

FIRST READING

Lam 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. 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 in 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

FIRST READING

Sir 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Sirach

God sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.

Whoever honors his father atones for sins,
and preserves himself from them.

When he prays, he is heard;

he stores up riches who reveres his mother.

Whoever honors his father will live a long life;

he who obeys his father brings comfort to his
mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old;
grieve him not as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him;

revile him not all the days of his life;

kindness to a father will not be forgotten.

firmly planted against the debt of your sins –
a house raised in justice to you.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

**There is an appointed time for everything,
And a time for every season under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to hurt, 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 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.**

The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the Book of the Prophet 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 says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING

Is 25:6a, 7-9

A READING FROM 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.

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH:

Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth,
break forth into song, you mountains.
For the Lord comforts his people
and shows mercy to his afflicted.

But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me; my
Lord has forgotten me”.
Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget,
I will never forget you.”
See, upon the palms of my hands I have
written your name;
your walls are ever before me.

The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (Wisdom 3:1-6,9)

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.

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.

FIRST READING

(Job 19:1,23-27)

A reading from the Book Job

Then 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 redeemer 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.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING

(Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30, 31)

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 obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers to ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a reward for her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.