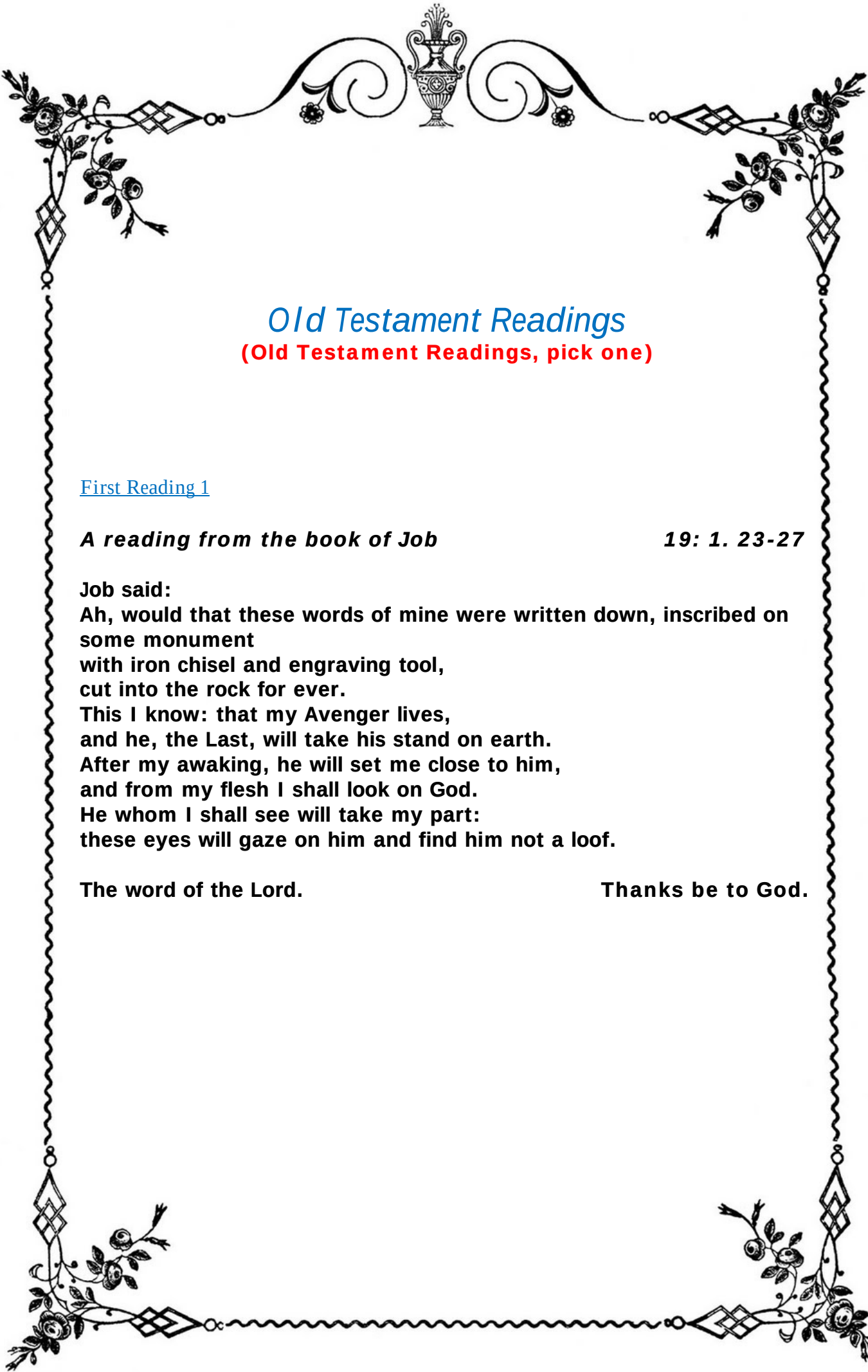




Old Testament Readings

(Old Testament Readings, pick one)

[First Reading 1](#)

A reading from the book of Job

19: 1. 23-27

Job said:

**Ah, would that these words of mine were written down, inscribed on
some monument
with iron chisel and engraving tool,
cut into the rock for ever.**

**This I know: that my Avenger lives,
and he, the Last, will take his stand on earth.
After my awaking, he will set me close to him,
and from my flesh I shall look on God.
He whom I shall see will take my part:
these eyes will gaze on him and find him not a loof.**

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First Reading 2](#)

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

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation;
but they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it,
their hope was rich with immortality;
slight was their affliction, great will their blessing be.
God has put them to the test
and proved them worthy to be with him;
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,
and accepted them as a holocaust.

When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out;
as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.

They shall judge nations, rule over peoples,
and the Lord will be their king for ever.

They who trust in him will understand the truth,
those who are faithful will live with him in love;
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First Reading 3](#)

***A reading from the book of Wisdom
4: 7-15***

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest.
Length of days is not what makes age honourable,
nor number of years the true measure of life;
understanding, this is man's grey hairs,
untarnished life, this is ripe old age.
He has sought to please God, so God has loved him;
as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.
He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding
or treachery seduce his soul;
for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade,
and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.
Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life;
his soul being pleasing to the Lord,
he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.
Yet people look on, uncomprehending;
it does not enter their heads
that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,
and protection, his holy ones.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First Reading 4](#)

***A reading from the prophet Isaiah
25: 6-9***

**On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.**

**On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.**

**The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.**

**That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation:
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.**

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First Reading 5](#)

**A reading from the book of Lamentations
3: 17-26**

**My soul is shut out from peace;
I have forgotten happiness.
And now I say,
'My strength is gone, that hope which came from the Lord.'
Brooding on my anguish and affliction is gall and wormwood.
My spirit ponders it continually and sinks within me.
This is what I shall tell my heart, and so recover hope:
The favours of the Lord are not all past,
great is their faithfulness.
'My portion is the Lord' says my soul and so I will hope in him.
The Lord is good to those who trust him,
the soul that searches for him.
It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.**

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First Reading 6](#)

***A reading from the book of Maccabees
12: 43-45***

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This is why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First Reading 7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
God comforts his people.

52: 7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

First Reading 8

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

3: 1-8.11

There is a time and season for everything.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to pluck out what is planted;

A time to break down and a time to build up;

A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance;

A time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek and a time to lose;

A time to keep and a time to throw away;

A time to tear and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence and a time to speak;

A time for war and a time for peace.

God has made everything suitable for its time.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First Reading 9](#)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

He accepted them as a holocaust.

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, there leaving us, like annihilation; but they are in peace. If they experienced punishment as men see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessing be. God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him; he has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a holocaust. When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out; as sparks run through the stubble, so will they. They shall judge nations, rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king for ever.

They who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

First Reading 10

A reading from the book of Job.

19: 23-27

God vindicates those who put their trust in him.

O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved in a rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been destroyed, then in my flesh I will see God whom I will see on my side.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First Reading 11](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

25: 6-9

Death is the cause of many tears. But for those who trust in God the time will come when their tears will be wiped away.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

First Reading 12

A reading from the prophet Daniel

12: 1-3

Those who lie sleeping in the dust will awake.

I, Daniel, was doing penance when I received this message from the Lord: 'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as a vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First Reading 13](#)

A reading from the book of Sirach

If you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast and do not be hasty in time of calamity. Cleave to him and do not depart, that you may be honoured at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you and in changes that humble you, be patient. For gold is tested in the fire and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust in him and he will help you; make your ways straight and hope in him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; and turn not aside, lest you fall. You who fear the Lord, trust in him and your reward will not fail; you who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for everlasting joy and mercy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[First reading 14](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined. For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.