

**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.**

**The Word of the Lord:**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

**A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel:**

**Thus says the Lord God:**

**O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel.**

**Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you risen from them, O my people!**

**I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.**

**The Word of the Lord:**

EZEKIEL: 37:12-14

**A Reading from the Book of Isaiah:**

**On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure choice wines.**

**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 25:6, 7-9

**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 hope 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 of the Lord.**

**The Word of the Lord:**

LAMENTATIONS 3:17-26

**A Reading from the Book of Sirach (*sounds like ‘seer rock’*):**

**Blessed the husband of a good wife, twice lengthened are his days; A worthy wife brings joy to her husband, peaceful and full is his life. A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the Lord; Be he rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face.**

**A gracious wife delights her husband, her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones; A gift from the Lord is her governed speech, and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.**

**Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste soul. A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace; indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.**

**Like the sun rising in the Lord’s heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.**

**The Word of the Lord:**

SIRACH 26:1-4, 13-16

**A Reading from a letter 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 man, 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 3:1-9

## **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, because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.**

## **The Word of the Lord:**

WISDOM 4:7-15