

FIRST READINGS

Readings from the Old Testament

1.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom (3,1-6.9)

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they did appear to die, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

2.

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3,17-26)

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "Gone is my glory, and all that I hoped for from the Lord". The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is gall to me! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him".

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

3.

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3,1-8)

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die,
A time to plant and a time to uproot,
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 refrain,
A time to search and a time to give up,
A time to keep and a time to throw away,
A time to tear and a time to mend,
A time to be silent and a time to speak,
A time to love and a time to hate,
A time to war and a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

4.

A reading from the book of Ruth (1,8-17 passim)

Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's house. And may the Lord be kind to you, as you have been kind to those who have died and to me." And she kissed them but they started to weep aloud. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and went back to her people. But Ruth clung to her.

Naomi said to her, "Look, your sister-in-law returns to her people and her gods. You too must return. Go after her."

But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Wherever you die, I will die and there I will be buried. And may the Lord deal severely with me if even death should come between us.

The Word of the Lord.

5.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (49,8.14-16)

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favour I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you". But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me".

"Can a woman forget her child at the breast, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Look, I have written your name on the palm of my hand."

The Word of the Lord.

6.

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah. (12,2-6)

Truly, God is my salvation,

I trust, I shall not fear,

for the Lord is my strength, my song,

he became my Saviour.

With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name!

Sing a psalm to the Lord,

for he has done glorious deeds,

make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The Word of the Lord.

7.

A reading from the Book of Job (19,1.23-27)

Job said: "O that these words of mine were written down,
inscribed on some monument
with iron and chisel and engraving tool,
cut into the rock for ever.

This I know: that my Avenger lives,
and he, the Last, will take his stand on earth.

After my awakening, he will set me close to him,
and from my flesh I shall look on God.

He whom I shall see will take my part:
these eyes will gaze on him and find him not aloof'.

The Word of the Lord.

8.

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (4,7-15)

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest.

Length of days is not what makes age honourable,
nor number of years the true measure of life;
understanding, this is man's grey hairs,
untarnished life, this is ripe old age.

He has sought to please God, so God has loved him;
as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.

He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding
or treachery seduce his soul;

for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade,
and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.
Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life;
his soul being pleasing to the Lord,
he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.
Yet people look on, uncomprehending;
it does not enter their heads
that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,
and protection his holy ones.

The Word of the Lord.

9.

A reading from the Prophet Daniel (12,1-3)

I, Daniel, was doing penance when I received this message from the Lord:

“At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as the stars for all eternity”.

The Word of the Lord.

10.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees (12,43-45)

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae, and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise it would have been `superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

The Word of the Lord.

11.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (25,6-9)

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.

That day it will be said: See this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

The Word of the Lord.

12.

A reading from the second book of Samuel (19,1-5)

King David went up to the room over the gate and burst into tears, and weeping said, "My son Absalom! My son! My son Absalom! Would I had died in your place! Absalom, my son, my son!" Word was brought to Joab, "The king is now weeping and mourning for Absalom". And the day's victory was turned to mourning for all the troops, because they learned that the king was grieving for his son. And the troops returned stealthily that day to the town, as troops creep back ashamed when routed in battle. The king had veiled his face and was crying aloud, "My son Absalom! Absalom, my son, my son!"

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

1.

The response is: *The Lord is my Shepherd*, Ps 22

there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my Shepherd,

there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures

where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,

to revive my drooping spirit. **R/**

2. He guides me along the right path,

he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness,

no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff,

with these you give me comfort. **R/**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me

in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil,

my cup is overflowing. **R/**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me

all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell,

for ever and ever. **R/**

2.

The response is: ***The Lord fills the earth with his love.*** Ps 32

1. They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love. **R/**

2. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.

The Lord is our help and our shield.

In him do our hearts find joy.

We trust in his holy name. **R/**

3. May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **R/**

3.

The response is: ***Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.*** Ps 129

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **R/**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **R/**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,

more than the watchman for daybreak. **R/**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy

and fullness of redemption,

Israel indeed he will redeem

from all its iniquity. **R/**

4.

The response is: ***I will walk in the presence of the Lord*** Ps 114

in the land of the living.

1. How gracious is the Lord, and just;

Our God has compassion.

The Lord protects the simple hearts;

I was helpless so he saved me. **R/**

2. I trusted, even when I said:

"I am sorely afflicted,"

And when I said in my alarm:

"No man can be trusted". **R/**

3. O precious in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;

you have loosened my bonds. **R/**