

MASSES FOR THE DEAD

1011. Reading I from the Old Testament

1. 2 Maccabees 12: 43–46

He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.

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.

2. Job 19: 1, 23–27a

I know that my Vindicator lives.

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.

3. Wisdom 3: 1–9 [LONG FORM]

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

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.

OR

Wisdom 3: 1–6, 9 [SHORT FORM]

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

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.

4. Wisdom 4: 7–15

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

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.

5. Isaiah 25: 6a, 7–9

He will destroy death forever.

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!”

6. Lamentations 3: 17–26

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

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.

7. Daniel 12: 1–3

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

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.

10 Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

There is a time for everything
under the heavens -

1012. Reading I from the New Testament

(During the Easter Season)

1. Acts of the Apostles 10: 34–43 [LONG FORM]

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

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.”

OR

Acts of the Apostles 10: 34–36, 42–43 [SHORT FORM]

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

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.”

2. Revelation 14: 13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

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.”

3. Revelation 20: 11–21: 1

The dead were judged according to their deeds.

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.

4. Revelation 21: 1–5a, 6b–7

There shall be no more death.

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.”

1013. Responsorial Psalm

1. Psalm 23: 1–3, 4, 5, 6

(10) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

or:

(4ab) Though I walk in the valley of
darkness, I fear no evil,
for you are with me.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths
for his name’s sake.

R/.

Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side

With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R/.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R/.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R/.

2. Psalm 25: 6 & 7b, 17–18, 20–21

(1) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

or:

(3a) No one who waits for you, O Lord,
will ever be put to shame.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.

In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

R/.

Relieve the troubles of my heart;
and bring me out of my distress.

Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins.

R/.

Preserve my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
because I wait for you, O LORD.

R/.

3. Psalm 27: 1, 4, 7 & 8b & 9a, 13–14

(1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation.
or:

(13) I believe that I shall see the good things
of the Lord in the land of the living.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

R/.

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple.

R/.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Your presence, O LORD, I seek.
Hide not your face from me.

R/.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

R/.

4. Psalm 42: 2, 3, 5cdef; 43: 3, 4, 5

(42: 3) My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

As the hind longs for the running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

R/.

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God?

R/.

I went with the throng and led them in procession
to the house of God.
Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival.

R/.

Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
And bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling-place.

R/.

Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
O God, my God!

R/.

Why are you so downcast, O my soul?
Why do you sigh within me?
Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking him,
in the presence of my savior and my God.

R/.

5. Psalm 63: 2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9

(2b) My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched,
lifeless and without water.

R/.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you.

R/.

Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands,
I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall
my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips
my mouth shall praise you.

R/.

You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I
shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.

R/.

6. Psalm 103: 8 & 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

(8a) The Lord is kind and merciful.
or:
(37: 39a) The salvation of the just
comes from the Lord.

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R/.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on
those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

R/.

Man's days are like those of grass;
like a flower of the field he blooms;
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,
and his place knows him no more.

R/.

But the kindness of the LORD is from eternity,
to eternity toward those who fear him,
And his justice toward children's children
among those who keep his covenant
and remember to fulfill his precepts.

R/.

7. Psalm 116: 5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac

(9) I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.
or:
Alleluia.

Gracious is the LORD and just;
yes, our God is merciful.

R/.

The LORD keeps the little ones;
I was brought low, and he saved me.

R/.

I believed, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
I said in my alarm
"No man is dependable."

R/.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
O LORD, I am your servant,
you have loosed my bonds.

R/.

8. Psalm 122: 1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

(1) I rejoiced when I heard them say:
let us go to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,
"We will go up to the house of the LORD."
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R/.

To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD.
According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David.

R/.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings.

R/.

Because of my relatives and friends
I will say "Peace be within you!"
Because of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will pray for your good.

R/.

9. Psalm 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8

(1) Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.
or:
(see 50) I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication.

R/.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

R/.

I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the LORD
more than the sentinels wait for the dawn.

R/.

More than the sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the LORD,
For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption.

R/.

And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities.

R/.

10. Psalm 143: 1-2, 5-6, 7ab & 8ab, 10

(1a) O Lord, hear my prayer.

O LORD, hear my prayer;
hearken to my pleading in your faithfulness;
in your justice answer me.
And enter not into judgment with your servant,
for before you no living man is just.

R/.

I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all your doings;
the works of your hands I ponder.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like parched land.

R/.

Hasten to answer me, O LORD;
for my spirit fails me.
At dawn let me hear of your mercy,
for in you I trust.

R/.

Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.
May your good spirit guide me
on level ground.

R/.