

Preparing a Funeral ~ St. John the Evangelist Parish



OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

OT-#1

[Wisdom 3:1-6, 9]

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 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, 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.

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

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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.

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 all people,
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.

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.

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.

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,
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

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her
service is at an end.... Do you not know or have you not heard?

The Lord is the eternal God, Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint nor grow weary, and his knowledge is beyond
scrutiny. He give strength to the fainting; for the weak he makes
vigor abound. They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar as with eagles' wings;
they will run and not grow
weary, walk and not grow faint.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with skillful hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her arms to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.

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

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Who can find a confident, kind-hearted virtuous woman? for her price is far beyond anything this world can offer. Her husband entrusting his heart to her shows his love through care and devotion. And she loves him, forgiving his faults and encouraging his talents. She brings him good, all the days of her life.

She works hard to multiply what life gives her so that it is enough and more for her family; she is a wise steward of her resources. She is strong and wastes no time in comparing herself to others for she recognizes the blessings of the Lord.

She takes time for her family, working to enrich the beauty of her family's home. She recognizes the abundance of her blessings and generously shares with the needy. She works hard with her hands, her head, and her heart to bless her family and others.

Her countenance radiates strength and goodness; her faith overcomes her fears. She keeps her children and husband close to her heart. She watches her children grow up, they know she loves them; her husband appreciates all that she has done to nurture their family.

There are many ways to be a virtuous woman, and 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.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

For the Lord sets a father in honor
over his children;

A mother's authority he confirms
over her sons and daughters.

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

Those who honor their father are gladdened by children
and when they pray, they are heard.

Those who revere their father will live a long life;
they obey the Lord
who bring comfort to their mother.

In word and deed honor your father
that his blessing may come upon you;
For a father's blessing gives a family firm roots.

My children, take care of your father when he is old;
grieve him not as long as he lives.

For 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.

A Reading from the Book of Job

Then Job answered 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!

As for me, I know that my vindicator lives,
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust.

This will happen when my skin has been stripped off,
and from my flesh I will see God:

I will see for myself,

my own eyes, not another's, will behold him:

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Book of 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.

The wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament.
And those be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Behold the rainbow! Then bless its Maker, for majestic indeed is its splendor; It spans the heavens with its glory, the hand of God has stretched it out in power.

For his own purposes he opens the storehouse and makes the rain clouds fly like vultures. His might gives the clouds their strength, and breaks off the hailstones.

The thunder of his voice makes the earth writhe; by his power he shakes the mountains. A word from him drives on the south wind, whirlwind, hurricane, and stormwind.

He makes the snow fly like birds; it settles down like swarms of locusts. Its shining whiteness blinds the eyes, the mind marvels at its steady fall.

He scatters frost like salt; it shines like blossoms on the thornbush. He sends cold northern blasts that harden the ponds like solid ground, Spreads a crust over every body of water, and clothes each pool with a coat of armor.

Those who go down to the sea recount its extent, and when we hear them we are thunderstruck; In it are his creatures, stupendous, amazing, all kinds of life, and the monsters of the deep.

More than this we need not add; let the last word be, *He is the all!*

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;

A virtuous woman 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.