

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 in mind;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been superfluous
and foolish to pray for the dead.**

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 absolved from their sin.

The Word of the Lord

Daniel
12:1-3

Selection A13

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

**“At that time there shall arise Michael,
the great prince, guardian of your people;
it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since the nation 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 to everlasting life,
others to reproach and everlasting disgrace.**

**But those with insight 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

Ecclesiastes
3: 1-8

Selection A3
(Short Form)

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

Ecclesiastes
3: 1-15

Selection A3
(Long Form)

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.**

What profit have workers from their toil?

**I have seen the business
that God has given to mortals to be busied about.**

Continued on the Next Page

**God has made everything appropriate to its time,
but has put the timeless into their hearts
so they cannot find out,
from beginning to end,
the work which God has done.**

**I recognized that there is nothing better
than to rejoice and to do well during life.**

**Moreover, that all can eat and drink
and enjoy the good of all their toil—
this is a gift of God.**

**I recognized that
whatever God does will endure forever;
there is no adding to it, or taking from it.**

Thus has God done that he may be revered.

**What now is
has already been;
what is to be,
already is:**

God retrieves what has gone by.

The Word of the Lord

Ezekiel
37: 12-14

Selection A12

A Reading from the Book of Prophet Ezekiel

Therefore, prophesy and say to them:

thus says the Lord GOD:

Look! I am going to open your graves;

I will make you come up out of your graves,

my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel.

You shall know that I am the LORD,

when I open your graves

and make you come up out of them, my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life,

and I will settle you in your land.

Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

I have spoken; I will do it.

The Word of the Lord

Isaiah
25: 6,7-9

Selection A7

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:

**“Indeed, this is our God;
we looked to him, and he saved us!
This is the LORD to 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 the Prophet Isaiah

The way of the just is smooth;

the path of the just you make level.

The course of your judgments, LORD, we await;

your name and your memory

are the desire of our souls.

My soul yearns for you at night,

yes, my spirit within me seeks you at dawn;

when your judgment comes upon the earth,

the world's inhabitants learn justice.

The wicked, when spared, do not learn justice;

in an upright land they act perversely,

and do not see the majesty of the LORD.

LORD, your hand is raised high,

but they do not perceive it;

let them be put to shame

when they see your zeal for your people:

let the fire prepared for your enemies consume them.

LORD, you will decree peace for us,

for you have accomplished all we have done.

LORD, our God, lords other than you have ruled us;

only because of you can we call upon your name.

Continued on the Next Page

**Dead they are, they cannot live,
shades that cannot rise;
indeed, you have punished and destroyed them,
and wiped out all memory of them.**

**You have increased the nation, LORD,
you have increased the nation,
have added to your glory,
you have extended far all the boundaries of the land.**

**LORD, oppressed by your punishment,
we cried out in anguish under your discipline.**

**As a woman about to give birth
writhes and cries out in pain,
so were we before you, LORD.**

**We conceived and writhed in pain,
giving birth only to wind;
salvation we have not achieved for the earth,
no inhabitants for the world were born.**

**But your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise!
Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust!
For your dew is a dew of light,
and you cause the land of shades to give birth.**

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**The wilderness and the parched land will exult;
the Arabah will rejoice and bloom;
like the crocus it shall bloom abundantly,
and rejoice with joyful song.**

**The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.**

**Strengthen hands that are feeble,
make firm knees that are weak,
say to the fearful of heart:
be strong, do not fear!**

**Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
he comes to save you.**

**Then the eyes of the blind shall see,
and the ears of the deaf be opened;
then the lame shall leap like a stag,
and the mute tongue sing for joy.**

**For waters will burst forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the Arabah.**

**The burning sands will become pools,
and the thirsty ground, springs of water;
the abode where jackals crouch
will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus.**

**A highway will be there,
called the holy way;
no one unclean may pass over it,
but it will be for his people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray on it.**

**No lion shall be there,
nor any beast of prey approach, nor be found.**

**But there the redeemed shall walk,
and the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning flee away.**

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah

**Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.
Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service has ended, that her guilt is expiated,
that she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.**

A voice proclaims:

in the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

**Every valley shall be lifted up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rugged land shall be a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.**

**Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**

A voice says, “Proclaim!”

I answer, “What shall I proclaim?”

**“All flesh is grass,
and all their loyalty like the flower of the field.**

**The grass withers, the flower wilts,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it.”**

Continued on the Next Page

**“Yes, the people is grass!
The grass withers, the flower wilts,
 but the word of our God stands forever.”**

**Go up onto a high mountain,
Zion, herald of good news!
Cry out at the top of your voice,
 Jerusalem, herald of good news!**

**Cry out, do not fear!
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,
leading the ewes with care.**

The Word of the Lord

Job 19:
1, 23-27

Selection A2

A Reading from the Book of Job

Then 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!

As for me, I know that my vindicator lives,

and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust.

This will happen when my skin has been stripped off,

and from my flesh I will see God:

I will see for myself,

my own eyes, not another's, will behold him:

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

**My life is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
my enduring hope, I said,
has perished before the LORD.**

**The thought of my wretched homelessness
is wormwood and poison;
remembering it over and over,
my soul is downcast.**

**But 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 in silence
for the LORD's deliverance.**

The Word of the Lord

Micah
7: 7-9

Selection A14

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!

Do not rejoice over me, my enemy!

Though I have fallen,

I will arise;

though I sit in darkness,

the LORD is my light.

I will endure the wrath of the LORD

because I have sinned against him,

until he pleads my case,

and establishes my right.

He will bring me forth to the light;

I will see his righteousness.

The Word of the Lord

Sirach
2:1-11

Selection A6

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

**My child, when you come to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for trials.**

**Be sincere of heart and steadfast,
and do not be impetuous in time of adversity.**

**Cling to him,
do not leave him,
that you may prosper in your last days.**

**Accept whatever happens to you;
in periods of humiliation be patient.**

**For in fire gold is tested,
and the chosen,
in the crucible of humiliation.**

**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,

Continued on the Next Page

**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;
forgives sins and saves in time of trouble.**

The Word of the Lord

Wisdom
3:1-6.9

Selection A4
(Short Form)

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

**The souls of the righteous 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 to others, indeed, they seem 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 the elect.**

The Word of the Lord

Wisdom
3:1-9

Selection A4
(Long Form)

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

**The souls of the righteous 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 to others, indeed, they seem 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 judgment they shall shine
and 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 the elect.**

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

**The righteous one, 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 passes for gray hair,
and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.**

**The one who pleased God was loved,
living 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 that consideration into account.**

The Word of the Lord