

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

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 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.

Wisdom 4:7-14

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, 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.

Daniel 12:1-3

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:
“At that time there shall arise Michael,
the great prince, guardian of your people;
it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations
began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth
shall awake;
some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
and those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.”

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

Judas the ruler of Israel then took up a collection
among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide
for an expiatory sacrifice.
In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish
to pray for them in death.
But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.
Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be
freed from this sin.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Romans 6:3-9

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.
If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection.
This we know; our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer.
A man who is dead has been freed from sin.
If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also live with him.
We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over him.

Romans 5:5-11

Hope will not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless men.
It is rare that anyone should lay down his life for a just man, though it is barely possible that for a good man someone may have the courage to die.
It is precisely in this that God proves his love for us; that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Now that we have been justified by his blood, it is all the more certain that we shall be saved by him from God's wrath.
For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him by the death of his Son, it is all the more certain that we who have been reconciled will be saved by his life.
Not only that; we go so far as to make God our boast through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God!
Yet that is what we are.
The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized the Son.
Dearly beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall later be has not yet come to light.
We know that when it comes to light we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Romans 5:17-21

If death began its reign through one man because of his offense, much more shall those who receive the overflowing grace and gift of justice live and reign through the one man, Jesus Christ.
To sum up, then: just as a single offense brought condemnation to all men, a single righteous act brought all men acquittal and life. Just as through one man's disobedience all became sinners, so through one man's obedience all shall become just.
The law came in order to increase offenses; but despite the increase of sin, grace has far surpassed it, so that, as sin reigned through death, Grace may reign by way of justice leading to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24, 25-28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
Death came through a man; hence the resurrection of the dead comes through a man also.
Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but each one in proper order; Christ the first fruits and then, at his coming, all those who belong to him.
After that will come the end, when, after having destroyed every sovereignty, authority, and power, he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father.
Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under his feet, "and the last enemy to be destroyed is death.
Scripture reads that God "has placed all things under his feet."
But when it says that everything has been made subject, it is clear that he who has made everything subject to Christ is excluded.
When, finally, all has been subjected to the Son, he will then subject himself to the One who made all things subject to him, so that God may be all in all.

Revelation 14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me: "Write this down: Happy now are the dead who die in the Lord!"
The Spirit added, "Yes, they shall find rest from their labors, for their good works accompany them."

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

We know that when the earthly tent
in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling
provided for us by God,
a dwelling in the heavens,
not made by hands but to last forever.
Therefore we continue to be confident.
We know that while we dwell in the body
we are away from the Lord.
We walk by faith, not by sight.
I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather
be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
This being so, we make it our aim to please him
whether we are with him or away from him.
The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal
of Christ
so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad,
according to his life in the body.

Revelation 21:1-5, 6-7

I, John, saw new heavens and a new earth.
The former heavens and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no longer.
I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down
out of heaven from God,
beautiful as a bride prepared to meet her husband.
I heard a loud voice from the throne cry out:
“This is God’s dwelling among men. He shall dwell with
them
and they shall be his people and he shall be their God who
is always with them.
He shall wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out
or pain,
for the former world has passed away.”
The One who sat on the throne said to me, “See, I make all
things new!
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.
To anyone who thirsts I will give to drink without cost
from the spring of life-giving water.
He who wins the victory shall inherit these gifts; I will be
his God and he shall be my son.”

GOSPEL READINGS

John 11:17-27

When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

The village was not far from Jerusalem - just under two miles -

and many Jewish people had come out to console Martha and Mary over their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him, while Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would never have died.

Even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus assured her.

"I know he will rise again," Martha replied, "in the resurrection on the last day."

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside.

After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them:

"How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.

Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are the single-hearted, for they shall see God.

Blest too the peacemakers;

they shall be called sons of God.

Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake;

the reign of God is theirs.

Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you

and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven.

Matthew 11:25-30

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus:

"Father, Lord of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and clever you have revealed to the merest children.

Father, it is true. You have graciously willed it so.

Everything has been given over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son but the Father, and no one knows the Father but the Son -

and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you.

Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart.

Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden light."

John: 6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowd:

"All that the Father gives me shall come to me; no one who comes will I ever reject,

because it is not to do my own will that I have come down from heaven,

but to do the will of him who sent me.

It is the will of him who sent me that I should lose nothing of what he has given me;

rather, that I should raise it up on the last day.

Indeed, this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks upon the Son

and believes in him shall have eternal life.

Him I will raise up on the last day.

John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Have faith in God and faith in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you

that I was going to prepare a place for you?

I am indeed going to prepare a place for you,

and then I shall come back to take you with me,

that where I am you also may be.

You know the way that leads where I go."

"Lord," said Thomas,

"we do not know where you are going.

How can we know the way?"

Jesus told him: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

John 6:51-58

Jesus told the crowd:

"I myself am the living bread come down from heaven.

If anyone eats this bread he shall live forever;

the bread I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world."

At this the Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,

"How can he give us his flesh to eat?"

Thereupon Jesus said to them:

"Let me solemnly assure you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man

and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal,

and I will raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food and my blood real drink.

The Man who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.

Just as the Father who has life sent me and I have life because of the Father,

so the man 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 died nonetheless,

the man who feeds on this bread shall live forever."

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
escorted by all the angels of heaven,
he will sit upon his royal throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.

Then he will separate them into two groups,
as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.
The sheep he will place on his right hand,
the goats on his left.

The king will say to those on his right: “Come.
You have my Father’s blessing!

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the creation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and gave me drink.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me.

I was ill and you comforted me,
in prison and you came to visit me’

“Then the just will ask him:

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you
or see you thirsty and give you drink?

When did we welcome you away from home
or clothe you in your nakedness?

When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?

“The king will answer them: ‘I assure you,
as often as you did it for one of my least brothers,
you did it for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left:

‘Out of my sight, you condemned,
into that everlasting fire prepared for the devil
and his angels!

I was hungry and you gave me no food,

I was thirsty and you gave me no drink.

I was away from home and you gave me no welcome,
naked and you gave me no clothing.

I was ill and in prison and you
did not come to comfort me.’

“Then they in turn will ask:

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
or away from home

or naked or ill or in prison

and not attend you in your needs?

“He will answer them: ‘I assure you,

as often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones,
you neglected to do it to me.’

“These will go off to eternal punishment and the just to
eternal life.”

John 12:23-26

Jesus told his disciples:

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I solemnly assure you,

unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies,

It remains just a grain of wheat.

But if it dies, it produces much fruit.

The man who loves his life loses it,

while the man who hates his life in this world
preserves it to life eternal.

If anyone would serve me, let him follow me;
where I am, there will my servant be.

If anyone serves me, him the Father will honor.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Ps 25:6-7, 17-18, 20-21

R:/ To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

Remember that your compassion, O Lord,
and your kindness are from of old.

In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. *R:/*

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.

Ps 23: 1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

R:/ Though I walk in the valley of darkness,

I fear no evil, for you are with me.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
He refreshes my soul. *R:/*

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff that give me courage. *R:/*

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. *R:/*

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life; and I shall dwell
in the house of the Lord for years to come. *R:/*