

1. Job 19:1, 23-37

I know that my Redeemer lives.

A Reading from the Book of Job

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!

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.

The Word of the Lord.

2. Wisdom 3:1-9

He accepted them as a holocaust.

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 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 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.

3. *Wisdom 4: 7-15*

A blameless life is a ripe old age.

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;
The one 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.

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones
And his care is with his elect.

This is the Word of the Lord.

4. Lamentations 3:17-26

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.

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 I 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.

The Word of the Lord.

5. *Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11*

A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is a time to be born, 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.

God has made everything appropriate to its times, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without one's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

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

Thus has God done that God may be revered.

The Word of the Lord.

6. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

The Lord God will destroy death for ever.

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.

7. Isaiah 43: 1-4*Be not afraid, I go before you*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

But now, thus says the Lord,
 who created you, O Jacob, and
 formed you, O Israel:
Fear not, for I have redeemed you:
 I have called you by name: you are mine.
When you pass through the water, I will
 be with you.
 In the rivers you shall not drown.
When you walk through fire, you shall
 not be burned;
 The flames shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord, your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in return for you.
Because you are precious in my eyes
 and glorious, and because I love you.

The Word of the Lord.

8. Sirach 44: 1, 8, 10-15

Now I will praise those godly men, our ancestors, each in his own time.

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

Now will I praise those godly men, our ancestors,
each in his own time:
some of them have left behind a name
and men recount their praiseworthy deeds;
Yet these also were godly men whose virtues have not been forgotten;
Their wealth remains in their families,
their heritage with their descendants;
Through God's covenant with them their family endures,
their posterity, for their sake.
And for all time their descendants will endure,
their glory will never be blotted out;
Their bodies are peacefully laid away,
but their name lives on and on.
At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
and the assembly proclaims their praise.

The Word of the Lord.

9. Proverbs 31:10, 12-13, 19-20, 25-26, 28-29 (short version)

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.
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 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.”

The Word of the Lord.