

## **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.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.**

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one with whom I am pleased.

Upon him I have put my spirit;  
he shall bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry out, nor shout,  
nor make his voice heard in the street.

A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.

He will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow dim or be bruised  
until he establishes justice on the earth;  
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and its produce,  
Who gives breath to its people  
and spirit to those who walk on it:

I, the LORD, have called you for justice,  
I have grasped you by the hand;  
I formed you, and set you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring out prisoners from confinement,  
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

I am the LORD, LORD is my name.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A Reading from the Book of Prophet Micah**

But as for me, I will look to the LORD,

I will wait for God my savior;

my God will hear me!

Though I have fallen,

I will arise;

though I sit in darkness,

the LORD is my light.

I will endure

until He brings me forth to the light;

I will see his righteousness.

## **The Word of the Lord**

## **A reading from 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.**

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

This I will call to mind;

therefore I will hope:

the LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted,

his compassion is not spent;

they are renewed each morning—

great is your faithfulness!

The LORD is my portion, I tell myself,

therefore I will hope in him.

The LORD is good to those who trust in him,

to the one that seeks him;

it is good to hope for the LORD's deliverance.

## **The Word of the Lord**

## **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 be assured; they are in peace.

They shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tested them  
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he purified them,  
and as sacrificial offerings  
he took them upon himself.

Those who trust in God 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 people.

**The Word of the Lord.**

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

My child, when you come to serve the Lord,  
Cling to him, do not leave him,  
that you may prosper in your last days.

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.

Consider the generations long past and see:  
has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed?

Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken?  
Has anyone called upon him and been ignored?

For the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

## **The Word of the Lord**

**A reading from the book of Proverbs**

When one finds a worthy wife,  
her value is far beyond jewels.  
Her husband trusts her judgment;  
She brings him profit, not loss,  
all the days of her life.

She rises while it is still night,  
and distributes food to her household,  
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.

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**