

FIRST READINGS

1. *A reading from the book of Wisdom*

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing
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 keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

What do we gain by all our hard work? I have seen
what difficult things God demands of us. God makes
everything happen at the right time. Yet none of us
can ever fully understand all he has done, and he puts
questions in our minds about the past and the future. I
know the best thing we can do is to always enjoy life,
because God's gift to us is the happiness we get from
our food and drink and from the work we do.

Everything God has done will last for ever; nothing
He does can ever be changed. God has done all this,
so that we will worship Him.

The word of the Lord.



2. A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
No torment shall ever touch them.
In the eyes of the unwise they did appear to die.
Their going looked like a disaster,
Their leaving us like annihilation;
But they are at peace,
If they experience punishment as people see it,
Their hope was rich with immortality.
Slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.
God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to
be with him.
He has tested them like gold in a furnace,
And accepted them as a holocaust.
They who trust in him will understand the truth.
Those who are faithful will live with him in love.
For grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The word of the Lord.



13. A reading from the letter of St Paul to Timothy

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, I solemnly urge you
to preach the message, to insist upon proclaiming it, to convince,
reproach and encourage as you teach with all patience.
The time will come when people will not listen to sound
doctrine, but will follow their own desires and will collect for
themselves more and more teachers who will tell them what they
are itching to hear. They will turn away from listening to the
truth and give their attention to legends.
But you must keep control of yourself in all circumstances;
endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the Good News
and perform your whole duty as a servant of God.
As for me, the hour has come for me to be sacrificed; the time is
here for me to leave this life. I have done my best in the race, I
have run the full distance and I have kept the faith. And now
there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with
God, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that
Day—and not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for
him to appear.

The word of the Lord.

14. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others;
if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord,
so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.
This explains why Christ both died and came to life,
it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.
We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God;
as scripture says: By my life - it is the Lord who speaks,
every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise
God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account
of himself.

The word of the Lord

11. *A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse these that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - rose from the dead and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come before us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

12. *A reading from the first letter of St. John.*

We have passed out of death and into life, and of this we can be sure because we love our sisters and brothers. If you refuse to love, you must remain dead; to hate your sisters and brothers is to be a murderer, and murderers, as you know, do not have eternal life in them. This has taught us love that he gave up his life for us; and we too, ought to give up our lives for our sisters and brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.

3. *A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts
will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food.
On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil
covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations.
He will destroy death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek.
He will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: "See, this is our God in whom we
hoped for salvation; The Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us."

The word of the Lord.

4. *A reading from the book of Wisdom*

The virtuous person, though they die before their time, will find rest, length of days is not what makes age honourable, nor number of years the true measure of life; understanding, this is one's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age.

They have sought to please God, so God loved them; as they were living among sinners, they have been taken up.

They have been carried off so that evil may not warp their understanding or treachery seduce their souls; for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade, and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.

Coming to perfection in so short a while, they achieved long life, his soul being pleasing to the Lord, He has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.

Yet people look on, uncomprehending; it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord and protection, His holy ones.

The word of the Lord.

5. *A reading from the Book of Psalms*

O Lord, our Lord,
your greatness is seen in all the world!
Your praise reaches up to the heavens;
it is sung by children and babies.
You are safe and secure from all your enemies;
you stop anyone who opposes you.

When I look at the sky, which you have made,
at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places -
what are human beings, that you think of them;
mere mortals, that you care for them?

Yet you made them inferior only to yourself;
you crowned them with glory and honour.
You appointed them rulers over everything you made;
you placed them over all creation:
sheep and cattle, and the wild animals too;
and the birds and the fish and the creatures in the seas.

O Lord, our Lord,
Your greatness is seen in all the world.

The word of the Lord

6. *A reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Turn to the Lord and pray to him, now that he is near.
Let the wicked leave their way of life and change their way
of thinking. Let them turn to the Lord, our God; he is
merciful and quick to forgive.
“My thoughts,” says the Lord, “are not like yours,
and my ways are different from yours.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways and thoughts above yours”.

