

First Reading – Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8,11

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
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 keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

The Word of the Lord.

First Reading – Isaiah 25: 6-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all peoples
A feast of rich food and choice wines;
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.
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.
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!”
For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord.

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First Reading – Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The Lord is good to those who wait for him.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

The Word of the Lord.

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 with his holy ones,
And his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

First Reading – 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 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 at 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.

The Word of the Lord.

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