

First Readings From The Old Testament

From the Lectionary for Mass, no. 1011; and supplemental OT readings*

<i>2 Maccabees 12:43-46</i>	<i>He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.</i>	19
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Note: Only during Easter Time, is the First Reading selected from these four New Testament Readings.

Acts 10:34-43 *He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.*
Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 *(short form)*

Revelation 14:13 *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*

Revelation 20:11-21:1 *The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 *There shall be no more death.*

A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,

took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead
that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord.

*2 Maccabees 12:43-46
He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had
the resurrection of the dead in view.*

A Reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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 the 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.

Job 19:1, 23-27a
I know that my Vindicator lives.

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

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 his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Wisdom 3:1-9 (long form)
As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

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.

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 his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

*Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (short form)
As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die 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 of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Wisdom 4:7-15
An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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.

*Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9
He will destroy death forever.*

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,

I have forgotten what happiness is;

I tell myself my future is 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 that seeks him;

It is good to hope in silence

for the saving help of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:17-26 (long form)
It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

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 that seeks him;

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:22-26 (short form)

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and 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 the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord.

*Daniel 12:1-3.
Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*

A Reading from the Book of Ruth

But Ruth said, “Do not ask me to abandon or forsake you! For
wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge,
your people shall be my people and your God, my God.

Wherever you die I will die, and there be buried.

May the LORD do so and so to me, and more besides,
if even death separates me from you!”

The Word of the Lord.

Ruth 1:16-17
Oath to Loyalty.
An Additional Reading from the Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

My son, do not forget my teaching,

take to heart my commands;

For many days, and years of life, and peace, will they bring you.

Do not let love and fidelity forsake you;

bind them around your neck;

write them on the tablet of your heart.

Then will you win favor and esteem before God and human beings.

Happy the one who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding!

Her profit is better than profit in silver, and better than gold is her revenue;

She is more precious than corals,

and no treasure of yours can compare with her.

Long life is in her right hand, in her left are riches and honor;

her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace;

she is a tree of life to those who grasp her,

and those who hold her fast are happy.

The Word of the Lord.

*Proverbs 3:1-4, 13-18
The Benefits of Finding Wisdom.*

An Additional Reading from the Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of worth?

Far beyond jewels is her value.

Her husband trusts her judgment; he does not lack income.

She brings him profit, not loss, all the days of her life.

She seeks out wool and flax and weaves with skillful hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor,

and extends her arms to the needy.

She is clothed with strength and dignity,

and laughs at the days to come.

She opens her mouth in wisdom;

kindly instruction is on her tongue.

Her children rise up and call her blessed;

her husband, too, praises 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.

Acclaim her for the work of her hands,

and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 25-26, 28-31
Poem on the Woman of Worth.
An Additional Reading from the Old Testament

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 give birth, 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.

What profit have workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be busied about.

God has made everything appropriate to its time,

but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out,

from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
No One Can Determine the Right Time to Act.
An Additional Reading from the Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

For the Lord sets a father in honor over his children
and confirms a mother's authority over her sons.

Those who honor their father atone for sins;
they store up riches who respect their mother.

Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children,
and when they pray they are heard.

Those who respect their father will live a long life;
those who obey the Lord honor their mother.

Those who fear the Lord honor their father,
and serve their parents as masters.

In word and deed honor your father, that all blessings may come to you.

A father's blessing gives a person firm roots,
but a mother's curse uproots the growing plant.

Kindness to a father will not be forgotten;
it will serve as a sin offering
—it will take lasting root.

The Word of the Lord.

Sirach 3:2-9, 14
Responsibilities to Parents.
An Additional Reading from the Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

Now will I praise the godly, our ancestors, in their own time,

The abounding glory of the Most High's portion,

his own part, since the days of old.

Subduers of the land in kingly fashion, renowned for their might,

Counselors in their prudence, seers of all things in prophecy,

Resolute princes of the flock, lawgivers and their rules,

Sages skilled in composition, authors of sharp proverbs,

Composers of melodious Psalms, writers of lyric poems;

Stalwart, solidly established, at peace in their own estates—

All these were glorious in their time, illustrious in their day.

Of others no memory remains, for when they perished, they perished,

as if they had never lived, they and their children after them.

Yet these also were godly; their virtues have not been forgotten.

Their wealth remains in their families, their heritage with their descendants.

Through God's covenant their family endures, and their offspring for their sake.

