

# **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

## **MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Thank you for offering to make the first reading. The reading takes place immediately after the Opening Prayer

The priest will motion for all to be seated and then introduce this reading.  
You will then move directly from your seat to the podium with the microphone.

Once in place take a deep breath and then begin the reading.

There is no need for you to bring this reading, as it will be in the binder on the podium.

2. A reading from the Book of Wisdom 3:1-9

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 all, 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, God 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 God shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones, and God's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

3. A reading from the Book of Wisdom 4:7-14

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

4. A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-9

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 God will destroy the veil that veils all peoples,  
The web that is woven over all nations;  
God 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

A reading from the Book of Proverbs 31:11-24

Who shall find a valiant woman? Who shall find a woman of strength?  
A pearl of great price is she.  
Her friends all have confidence in her  
And benefit from her wise counsel.  
She initiates good, not evil, every day of her life.  
She opens her heart to the needy; she is generous with the poor,  
Yet she does not neglect her family's needs nor priorities of her own.  
She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
and she laughs at the days to come.  
She often speaks with wisdom, and teaches in a kindly way.  
Those who are close to her praise her, her family extol 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 for her labors,  
And let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.