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| 2 Maccabees 12: 43-46Selection A1 | **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,**  **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** |