

Short Version

Read by: _____

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Long Version

Read by: _____

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Old Testament Reading #3

Wisdom 4:7-15

Read by: _____

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

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 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.

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Read by: _____

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 peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations; God 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.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Read by: _____

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.

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.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Read by: _____

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God:

O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel.

Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land;

thus you shall know that I am the Lord.

I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Read by: _____

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 reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy

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."

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Read by: _____

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will look over my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,
so will I tend my sheep.

I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.

I will lead them out from among the peoples
and bring them back from the foreign lands;

I will bring them back to their own country
and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel.

In good pastures will I pasture them,
and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground. There they shall lie down on good grazing ground,
and in rich pastures shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord God.

The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back,
the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, shepherding them rightly.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Read by: _____

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Lo, I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
The things of the past shall not be remembered or come to mind.

Instead, there shall always be rejoicing and happiness in what I create;
For I create Jerusalem to be a joy
and its people to be a delight;

I will rejoice in Jerusalem and exult in my people. No longer shall the
sound of weeping be heard there, or the sound of crying;

No longer shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old
man
who does not round out his full lifetime;

He dies a mere youth who reaches but a hundred years, and he who fails
of a hundred shall be thought accursed.

They shall live in the houses they build, and eat the fruit of the vineyards
they plant.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Read by: _____

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 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 sow;
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.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Read by: _____

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, offspring of Abraham my friend-

You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth and summoned from its far-off places,

You whom I have called my servant,
whom I have chosen and will not cast off-

Fear not, I am with you;

be not dismayed; I am your God.

I will strengthen you, and help you,
and uphold you with my right hand of justice.

For I am the Lord, your God, who grasps your right hand; It is I who say to you, "Fear not, I will help you."

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading, Easter Season # 1012-1

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

Read by: _____

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel

as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

He commissioned us to preach to the people

and testify that he is the one appointed by God

as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,

that everyone who receives in him

will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading, Easter Season # 1012-2

Revelation 14:13

Read by: _____

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.

Response: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading, Easter Season # 1012-3

Revelation 20:11-21:1

Read by: _____

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.
The earth and the sky fled from his presence
and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne,
and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judge according to their deeds,
but what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead;

then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life
was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea
was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading, Easter Season # 1012-4

Revelation 21:1-5a,6b-7

Read by: _____

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 a 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.

Response: Thanks be to God.