

Old Testament Readings

Choose One

1. A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!
You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew you with the everlasting covenant.

The Word of the Lord

2. A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

But now, says the Lord, who created you, and formed you: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God... You are precious in my eyes and glorious, I love you. Thus says the Lord, your redeemer, who formed you from the womb... I have called you by your name ... You are saved by the Lord, saved forever!

The Word of the Lord

3. A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.
They will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.
Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not! Here is your God,
who comes to save you.
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
The will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the dumb will sing.
Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy;
They will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.

THE WORD OF THE LORD...

4. 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 sew;
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.
God has made everything appropriate to its time ...
Whatever God does will last forever,
there is no adding to it or taking from it.

The Word of the Lord...

5. A READING FROM SIRACH

Be sincere of heart and steadfast,
undisturbed in time of adversity.
Cling to God, forsake Him not;
thus will your future be great.
Accept whatever befalls you, be patient.
For in fire gold is tested.
Trust God and he will help you;
You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy,
trust him and your reward will not be lost.
You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.
Has anyone hoped in the Lord and been disappointed?
Has anyone persevered and been forsaken?
Compassionate and merciful is the Lord;
he forgives sins and saves in time of trouble.
Those who fear the Lord prepare their hearts
and humble themselves before him.
Let us fall into the hands of the Lord,
for equal to God's majesty is the mercy He shows.

The Word of the Lord...

6. A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy woman, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, not evil, all the days of her life. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly covered. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. 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....

7. A READING FROM THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

Thus says the Lord: Blessed is he man who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; In the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit. More tortuous than all else is the human heart, beyond remedy, who can understand it? I, the Lord, alone probe the mind and test the heart, to reward everyone according to his ways, according to the merit of his deeds.

The Word of the Lord...

8. A READING FROM SIRACH

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; He who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, No sum can balance his worth. A faithful friend is a life saving remedy, Such as he who fears God finds; For he who fears God behaves accordingly And his friend will be like himself.

The Word of the Lord...

9. A READING FROM THE PROPHET MICAH

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow before God most high? Shall I come before him with holocausts, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriad streams of oil? You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.

The Word of the Lord....

10. A reading from the Book of Proverbs

A good person wins favor from the LORD
Those who walk uprightly fear the Lord
In all labor there is profit, but mere talk tends only to loss. The fear of the LORD is a strong defense, a refuge even for one's children.
The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning one from the snares of death
Entrust your works to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.
The LORD has made everything for a purpose
Children's children are the crown of the elderly, and the glory of children is their parentage
To find a wife is to find happiness, a favor granted by the LORD
Many are the plans of the human heart, but it is the decision of the LORD that endures

The Word of the Lord

11. A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. 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, Lo, 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.

CHOOSE ONE NEW TESTAMENT READING

12. A Reading from Second Corinthians

For 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 always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are far away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous and we 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...

13. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person -- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

14. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-9)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

For whoever has died is freed from sin.

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

The Word of the Lord.

15. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:14-23)

All 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 have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ -- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

16. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57)

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all 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 will 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.

17. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (3:20-21)

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

18. A reading from the first letter of John (3:1-2)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what 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 will be has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

19. A reading from the book of Revelation (14:13)

I 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 labors, for their deeds follow them."

The Word of the Lord.

20. A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. .. I remember you constantly in my prayers, night and day. I yearn to see you again, recalling your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. So you, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you to understand everything....

I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

From now on a merited crown awaits me, which the Lord will award to me .., and not to me only, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

THE WORD OF THE LORD...

21. A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

For 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 bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs also.

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor principalities nor present things nor future things, nor powers, nor heights, nor depths, 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...

22. A Reading from Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near. Have no anxiety, But in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, Make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard you hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, Whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, Whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious... If there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord...

23. A reading from First Corinthians

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not proud, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. In the end there are but three things that last - faith, hope, love, and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord...

24. A reading from Thessalonians

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who are laboring among you and who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you, and to show esteem for them with special love on account of their work.

Be at peace among yourselves.

We urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with all. See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good for each other and for all.

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Test everything; retain what is good.

Refrain from every kind of evil.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The Word of the Lord

25. A Reading from the Book of Revelations

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. God will dwell with them and they will be his people and God 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 springs of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be their God and they will be my children."

The Word of the Lord...

26. A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Your love must be sincere. Detest what is evil, cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of brothers and sisters. Anticipate each other in showing respect. Do not grow slack, but be fervent in spirit; He whom you serve is the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial; persevere in prayer. Look to the needs of the saints as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. Bless your persecutors; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice

with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same attitude towards all. Put away ambitious thoughts and associate with those who are lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never repay injury with injury. See that your conduct is honorable in the eyes of all. If possible, live peaceably with everyone.

