and let her know your peace and love.

The Word of the Lord.

OT6 – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

A reading from the book of (e-CLEE-see-as-tees)

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.

The Word of the Lord.

OT7 – Sirach 44:1,8,10-15

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Now will I praise those godly men, our ancestors, each in his own time. Some of them have left behind a name and men recount their praiseworthy deeds.

Yet these also were godly men, whose virtues have not been forgotten. Their wealth remains in their families, their heritage with their descendants. Through God's covenant with them their family endures, their posterity for their sake.

And for all time their descendants will endure, their Glory will never be blotted out. Their bodies are peacefully laid away, but their name lives on and on. At gatherings their wisdom is retold, and the assembly proclaims their Praise.

The Word of the Lord.

OT8 – Isaiah 60:1-5,19-20

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Rise up in splendor! Your light has come, The glory of the Lord shines upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory.

Nations shall walk by your light, and Kings by your shining radiance.

Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow.

For the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of the nations shall be brought to you. No longer shall the sun be your light by day, nor the brightness of the moon shine upon you at night: the Lord shall be your light forever, your God shall be your glory.

No longer shall your sun go down, or your moon withdraw, for the Lord will be your light forever, and the days of your mourning shall be at an end.

The Word of the Lord

OT9 – Jeremiah 29:10-14

A Reading from the book of Jeremiah

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

The Word of the Lord.