

## **APPENDIX B – OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

### **A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy (5:1-3, 6-7, 11-12, 16-21a, 6:4-6)**

Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances which I proclaim in your hearing this day, that you may learn them and take care to observe them. The LORD, our God, made a covenant with us at Horeb; not with our ancestors did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, all of us who are alive here this day.

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall not have other gods beside me.

You shall not invoke the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished anyone who invokes his name in vain.

Observe the sabbath day—keep it holy, as the LORD, your God, commanded you.

Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD, your God, has commanded you, that you may have a long life and that you may prosper in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not kill.\*

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear dishonest witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today.

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### **A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-6, 8, 10-11)**

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 love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

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.

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### **A Reading from the Book of 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: “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!”

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### **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 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 the elect.

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### **A Reading from the Book of Jonah (2)**

The LORD sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he remained in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah prayed to the LORD, his God, from the belly of the fish:

Out of my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me;  
From the womb of Sheol I cried for help, and you heard my voice.  
You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the sea,  
and the flood enveloped me;  
All your breakers and your billows  
passed over me.

Then I said, “I am banished from your sight!  
How will I again look upon your holy temple?”  
The waters surged around me up to my neck; the deep enveloped me; seaweed  
wrapped around my head.  
I went down to the roots of the mountains;  
to the land whose bars closed behind me forever,  
But you brought my life up from the pit,  
O LORD, my God.  
When I became faint,  
I remembered the LORD;  
My prayer came to you in your holy temple.  
Those who worship worthless idols abandon their hope for mercy.

But I, with thankful voice, will sacrifice to you;  
What I have vowed I will pay: deliverance is from the LORD.

Then the LORD commanded the fish to vomit Jonah upon dry land.

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### **A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah (3:14-18)**

Shout for joy, daughter Zion! sing joyfully, Israel!

Be glad and exult with all your heart, daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies;

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear.

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.

I will remove disaster from among you, so that no one may recount your disgrace.