

Old Testament Readings pick one

1. A Reading from the Book of Job (19.1, 23-26)

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 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.

2. A Reading from the Book of 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 a 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 His elect.

The Word of the Lord.

3. A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (4.7-15)

The just man, though he died 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 or 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. Because grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with His elect. The Word of the Lord.

4. A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah (26. 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.

5. A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3. 17-26)

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future 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 seeks Him, it is good to hope in silence for saving help of the Lord. The Word of the Lord.

6. A Reading from the Book of the Prophet 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 many to justice shall be like the stars forever." The Word of the Lord.

New Testament – pick one

1. A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10.34-43)

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words: “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 Israelites as He proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. We are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that He be visible, not to all people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and to 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 believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name. The Word of the Lord.

2. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (5.5-11)

Hope does not disappoint because the love God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, through perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves His love for us in what while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by His blood, will be saved through Him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by His life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. The Word of the Lord.

3. A Reading from the Letter Paul to the Romans (5.17-21)

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one man, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the obedience of one the many will be righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more; so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for the eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. The Word of the Lord.

4. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (6. 3-9)

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with Him through a death like His, we shall also be united with Him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over Him.

The Word of the Lord.

5. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8.14-23)

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joints heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. The Word of the Lord.

6. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8.31b-35, 37-39)

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, how will He not also give us everything else along with Him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Word of the Lord.

7. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (14. 7-9, 10b-12)

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that HE might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do look down on your brother or sister? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written:

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

8. A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15.20-3, 24b-8)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at His coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to His God and Father, when He has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for “He subjected everything under His feet.” But when it says that everything is subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to Him, so that God may be all in all. The Word of the Lord.

9. A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15.51-57)

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

10. A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (5.1, 6.10)

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. So we are courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please Him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

11. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (3.20-21)

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with His glorified body by the power that enables Him also to bring all things into subjection to Himself.

The Word of the Lord.

12. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4.13-18)

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with Him those who fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord Himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words. For the Lord Himself
The Word of the Lord.

13. A Reading from the Second letter of Paul to Timothy (2.8-13)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendent of David; such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we persevere we shall also reign with Him. But if we deny Him, He will deny us, if we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.
The Word of the Lord.

14. A Reading from the First Letter of John (3.1-2)

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
The Word of the Lord.

15. A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy (4.6-8)

For my part I am already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me- and not only to me but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.

Hymn Suggestions

- Alleluia, Sing to Jesus (Entrance / Closing)
Amazing Grace (Offertory/Communion/Closing)
Be Not Afraid (Entrance/Offertory/Communion/Closing)
Blest Are They (Beatitudes) (Offertory / Communion)
Earthen Vessels (Offertory / Communion)
Eat This Bread (Communion)
Gift of Finest Wheat (Communion)
Here I am Lord (Entrance / Offertory / Communion)
Hosea (Entrance / Offertory / Closing)
How Great Thou Art (Offertory / Communion / Closing)
I Am the Bread of Life (Communion / Closing)
I Have Loved You (Offertory / Communion)
Lift High the Cross (Entrance / Closing)
Morning Has Broken (Entrance)
O God Our Help In Ages Past (Entrance / Closing)
On Eagles Wings (Entrance / Offertory / Communion)
Prayer of St. Francis (Offertory / Communion)
The King of Love My Shepherd is (Communion)
We Remember (Offertory)
Yahweh, I Know You Are Near (Entrance / Offertory / Communion)
Ave Maria (Communion)