

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah 40: 1, 11,31**

**Comfort, Oh, Comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and tell her that her sad days are gone. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will carry the lambs in His arms and gently lead the ewes with young. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**

The Word of the Lord.

**A reading from the book of Wisdom 3: 1-6,9**

**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 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.**

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9**

**On this mountain the Lord of hosts  
will provide from all peoples as feast of rich foods.**

**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 from whom we looked;**

**let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”**

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A reading from Daniel 12: 1-3**

**[I, Daniel, mourned and I 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.**

**A reading from the Book of Lamentations**

**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 castaway. 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.**

**I have considered the task which God has appointed for us to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A Reading from Psalms 46: 1-5**

**God is our refuge and our strength, a tested help in times of trouble. And so we need not fear even if the world disappears and the mountains crumble into the sea. Let the oceans roar and foam; let the mountains tremble!**

**There is a river of joy flowing through the City of our God – the sacred home of the god of all gods. God himself is living in that City; therefore it stands unmoved despite the turmoil everywhere.**

**He will not delay His help.**

**The Word of the Lord**

**PSALM 121**

**The Lord Our Guardian**

**I lift up my eyes toward the mountains;  
whence shall help come to me?  
My help is from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.**

**May he not suffer your foot to slip;  
May he slumber not who guards you:  
Indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps,  
The guardian of Israel.**

**The Lord is your guardian; the Lord  
Is your shade;  
He is beside you at your right hand.  
The sun shall not harm you by day,  
Nor the moon by night.**

**The Lord will guard you from all evil;  
He will guard your life.  
The Lord will guard your coming  
And your going, both now  
And forever.**

**The Word of the Lord**



A reading from the Book of Proverbs  
31:10-31

If you can find a truly good woman, she is worth more than precious gems. Her family can trust her and she will richly satisfy them. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She is a woman of strength and dignity, and has no fear of days to come. When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule for everything she says.

She watches carefully all that goes on throughout her household, and all is in order. Her children stand and bless her as do those who know her, praise her with these words: "There are many fine women in this world, but in my eyes you surpass them all."

Charm can be deceptive and physical beauty doesn't last; but the woman who recognizes the will of God and tries to do His bidding shall be greatly praised. Praise her for the many fine things she has done. These good deeds of hers shall bring her honor and recognition from the community, but more importantly, will make her welcome in the kingdom of God.

The Word of the Lord.