The word of the Lord

9. *A reading from the first letter of St. John*

Let us love one another, for love is from God; everyone who
loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not
love, does not know God, for God is love.
God’s love was revealed among us in his way: God sent his
only Son into the world so that we might live through him.
In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us,
and sent his son to be atoning sacrifice for our sins.
Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one
another. No one has seen God; if we love one another, God
lives in us, and his love is perfected in us, that we may
confidence for the day of judgement.

The word of the Lord.

**10. *A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the
Corinthians.***

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God, a house not made of hands,
eternal in the heavens. So we are always confident; even
though 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.
Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away
from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are
at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

The word of the Lord.

8. *A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians*

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else.

You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

The peace that Christ is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful, Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts.

Teach and instruct each other with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and other sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts.

Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

"See what love the Father has given us,



that we should be called children of God."

1 John 3:1

7. *A reading from the book of Psalms*

Lord, you have examined me and you know me.

You know everything I do; from far away you understand all my thoughts.

You see me, whether I am working or resting; you know all my actions.

Even before I speak, you already know what I will say.

You are all round me on every side; you protect me with your power.

Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond my understanding.

Where could I go to escape from you?

Where could I get away from your presence?

If I went up to heaven, you would be there;

if I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there.

If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west, you would be there to lead me, you would be there to help me.

I could ask the darkness to hide me or the light round me

to turn into night, but even darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are the same to you.

You created every part of me;

you put me together in my mother's womb,

I praise you because you are to be feared; all you do is strange and wonderful.

I know it with my heart.

When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother's womb, when I was growing there in secret, you knew that I was there - you saw me before I was born.

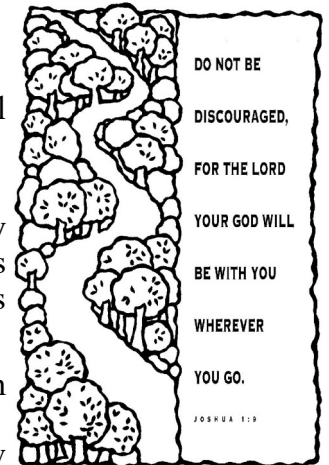
The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book, before any of them ever began.

O God, how difficult I find your thoughts; how many of them there are!

If I counted them, there would be more than the grains of sand.

When I awake, I am still with you.

The word of the Lord



8. *A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Strengthen the weak hands make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come to Zion

With singing; everlasting joy will be upon their heads; they will obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The word of the Lord.

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

6. *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died.

At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air.

So we shall stay with the Lord for ever.

With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord

7. *A reading from St. John*

I John, heard a voice from heaven say to me, "write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them".

The word of the Lord.

4. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Yet I do proclaim a message of wisdom to those who are spiritually mature. But it is not the wisdom that belongs to the world or to the powers that rule this world - powers that are losing their power.

The wisdom I proclaim is God's hidden wisdom, which he has already chosen for our glory even before the world was made, none of the rulers of this world knew this wisdom. If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.

However, as scripture says:

“What no one ever saw or heard,
what no one ever thought could happen,
is the very thing God prepared for those who love him.”

But it was to us that God made known his secret by means of his Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, even the hidden depths of God's purposes.

The word of the Lord

5. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Death came through one man
and in the same way the resurrection of the dead
has come through one man.
Just as all die in Adam,
so all will be brought to life in Christ;
but all of them in their proper order:
Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ,
those who belong to him.

The word of the Lord.

.9. A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed; to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning.

The word of the Lord.

10. A reading from the Song of Songs

Set me like a seal on your heart
Like a seal on your arm
For love is strong as death
Jealously as relentless as Sheol
The flash of it is a flash of fire
A flame of Yahweh Godself,
Love no flood can quench
No torrents drown.

The word of the Lord.

11. *A reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives.

