

Old Testament readings

1

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 in the eyes of people, 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 is with His holy ones,
And His care is with His elect.

The Word of the Lord.

2

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 people,
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 that he has saved us!”

The Word of the Lord.

3

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this:
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
"Yes," said the Spirit,
"let them find rest from their labors,
for their works accompany them."

The word of the Lord.

4

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away."
The One who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new."
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give the gift
from the spring of life-giving water.
The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son."

The word of the Lord.

New Testament readings

5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
How much more then, now that we have been justified by his blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.
For if while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-9)

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.
For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
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.

7

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,

and if we die, we die for the Lord;

so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,

that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written:

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

8

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead,

the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through man,

the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,

but each one in proper order:

Christ the firstfruits; then at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

9

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

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthy dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed,

we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

We are always courageous,

although we know that while we are at home in the body

we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,

so that each may receive recompense,

according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

10

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

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.
For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.
Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

11

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 mortal must clothe itself with immortality.
And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word 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 sin is the law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.