And for all time their progeny will endure,

their glory will never be blotted out;

Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives on and on.

At gatherings their wisdom is retold,

and the assembly proclaims their praises.

The Word of the Lord.

Sirach 44: 1-7, 9-15
Praise of Israel's Great Ancestors.
An Additional Reading from the Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Sirach
I will now praise the godly,
 our ancestors, in their own time,
their virtues have not been forgotten.
Their wealth remains in their families,
 their heritage with their descendants.
Through God's covenant their family endures,
 and their offspring for their sake.
And for all time their progeny will endure,
 their glory will never be blotted out;
Their bodies are buried in peace,
 but their name lives on and on.
At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
 and the assembly proclaims their praises.
The Word of the Lord.

Sirach 44:1, 10b-15
Praise of Israel's great ancestors

(aka The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Ecclesiasticus) in Greek form: Sirach)

An Additional Reading from the Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Why, O Jacob, do you say, and declare,

O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The LORD is God from of old, creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary,

and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.

He gives power to the faint, abundant strength to the weak.

Though young men faint and grow weary,

and youths stagger and fall,

they that hope in the LORD will renew their strength,

they will soar on eagles' wings;

they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 40:27-31

Power of God.

Additional Readings from the Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, Jacob,
and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through waters, I will be with you;
through rivers, you shall not be swept away.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you.

Because you are precious in my eyes and honored,
and I love you,

I give people in return for you and nations in exchange for your life.

You are my witnesses—oracle of the LORD—

my servant whom I have chosen
to know and believe in me and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed, and after me there shall be none.

I, I am the LORD; there is no savior but me.

The people whom I formed for myself,
that they might recount my praise.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 43:1-2, 4, 10-11, 21
Promises of Redemption and Restoration.
Additional Readings from the Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

No longer shall the sun be your light by day,

Nor shall the brightness of the moon give you light by night;

Rather, the LORD will be your light forever,

your God will be your glory.

No longer will your sun set, or your moon wane;

For the LORD will be your light forever,

and the days of your grieving will be over.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 60:19-20

Eternal Light for Zion

Additional Readings from the Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel

For thus says the Lord GOD: Look!

I myself will search for my sheep and examine them.

As a shepherd examines his flock

while he himself is among his scattered sheep, so will I examine my sheep.

I will deliver them from every place where they were scattered on the day of dark clouds.

I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the lands;

I will bring them back to their own country

and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel,

in the ravines and every inhabited place in the land.

In good pastures I will pasture them;

on the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land.

There they will lie down on good grazing ground;

in rich pastures they will be pastured on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will pasture my sheep;

I myself will give them rest—oracle of the Lord GOD.

The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back,

the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal;

but the sleek and the strong I will destroy.

I will shepherd them in judgment.

The Word of the Lord.

Ezekiel 34:11-16
Parable of the Shepherds.
Additional Readings from the Old Testament

Masses For The Dead - First Readings From The New Testament
Used During Easter Time

During Easter Time, one of these readings, from the New Testament, is used as the First Reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.

From the Lectionary for Mass, no. 1012; and supplemental NT readings*

*Acts 10:34-43 He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.
Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 (short form)*

Revelation 7:9-10, 15-17 God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*

Revelation 14:13 Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

Revelation 20:11-21:1 The dead were judged according to their deeds.

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 There shall be no more death.

During Ordinary Time, these readings may be selected as the Second Reading

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

“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 children of Israel 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 the 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 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.

Acts 10:34-43 (long form)
He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

“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 children of Israel as he proclaimed
peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,

He commissioned us to preach to the people and 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.

Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 (short form)
He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

After this I had a vision of a great multitude,

which no one could count,

from every nation, race, people, and tongue.

They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,

wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb.”

“For this reason they stand before God’s throne

and worship him day and night in his temple.

The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.

They will not hunger or thirst anymore,

nor will the sun or any heat strike them.

For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them

and lead them to springs of life-giving water,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Word of the Lord.

Revelation 7:9-10, 15-17
God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
An Additional Reading from the New Testament

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John,

heard a voice from heaven say,

“Write this:

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

“Yes,” said the Spirit,

“let them find rest from their labors,

for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord.

Revelation 14:13
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence
and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly,
standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds,
by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead;
then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

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

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life
was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*Revelation 20:11—21:1
The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself 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 spring of life-giving water.

The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son.”

The Word of the Lord.

*Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7
There shall be no more death.*