

Scripture Readings

from the

Old Testament

(select one reading)

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Old Testament

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3	Wisdom 4:7 – 15	<i>A blameless life is a ripe old age.</i>
4*	Isaiah 25:6a, 7 – 9	<i>The Lord God will destroy death for ever.</i>
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* Readings marked with * are suitable for the funeral of a child

During Easter NT # 1, 17, 18 or 19 should be used in place of Old Testament Reading

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

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 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.
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.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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and no torment shall touch them.
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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.

A Reading from the Book of 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

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.

A reading from the book of the prophet 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.

A reading from the Second book of Maccabees.

Judas (the ruler of Israel)

then took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,

which he sent to Jerusalem

to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,

inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;

for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,

it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward

that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,

it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead

that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord.

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 obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.
Like merchant ships,
 she secures her provisions from afar.
She rises while it is still night,
 and distributes food to her household.
She picks out a field to purchase;
 out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
She is girt about with strength,
 and sturdy are her arms.
She enjoys the success of her dealings;
 at night her lamp is undimmed.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
 and her fingers ply the spindle.
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 makes her own coverlets;
 fine linen and purple are her clothing.
Her husband is prominent at the city gates
 as he sits with the elders of the land.
She makes garments and sells them,
 and stocks the merchants with belts.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
 and 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 the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
 her value is far beyond pearls.
She brings him good, and not evil,
 all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
 and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
 and extends her arms to the needy.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
 and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom,
 and on her tongue is kindly counsel.
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."

The Word of the Lord.

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.

The Word of the Lord

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

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;

Indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;

The rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all mankind shall see it together;

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A voice says, "Cry out!"

I answer, "What shall I cry out?" "

All mankind is grass,
and all their glory like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower wilts,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it.
(So then, the people is the grass.)

Though the grass withers and the flower wilts,
the word of our God stands forever."

Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings;

Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem,

herald of good news! Fear not to cry out

and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!

Here comes with power the Lord GOD,

who rules by his strong arm;
Here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
Carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

The Word of the Lord

OT 11 cont'd

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet 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 come 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 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.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The word of the LORD came to me thus:
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.
"Ah, Lord GOD!" I said,
 "I know not how to speak; I am too young."
But the LORD answered me,
 Say not, "I am too young."
 To whomever I send you, you shall go;
 whatever I command you, you shall speak.
 Have no fear before them,
 because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.
Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth,
 saying, See, I place my words in your mouth!

The Word of the Lord