

He acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees.

Judas Maccabeus took up a collection, man by man,
to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver,
and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering.

In doing this he acted very well and honourably,
taking account of the resurrection.

For if he were not expecting
that those who had fallen would rise again,
it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.

But if he was looking to the splendid reward
that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.

Therefore he made atonement for the dead,
so that they might be delivered from their sin.

The word of the Lord.

I know that my Redeemer lives.

A reading from the book of Job.

Job answered:

“O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

O that with an iron pen and with lead

they were engraved on a rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,

and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;

And after my skin has been thus destroyed,

then in my flesh I shall see God,

whom I shall see on my side,

and my eyes shall behold,

and not another.”

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

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 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 throw 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 throw away;
a time to tear, 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.

What gain have the workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

He has made everything suitable for its time.

The word of the Lord.

Like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little,
they will receive great good,
because God tested them
and found them worthy of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD will reign over them forever.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The word of the Lord.

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Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.

For old age is not honored for length of time,

or measured by number of years;

but understanding is gray hair for anyone,

and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There was one who pleased God and was loved by him,

and while living among sinners was taken up.

Such a person was caught up so that evil might not change their understanding

or guile deceive their soul.

For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,

and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.

Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years;

for their soul was pleasing to the LORD,

therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness.

Yet the peoples saw and did not understand,

or take such a thing to heart,

that God's grace and mercy are with his elect,

and that he watches over his holy ones.

The word of the Lord.

The Lord will swallow up death forever.

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the LORD GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God;
we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

The word of the Lord.

The Lord has sent me to comfort all who mourn.

A reading from the book of 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 provide for those who mourn in Zion –
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

The word of the Lord.

No more shall the sound of weeping be heard.

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;

the former things shall not be remembered

or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever

in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,

and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem,

and delight in my people;

no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,

or the cry of distress.

The word of the Lord.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

A reading from the book of Lamentations.

My soul is deprived of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the LORD."
The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

I am going to open your graves.

A reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

“Therefore prophesy, and say to them,

Thus says the LORD GOD:

I am going to open your graves,

and bring you up from your graves, O my people;

and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

And you shall know that I am the LORD,

when I open your graves,

and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live,

And I will place you on your own soil;

Then you shall know that I, the LORD,

Have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

A reading from the book of the Prophet Daniel.

At that time Michael, the great prince,
The protector of your people, shall arise.
There shall be a time of anguish,
such as has never occurred
since nations first came into existence.
But at that time your people shall be delivered,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake,
some to everlasting life,
and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,
and those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever.

The word of the Lord.

First Reading During the Easter Season

10129(1)

Acts 10:34-43

He is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

A reading from the Acts of Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak:

"I truly understand that God shows no partiality,

but in every nation anyone who fears him

and does what is right is acceptable to him.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel,

preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea,

beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;

how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,

for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;

but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,

not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses,

and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people

and to testify that he is the one ordained by God

as judge of the living and the dead.

All the Prophets testify about him
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

First Reading During the Easter Season

1012(1) Short Version*

Acts 10.34-36, 42-43

He is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak:

"I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
but in every nation anyone who fears him
and does what is right is acceptable to him.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel,
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He commanded us to preach to the people
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All the Prophets testify about him
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

First Reading During the Easter Season

1012(1A)

Revelation 7. 9, 14b-17

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

After this I, John, looked,
and there was a great multitude that no one could count,
from every nation, from all the tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb,
robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
And one of the elders then said to me,
“These are they who have come out of the great ordeal:
they have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd.

The word of the Lord.

First Reading During Easter Season

1012(2)

Revelation 14.13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

And I, John, heard a voice from heaven saying,

“Write this:

Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.”

“Yes,” says the Spirit,

“they will rest from their labours,

for their deeds follow them.”

The word of the Lord.

First Reading During Easter Season

1012(3)

Revelation 20.11-21.1

The dead are judged according to their works.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I, John, saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it;

the earth and the heaven fled from his presence,

and no place was found for them.

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne,

and books were opened.

Also another book was opened, the book of life.

And the dead were judged according to their works,

as recorded in the books.

And the sea gave up the dead that were in it,

Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them,

and all were judged according to what they had done.

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

This is the second death, the lake of fire;
and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life
was thrown into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord.

First Reading During Easter Season

1012(4)

Revelation 21.1-5a, 6b-7

Death will be no more.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away;
and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among humans.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said,

"See, I am making all things new."

I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift

from the spring of the water of life.

The one who conquers will inherit these things,

and I will be his God and he will be my son."

The word of the Lord.