Then my favour will shine on you like the morning sun, and your wounds will be quickly healed. I will always be with you to save you; my presence will protect you on every side. When you pray I will answer you. When you call to me, I will respond.

If you put an end to oppression, to every gesture of contempt, and to every evil word; if you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon. And I will always guide you and satisfy you with good things. I will keep you strong and well. You will be like a garden that has plenty of water, like a spring of water that never runs dry.

The word of the Lord

12. *A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus*

A faithful friend is a sure shelter, whoever finds one has found a rare treasure.

A faithful friend is something beyond price, there is no measuring their worth.

A faithful friend is the elixir of life, and those who respect the Lord will find one.

Whoever respects the Lord makes true friends

For as one is, so is their friend.

The word of the Lord.

3. *From St. Paul to the Ephesians.*

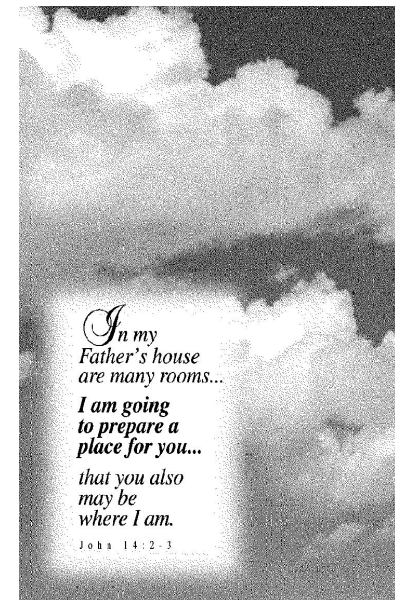
This then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that according to the riches of his glory, you may be strengthened in your inner being through the power of his Spirit.

That Christ may live in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and ground in love.

So that planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people, you will have the strength to grasp the breath and the length, the height and the depth of the love of Christ, so that you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.

The word of the Lord



Second Readings

1. A reading from the first letter of St. John.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
By letting us be called God's children:
And that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
Therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
But what we are to be in the future has not yet
been revealed;
All we know is, that when it is revealed
We shall be like Him
Because we shall see Him as He really is.

The word of the Lord.



2. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been 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.

Sample 1. *RESPONSORIAL PSALMS*

Response:

***The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.***

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

Response

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

Response

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foe.
My head you have anointed with oil;
My cup is overflowing.

Response

Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Response

Sample 2.

Response:

The Lord is compassion and love.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.

Response

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust.

Response

As for people, their days are like grass;
their flowers like the flower of the field;
the wind blows and they are gone
and their place never sees them again.

Response

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to his children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth.

Response

**BE MERCIFUL TO ME, O GOD,
BECAUSE OF YOUR CONSTANT
Psalm 51 LOVE.**

Sample 5.

Response;

***I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the
land of the living.***

How gracious is the Lord and just;
Our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so He saved me.

Response.

I trusted, even when I said:
“I am sorely afflicted,”
And when I said in my alarm:
“no one can be trusted”.

Response

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
Is the death of His faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
You have loosened my bonds.

Response



Sample 4.

Response: Lord, listen to my prayer

Lord, listen to my prayer,
Turn your ear to my appeal,
You are faithful, you are just; give answer.
Do not call your servant to judgement
for no one is just in your sight.

Response

I remember the days that are past;
I ponder all your works,
I muse on what your hand has wrought
And to you I stretch out my hands.
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.

Response

Lord, make haste and answer;
For my spirit fails within me,
In the morning let me know your love
For I put my trust in you.

Response.

Teach me to do your will
For you, O Lord, are my God.
Let your good spirit guide me
In ways that are level and smooth.

Response



Sample 3

Response:

The Lord is my light and my help.

The Lord is my light and my help;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life,
Before whom shall I shrink?

Response

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
For this I long,
To live in the house of the Lord,
All the days of my life,
To savour the sweetness of the Lord,
To behold His temple.

Response

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
Have mercy and answer.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
Hide not your face.

Response

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
In the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart
Hope in the Lord!

Response.