

JOB 19: 1, 23-26 FIRST READING #1

A reading from the book of Job

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..

WISDOM 3: 1-9

FIRST READING #2

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 humans indeed, they be punished, they are 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.

ISAIAH 25:6a, 7-9 FIRST READING #4

A reading from the book of 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 God 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 God has saved us!"

The word of the Lord.

Isaiah 43: 1-5

First Reading #6

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord who created you,

"Do not be afraid—I will save you.

I have called you by name—you are mine.

When you pass through fire,

You will not be burned;

The hard trials that come will not hurt you.

For I am the Lord your God,

The holy God of Israel,

Who saves you,

Because you are precious to me and because I
love you and give you honor.

Do not be afraid—I am with you!'

The Word of the Lord

LAMENTATIONS 3: 17-26 FIRST READING #8

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.

The word of the Lord.

LAMENTATIONS 3: 22-26 FIRST READING #9

A reading from the book of Lamentations

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.

SIRACH 3: 2-7, 12 FIRST READING #11

A reading from the book of Sirach

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.

Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them.

When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother.

Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard.

Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; the one who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

Take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life;

Kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins · -- a house raised in justice to you.

The word of the Lord.

ECCLESIASTES 3: 1 15 FIRST READING #13

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.

What advantage has the worker from his toil?

I have considered the task which God has appointed for
us to be busied about.

God has made everything appropriate to its time, and
has put the timeless into our hearts, without ever
discovering, from beginning to end, the work which
God has done.

The word of the Lord.

PROVERBS 31: 10-29 FIRST READING #14

A reading from the book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an
unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil, all the
days of her life.

She is girt about with strength, and
sturdy with her arms.

She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night
her lamp is undimmed.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and
extends her arms to the needy.

She fears not the snow for her household; all her
charges are doubly clothed.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, as she
laughs at the days to come.

She opens her mouth in wisdom and on her
tongue is kindly counsel.

She watches the conduct of her household, and eats
not her food in idleness.

Her children rise up and praise her; her
husband, too, extols 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.

Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works
praise her at city gates.

The Word of the Lord.