

## Old Testament Reading Guides

1. Sirach 51:8-12  
*You redeemed me, true to the greatness of your mercy*
2. Sirach 44:1-10, 15  
*Our ancestors were merciful, their name shall live for generations*
3. Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31  
*When one finds worthy wife*
4. Ecclesiastes 3:1-11  
*There is a time for everything under heaven*
5. Wisdom 3:1-9  
*The souls of the just are in the hand of God*
6. Wisdom 4:7-10, 13-14  
*A blameless life is a ripe old age*
7. Isaiah 25:6, 7-9  
*The Lord God will destroy death forever*
8. Isaiah 35:1-6, 10  
*God will come and save you*
9. Isaiah 61:1-3  
*The Lord anointed me and sent me to bring glad tidings*
10. Lamentations 3:17-26  
*It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save*
11. Ezekiel 34:11-16  
*I will watch over my sheep and tend them*
12. Ezekiel 37:12-14  
*I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live*
13. Daniel 12:1-3  
*Of those sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake*
14. Zephaniah 3:16-18, 20a  
*The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness*
15. Job 19:23-27ab  
*Belief in resurrection after death*

Reading Number: 1  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Sirach 51:8-12

## **A Reading From The Book Of Sirach**

Then I remembered the mercies of the LORD,  
his acts of kindness through ages past;  
For he saves those who take refuge in him,  
and rescues them from every evil.  
So I raised my voice from the grave;  
from the gates of Sheol I cried for help.  
I called out: LORD, you are my Father,  
my champion, my savior!  
Do not abandon me in time of trouble,  
in the midst of storms and dangers.  
I will always praise your name  
and remember you in prayer!  
Then the LORD heard my voice,  
and listened to my appeal.  
He saved me from every evil  
and preserved me in time of trouble.  
For this reason I thank and praise him;  
I bless the name of the LORD.

## **The Word of the Lord**

Reading Number: 2  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Sirach 44:1-10,15

## **A Reading From The Book Of Sirach**

I will now praise the godly, our ancestors, in their own time.

Their virtues have not been forgotten.

Their wealth remains in their families,

their heritage with their descendants.

Through God's covenant their family endures,

and their offspring for their sake.

And for all time their progeny will endure,

their glory will never be blotted out;

Their bodies are buried in peace,

but their name lives on and on

At gatherings their wisdom is retold,

and the assembly proclaims their praises.

## **The Word of the Lord**

Reading Number: 3  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Proverbs 31:10-12,19-20,25-31

## **A Reading from the Book of Proverbs**

When one finds a worthy wife, far beyond jewels is her value.

Her husband trusts her judgment; he does not lack income.

She brings him profit, not loss, 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 laughs at the days to come.

She opens her mouth in wisdom;

kindly instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affairs of her household,

and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed;

her husband, too, praises her:

“Many are the women of proven worth,

but you have excelled them all.”

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;

the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Acclaim her for the work of her hands,

and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

## **The Word of the Lord**

## **A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes**

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every affair under the heavens.  
A time to give birth, 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.

What profit have workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be busied about. God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

## **The Word of the Lord**

## **A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The souls of the righteous 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 to others, indeed, they seem 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 judgment they shall shine  
and 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 the elect.

## **The Word of the Lord**

Reading Number: 6  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Wisdom 4:7-10,13-14

### **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  
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.

### **The Word of the Lord**

Reading Number: 7  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Isaiah 25:6-9

### **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah**

On this mountain the LORD of hosts  
will provide for all peoples

A feast of rich food and choice wines,  
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

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:

“Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us!

This is the LORD to whom we looked;  
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

### **The Word of the Lord**



Reading Number: 8  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Isaiah 35:1-6,10

## **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah**

The wilderness and the parched land will exult;  
the Arabah will rejoice and bloom;

Like the crocus it shall bloom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joyful song.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen hands that are feeble, make firm knees that are weak,

Say to the fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, he comes with vindication;

With divine recompense he comes to save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall see, and the ears of the deaf be opened;

Then the lame shall leap like a stag, and the mute tongue sing for joy.

For waters will burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the Arabah.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,

and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy;

They meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning flee away.

**The Word of the Lord**

Reading Number: 9  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Isaiah 61:1-3

### **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners,  
To announce a year of favor from the LORD  
and a day of vindication by our God;  
To comfort all who mourn; to place on those who mourn in Zion  
a diadem instead of ashes,  
To give them oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
a glorious mantle instead of a faint spirit.

### **The Word of the Lord**

## **A Reading from the Book of Lamentations**

My life is deprived of peace,

I have forgotten what happiness is;

My enduring hope, I said,

has perished before the LORD.

The thought of my wretched homelessness

is wormwood and poison;

Remembering it over and over,

my soul is downcast.

But this I will call to mind;

therefore I will hope:

The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted,

his compassion is not spent;

They are renewed each morning—

great is your faithfulness!

The LORD is my portion, I tell myself,

therefore I will hope in him.

The LORD is good to those who trust in him,

to the one that seeks him;

It is good to hope in silence

for the LORD's deliverance.

## **The Word of the Lord**

## **A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel**

For thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I myself will search for my sheep and examine them. As a shepherd examines his flock while he himself is among his scattered sheep, so will I examine my sheep.

I will deliver them from every place where they were scattered on the day of dark clouds.

I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and every inhabited place in the land.

In good pastures I will pasture them; on the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down on good grazing ground; in rich pastures they will be pastured on the mountains of Israel. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest—oracle of the Lord GOD.

The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal; but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd them in judgment.

## **The Word of the Lord**

Reading Number: 12  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Ezekiel 37:12-14

### **A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel**

Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel.

You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have spoken; I will do it—oracle of the LORD.

### **The Word of the Lord**

Reading Number: 13  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Daniel 12:1-3

## **A Reading from the Book of Daniel**

“At that time there shall arise Michael,  
the great prince,  
guardian of your people;  
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress  
since the nation 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 to everlasting life,  
others to reproach and everlasting disgrace.  
But those with insight shall shine brightly  
like the splendor of the firmament,  
And those who lead the many to justice  
shall be like the stars forever.

## **The Word of the Lord**

Reading Number: 14  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Zephaniah 3:16-18, 20a

## **A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah**

On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, Zion, do not be discouraged!  
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a mighty savior,  
Who will rejoice over you with gladness,  
and renew you in his love,  
Who will sing joyfully because of you,  
as on festival days.  
And at that time I will bring you home,  
says the Lord.

## **The Word of the Lord**

Reading Number: 15  
Old Testament – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Job 19:23-27ab

### **A Reading from the Book of Job**

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!  
As for me, I know that my vindicator lives,  
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust.  
This will happen when my skin has been stripped off,  
and from my flesh I will see God:  
I will see for myself,  
my own eyes, not another's, I will behold him.

### **The Word of the Lord**