

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11a

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 hurt, 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.
God has made everything appropriate to its time.*

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9

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.

Jeremiah 29:11-14a

A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

*For I know well the plans I have in mind for you,
says the Lord,
plans for your welfare, not woe!
plans to give you a future full of hope.*

*When you call me,
when you go to pray to me,
I will listen to you.*

*When you look for me,
you will find me.*

*Yes, when you seek me with all your heart,
you will find me with you,
says the Lord,
and I will change your lot.*

The Word of the Lord.

Micah 6:1,8

A reading from the Book of Micah.

*Hear, then, what the Lord says:
You have been told, O my people, what is good,
and what the Lord requires of you:
Only to do the right and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.*

The Word of the Lord.

Proverbs 31:10-31

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

The Word of the Lord.

Wisdom 3:1-9

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 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 to be worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offering 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.

Short Version

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.
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For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
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As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offering 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.

Wisdom 4: 7-15

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, is 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.*

The Word of the Lord.