

# C1

## 2 Maccabees 12: 43 – 46

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

### **A reading from the second Book of Maccabees**

He 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, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. 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 absolved from their sin.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

## C2

**Job: 19: 1, 23 – 27a**

*I know that my Vindicator lives*

### **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.**

## C3

### Long Form: Wisdom 3: 1 – 9

*A sacrificial offering he took them to himself*

#### A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the righteous 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 to others, indeed, they seem 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 judgment\* they shall shine and 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 the elect.

#### The Word of the Lord.

## C3

### **Short Form: Wisdom 3: 1 – 6, 9**

*A sacrificial offering he took them to himself*

#### **A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The souls of the righteous 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 to others, indeed, they seem 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 the elect.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## C4

### Wisdom 4: 7 – 15

*An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*

#### **A reading from the Book of Wisdom.**

The beginning of wisdom is: get wisdom; whatever else you get, get understanding. Extol her, and she will exalt you; she will bring you honors if you embrace her; She will put on your head a graceful diadem; a glorious crown will she bestow on you.” Hear, my son, and receive my words, and the years of your life shall be many. On the way of wisdom I direct you, I lead you on straight paths. When you walk, your step will not be impeded, and should you run, you will not stumble. Hold fast to instruction, never let it go; keep it, for it is your life. The path of the wicked do not enter, nor walk in the way of the evil; Shun it, do not cross it, turn aside from it, pass on.

#### **The word of the Lord.**

## C5

**Isaiah 25: 6a, 7 – 9**

### **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: “Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us! This is the LORD to whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!

**The Word of the Lord.**

## C6

### Lamentations 3: 17 – 26

*It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD*

#### **A reading from the Book of Lamentations**

My life is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is;  
My enduring hope, I said, has perished before the LORD. The thought of  
my wretched homelessness is wormwood and poison; Remembering it  
over and over, my soul is downcast. But this I will call to mind; therefore  
I will hope: The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted,  
his compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning great is your  
faithfulness! The LORD is my portion, I tell myself, therefore I will hope  
in him. The LORD is good to those who trust in him, to the one that seeks  
him; It is good to hope in silence for the LORD's deliverance.

**The word of the Lord.**

# C7

## **Daniel 12: 1 – 3**

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the Earth shall awake.*

### **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel**

“At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since the nation 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 to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting disgrace. But those with insight 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.**

## **During Easter Time: New Testament**

*(Note: During the Easter season one of the following four readings is used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.)*

C8

**Long Form: Acts of the Apostles 10:34 – 43**

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

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said “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 Israelites—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.”

**The Word of the Lord.**

## C8

**Short Form: Acts of the Apostles 10:34 – 36, 42 – 43**

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

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said,\* “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 Israelites 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.”

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **C9**

### **Revelation 14: 13**

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*

#### **A reading from the Book of Revelation**

I 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.**

# C10

## Revelation 20:11 – 21:1

*The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

### **A reading from the Book of Revelation**

Next I 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.

**The Word of the Lord.**

# C11

**Revelation 21: 1 – 5, 6b – 7**

*There shall be no more death*

## **A reading from the Book of Revelation**

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. 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.**

# C12

## **Ecclesiastes 3: 1 - 8**

*There is an appointed time for everything.*

### **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 give birth, 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.**

