

Funerals

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First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah

Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow before God most high?
Shall I come before him with holocausts, with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with myriad streams of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my crime,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
You have been told, O man, what is good,
and what the LORD requires of you:
Only to do right and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.

.....The Word of the Lord

First Reading

A Reading from the book of Job

Job 19:1, 23-27

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

First Reading

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Proverbs 31:10-30

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.
Like merchant ships,
she secures her provisions from afar.
She rises while it is still night,
and distributes food to her household.
She picks out a field to purchase;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
She is girt about with strength,
and sturdy are her arms.
She enjoys the success of her dealings;
at night her lamp is undimmed.
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.

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First Reading

A reading from the book of Proverbs cont...

She fears not the snow for her household;
all her charges are doubly clothed.

She makes her own coverlets;
fine linen and purple are her clothing.

Her husband is prominent at the city gates
as he sits with the elders of the land.

She makes garments and sells them,
and stocks the merchants with belts.

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.

She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food
in idleness.

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

First Reading

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair 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 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 advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the
task which God has appointed for men to be busied about.

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

.....**The Word of the Lord**

First Reading

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom 3:1-9 (Original Version)

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,

.....**The Word of the Lord**

First Reading

A Reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (Shortened Version)

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 his elect.

.....The Word of the Lord

First Reading

A Reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom 4:7-15

The just, though they 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,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

Those who pleased God were loved;
they who lived among sinners were transported—
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert their mind
or deceit beguile their 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, they reached the fullness
of a long career;
for their souls were pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he sped them out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

.....The Word of the Lord

First Reading

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

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

First Reading

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 40:28-31

Do you not know or have you not heard?
The LORD is the eternal God, creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint nor grow weary,
 and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.
He gives strength to the fainting;
 for the weak he makes vigor abound.
Though young men faint and grow weary,
 and youths stagger and fall,
They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength,
 they will soar as with eagles' wings;
They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.

.....The Word of the Lord

First Reading

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now, thus says the LORD,
 who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name: you are mine.
When you pass through waters, I will be with you;
 through rivers, you shall not be swept away.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned,
 nor will flames consume you.
For I, the LORD, am your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your savior.
I give Egypt as ransom for you,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you
 and nations in exchange for your life.
Fear not, for I am with you;
 from the east I will bring back your offspring,
 from the west I will gather you.
I will say to the north: Give them up!
 and to the south: Do not hold them!
Bring back my sons from afar,
 and my daughters from the ends of the earth:
All who are called by my name, I created for my glory;
 I formed them and made them.

.....The Word of the Lord

First Reading

A Reading from the book of Lamentations

Lamentations 3:17-26

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

First Reading

A Reading from the book of Sirach

Sirach 44:1, 10-15

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

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 progeny 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

First Reading

A Reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

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.

.....The Word of the Lord