

A reading from the Book of Sirach

When you come to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for testing.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,
and do not be impetuous in time of calamity.
Cling to him and do not depart,
so that your last days may be prosperous.

Accept whatever befalls you,
and in times of humiliation be patient.

For gold is tested in the fire,
and those found acceptable,
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;
do not stray, or else you may fall.
You who fear the Lord, trust in him,
and your reward will not be lost.
You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.

The Word of the Lord