

# Old Testament Reading #1

## A reading from the second Book of Maccabees (2 Maccabees 12:43-46)

Judas, the ruler of Israel,

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

## **Old Testament Reading #2**

### **A reading from the Book of Job**

**(19:1, 23-27A)**

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**

## **Old Testament Reading #3**

### **A reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-9)**

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 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

## **Old Testament Reading #4**

### **A reading from the Book Wisdom (4:7-15)**

The just one, though he dies 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

## **Old Testament Reading #5**

### **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (25:6a, 7-9)**

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; 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

## **Old Testament Reading #6**

### **A reading from the Book of Lamentation**

**(3:17-26)**

My soul 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 gall; 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, and 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

## **Old Testament Reading #7**

### **A reading from the Book of Daniel (12:1-3)**

I, Daniel, mourned and 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 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