But if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if thirsty, give them something to drink. Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

The Word of the Lord...

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS

CHOOSE ONE GOSPEL

27. A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12a)

Jesus went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and
persecute you

and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my
account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in
heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

28. A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (11:25-30)

At that time Jesus said,
"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things from the wise
and the intelligent
and have revealed them to infants;
yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my
Father;
and no one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying
heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find
rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
The Gospel of the Lord.

29. A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (25:31-46)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the
angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his
glory.
All the nations will be gathered before him,
and he will separate people one from another
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the
goats at the left.
Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
"Come, you that are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the
foundation of the world;
for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.'
Then the righteous will answer him,
"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave
you food, or thirsty and gave you something to
drink?
And when was it that we saw you a stranger and
welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?
And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison
and visited you?"

And the king will answer them,
"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least
of these who are members of my family, you did it to
me.'
Then he will say to those at his left hand,
"You that are accursed, depart from me into the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;
for I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not give me clothing,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'
Then they also will answer,
"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did
not take care of you?"
Then he will answer them,
"Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of
the least of these, you did not do it to me.'
And these will go away into eternal punishment,
but the righteous into eternal life."
The Gospel of the Lord.

30. A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (12:35-40)

Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;
be like those who are waiting for their master
to return from the wedding banquet,
so that they may open the door for him
as soon as he comes and knocks.
Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert
when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt
and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and
serve them.
If he comes during the middle of the night, or near
dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.
"But know this: if the owner of the house had known
at what hour the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be broken into.
You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is
coming at an unexpected hour."
The Gospel of the Lord.

31. A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (24:13-35)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a
village called Emmaus,
about seven miles from Jerusalem,
and talking with each other about all these things
that had happened.

While they were talking and discussing,
Jesus himself came near and went with them,
but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.
And he said to them,
"What are you discussing with each other while you
walk along?"
They stood still, looking sad.
Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas,
answered him, "Are you the only stranger in
Jerusalem who does not know the things that have
taken place there in these days?"
He asked them, "What things?"
They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before
God and all the people, and how our chief priests
and leaders handed him over to be condemned to
death and crucified him.
But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem
Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day
since these things took place.
Moreover, some women of our group astounded us.
They were at the tomb early this morning,
and when they did not find his body there,
they came back and told us that they had indeed
seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.
Some of those who were with us went to the tomb
and found it just as the women had said; but they
did not see him."
Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are,
and how slow of heart to believe all that the
prophets have declared!
Was it not necessary that the Messiah
should suffer these things and then enter into his
glory?"
Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them the things about himself in
all the scriptures. As they came near the village to
which they were going, he walked ahead as if he
were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying,
"Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the
day is now nearly over."
So he went in to stay with them.
When he was at the table with them,
he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to
them.
Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized
him; and he vanished from their sight.
They said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he was talking to us on the road,

while he was opening the scriptures to us?"
That same hour they got up and returned to
Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their
companions gathered together.
They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he
has appeared to Simon!"
Then they told what had happened on the road,
and how he had been made known to them in the
breaking of the bread.
The Gospel of the Lord.

32. A reading from the holy gospel according to John (5:24-29)

Very truly, I tell you,
anyone who hears my word and believes him who
sent me has eternal life, and does not come under
judgment, but has passed from death to life.
"Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now
here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of
God, and those who hear will live.
For just as the Father has life in himself,
so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself;
and he has given him authority to execute judgment,
because he is the Son of Man.
Do not be astonished at this;
for the hour is coming when all who are in their
graves will hear his voice and will come out
-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of
life, and those who have done evil, to the
resurrection of condemnation.
The Gospel of the Lord.

33. A reading from the holy gospel according to John (6:37-40)

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and anyone who comes to me I will never drive
away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do
my own will, but the will of him who sent me.
And this is the will of him who sent me,
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,
but raise it up on the last day.
This is indeed the will of my Father,
that all who see the Son and believe in him may have
eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."
The Gospel of the Lord.

34. A reading from the holy gospel according to John (11:17-27)

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?" She said to him,

"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God,

the one coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

35. A reading from the holy gospel according to John (12:23-28)

Jesus answered Andrew and Philip,

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say --

"Father, save me from this hour'?"

No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord.

36. A reading from the holy gospel according to John (14:1-6)

Jesus said to his disciples,

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come again and will take you to myself,

so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.