

FIRST READINGS Please Pick one reading

1.

Reading I Ecclesiastes 3:1-12

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 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.

I have considered the task which God has appointed for people to be busied about. God has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without them ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

2.

Reading I 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 our 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.”

3.

Reading I 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.

4.

Reading I Isaiah 61:10-11

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

I rejoice heartily in the Lord,

in my God is the joy of my soul;

For he has clothed me with a robe of salvation,

and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,

Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,

like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

As the earth brings forth its plants,

and a garden makes its growth spring up,

So will the Lord God make justice and praise spring

before all nations.

5.

Reading I Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

A reading from 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.
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.

6.

Reading I Isaiah 25:6a; 7-9

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

On this mountain of 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 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 from whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

7.

Reading I 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.
Because grace and mercy are his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.