

[The First Readings are on the next several Pages]

C-1, page 37
1Maccabees 12:43-46

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees:

Judas, the ruler of Israel, then 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, in that he had the resurrection of the dead in view.

For if he were not expecting the dead 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, then it was a holy and pious thought. Thus, he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from sin.

The Word of the Lord.

C-2, page 38
Job 19:1, 23-27a

FIRST READING

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.

C-3 (long version) FIRST READING
page 38 Long version: Wis 3:1-9

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 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.

C-3 page 39 (short version) FIRST READING
Short version Wis 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 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.

C-4, page 40
Wis 4: 7-15

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

**The just man, though they 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 their souls were pleasing to the Lord,
therefore, God 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 God's holy ones,
and His care is with His elect.]

The Word of the Lord.

C-5 page 41
Is 25: 6a, 7-9

FIRST READING

A Reading from 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.

C-6, page 41
Lamentations 3: 17-26

FIRST READING

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.

C-7, page 42

FIRST READING

A reading from 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

*[The next several readings are used
in the Easter Season]*

C-8, page 43 (long version)

Acts 10: 34-43

FIRST READING during the Season of Easter

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

“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 to testify that Jesus Christ 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.

C-8, page 44 (short version)

Acts 10: 34-36, 42-43

FIRST READING during the Season of Easter

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

“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 God 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 to testify that Jesus Christ is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

To Jesus all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His Name.”

The Word of the Lord;.

C-9, page 44

FIRST READING during the Season of Easter

Rev 14:13

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.

FIRST READING during the Season of Easter

C-10 page 45

Revelation 20:11- 21:1

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 the 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

FIRST READING during the Season of Easter

C-11 page 46

Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7

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

[The Second Readings are on the next several pages]

SECOND READING

E-1 page 57

Romans 5: 5-1

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though, perhaps for a good person one might even find the courage to die. But God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by His Blood, will we be saved through Him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by His life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING

E-2 page 58

Romans 5: 17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of justification, come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression, condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase, but where sin increased, grace over-flowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign-through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord**SECOND READING****E-3 (Long Version) page 59****Romans 6: 3-9****A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul
to the Romans****Brothers and Sisters:****Are you unaware that we, who were baptized into
Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?****We were, indeed, buried with Him through baptism
into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the
dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live
in newness of life.****For, if we have grown into union with Him through
death like His, we shall also be united with Him in the
resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified
with Him, so that our sinful body might be done away
with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.****If then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we
shall also live with Him.****We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no
more; death no longer has power over him.****The Word of the Lord**

SECOND READING**E-3 (Short Version) page 59****Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9****A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul
to the Romans****Brothers and Sisters:****Are you unaware that we, who were baptized into
Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?****We were, indeed, buried with Him through baptism
into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the
dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live
in newness of life.****If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we
shall also live with Him.****We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no
more; death no longer has power over Him.****The Word of the Lord.**

SECOND READING E-4, page 60
Romans 8: 14-23

A Reading from Saint Paul to the Romans

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba, Father!” The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him, so that we may also be glorified with Him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord, but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING E-5, page 61
Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, will He not also give us everything else along with Him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, not angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING E- 6 page 61
Romans 14: 7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life: that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God –for it is written:

*As I live, says the Lord,
every knee shall bend before Me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.*

So then, each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING E-7 page 62
(long version) 1Cor 15: 20-28

**A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians:**

**Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For, since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead came also
through a human being. For, just as in Adam,
all die, so too, in Christ, shall all be brought to life.
But each one in proper order:
Christ the first fruits;
then, at His Coming, those who belong to Christ.**

**Then comes the end, when He hands over the Kingdom
to His God and Father. For He must reign until He has
put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be
destroyed is death, for “He subjected everything under
His feet.”**

**But when it says that everything has been subjected, it
is clear that it excludes the One who subjected
everything to Him.**

**When everything is subjected to Him, then the Son
Himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected
everything to Him,
so that God may be all in all.**

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING E-7 page 62
(short version) 1Cor 15: 20-28

**A reading from the First letter of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians:**

**Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For, since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead came also
through a human being.
For, just as in Adam, all die,
so, too, in Christ, shall all be brought to life.**

**But each one in proper order:
Christ the first fruits;
then, at His Coming,
those who belong to Christ.**

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING E-8 page 63
1Cor 15: 51-57

**A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians:**

Brothers and sisters:

**Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep,
but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of
an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.**

**For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with
incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe
itself with immortality.**

**And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with
incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself
with immortality, then the word that is written shall
come about:**

**Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory
Where, O death, is your sting?**

**The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Word of the Lord

**SECOND READING E-9 , page 64
2Cor 4:14-5:1**

**A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians:**

**We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus,
and place us with You in His presence.**

**Everything, indeed, is for You,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance
on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow
for the glory of God.**

**Therefore, we are not discouraged;
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.**

**For this momentary light affliction is producing for us
an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
as we look not to what is seen, but to what is unseen;
for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.**

**For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with human hands, eternal in heaven.**

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING E-10, page 64
2Cor 5: 1, 6-10

**A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians:**

**We know that, if our earthly dwelling should be
destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not
made with hands, eternal in heaven.**

**So we are always courageous, although we know that
while we are at home in the body, we are away from the
Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.**

**Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the
body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to
please Him, whether we are at home or away. For we
must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense, according to what
one did in the body, whether good or evil.**

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING E-11, page 65
Philippians 3:20-21

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul
to the Philippians:**

**Our citizenship is in heaven
And from it we also await a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**He will change our lowly body
to conform with His glorified body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection
to Himself.**

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING E-12, page 65
1Thessalonians 4: 13-18

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul
to the Thessalonians:**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an arc angel, and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING E-13 page 66
2 Timothy 2: 8-13

**A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul
to Timothy**

**Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead,
a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for
which I am suffering, even to the point of chains,
like a criminal. But the Word of God is not
chained.**

**Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake
of those who are chosen, so that they too may
obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
together with eternal glory.**

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with Him,

We shall also live with Him,

If we persevere, we shall also reign with Him.

But if we deny Him, He will deny us.

*If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful,
for He cannot deny Himself.*

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING E-14, page 67
1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John:

Beloved:

**See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.**

Yet so we are.

**The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know Him.**

Beloved, we are God's children now;

what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

**We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like
Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING E-15 page 67
1 John 3: 14-16

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

**We know that we have passed from death to life,
because we love our brothers.**

Whoever does not love remains in death.

**Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life
remaining in him.**

**The way we came to know love
was that He laid down His life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.**

The Word of the Lord