

THE FIRST READINGS Pick one.

1. Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bidad the Shuhite 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

2. 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. 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 in the eyes of 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. 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

3. Isaiah 25.6. 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!*"

R: The Word of the Lord.

4. Lamentations 3:17-26

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 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

5. A reading from the prophet Isaiah 43

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, My chosen one with whom I am pleased; I have formed you and I grasped you by the hand. Do not be afraid, for I have called you by name and you are Mine. You are precious in My eyes, you are honored and I love you. You are my witness, My servant whom I have chosen that people may know and believe in Me and understand that it is I. I am the Lord, there is no other savior but Me. I have formed you for Myself, to sing My praises, and I am your God.

R: The Word of the Lord.

6. 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 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." Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeing: the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

The Word of the Lord.

7. A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, 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 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. Whatever God does will endure forever, there is no adding to it, or taking from it.

R: The Word of the Lord.

8. A reading from the book of Sirach

The Lord sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons and daughters. Those who honor their father atone for sins; they store up riches who revere their mother. Those who honor their father will live a long life; they obey the Lord who bring comfort to their mother. Those who fear the Lord honor their father and serve their parents. In word and deed honor your father that his blessing may come upon you; for a father's blessing gives a family firm roots. Kindness to a father will not be forgotten. It will take lasting root.

R: The Word of the Lord.

9. A reading from the book of Wisdom

The just ones, though they 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 crown for people, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. Having become perfect in a short while, they reached the fullness of a long career; for they were pleasing to the Lord. Therefore, God sped them out of the midst of wickedness.

R: The Word of the Lord.

*****THE SECOND READING: Choose one reading from this section**

1. Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over Him.

The Word of the Lord.

2. Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, will He not also give us everything else along with Him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height; nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

The Word of the Lord.

3. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also from a man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at His coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

4. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we. will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is corruptible, clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the work that is written shall come about: Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of ~in is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

5. 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in His presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

6. Phillippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the
Philippians

Brother and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus
Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform
with His glorified Body by the
power that enables Him also to bring all things
into subjection to Himself.

The Word of the Lord.

7. 2 Timothy 2:-13

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with Him we shall have with Him; if we persevere we shall also reign with Him. But if we deny Him, He will deny us. If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

The Word of the Lord.

8. 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John
Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed
on us that we may be called the children of God.
Yet so we are. The reason the world does not
know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we
are God's children now, what we shall be has not
yet been revealed. We do know that when it is
revealed we shall be like Him, for we shall see
Him as He is.

The Word of the Lord.

THE GOSPEL: Choose one reading from this section

1. Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, His disciples came to Him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

2. Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus answered: "I give praise to You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned You have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been Your gracious will. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wished to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy and My burden light."

3. Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and His disciples and a large crowd accompanied Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and He said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited His people." This report about Him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

4. Luke 23:33, 39-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

When the soldiers came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on His right, the other on His left. Now, one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us."

The other man, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom."

He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

5. John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to the crowds: "Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and will not reject anyone who comes to Me because I came down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent Me, that I should not lose anything of what He gave Me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life, and I shall raise Him up the last day."

6. John 6:51-59

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to the crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day. For My Flesh is true food and My Blood is true drink. Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood remains in Me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on Me will have life because of Me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate-and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

7. John 11 :21•27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to Him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in Me will-never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

8 . John 14:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to His disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in Me. In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to Myself, so that where I am, you also will be. Where I am going, you know the way." Thomas said to Him, "Master, we do not know where You are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

9. John 17:24-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised His eyes to heaven and said: "Father, those whom You gave Me are Your gift to Me. I wish that where I am they also may be with Me, that they may see My glory that You gave Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know You, but I know You, and they know that You sent Me. I made known to them Your name and I will make it known, that the love with which You loved me may be in them and I in them."

10. Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit"; and when He had said this, He breathed His last. Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus. After he had taken the Body down,' he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid Him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.