

CATHOLIC FUNERAL READINGS

The selection of passages from the Bible is an important part of planning a funeral ceremony, as we want to turn to God's word for wisdom and comfort in this time of loss. The Word of God is at the heart of our Christian celebration of faith in this funeral rite in anticipation of the resurrection of the body.

To make this easier for the family, the Catholic Church has pre-selected a number of Biblical passages which are appropriate for the occasion of a funeral. Please look over these passages as part of your funeral preparations, and find those words which speak to your heart.

Instructions:

1. The first reading is taken from the Old Testament. Each reading also has an accompanying psalm, and together they form a "package deal".
2. The second reading is taken from the New Testament.
3. The gospel reading is also taken from the New Testament, and it may be chosen either by the priest or by the family. This may be discussed by the family with the Parish Office Staff.
4. The family is invited to designate one person to read the readings. If the psalm is to be read, not sung, then the family may pick a second person to read it. The psalm may be sung by a cantor, who may lead the congregation to sing a response.
5. The priest or an assisting deacon will proclaim the gospel.
6. Once you have selected your readings, please let the Parish Office Staff know the readings, as well as the names of those who will be doing the readings.

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CHOICES FOR THE FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Job

(19:1, 23-27a)

Then Job answered,

"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 on 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 thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (psalm 27)

Reader: I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

(Response.)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Response.)

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. (Response.)

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"

Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. (Response.)

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! (Response.)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

(3:1-9)

The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;

like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 116 -- an Alleluia psalm)

Reader: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

(Response.)

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful. The Lord
protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me. (Response.)

I kept my faith, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
I said in my consternation,
"Everyone is a liar." (Response.)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is
the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant;
You have loosed my bonds. (Response.)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

(4:7-15)

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.
For old age is not honoured for length of time, or
measured by number of years; but understanding is
grey hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old
age.

There were some who pleased God and were loved by him, and
while living among sinners were taken up.

They were caught up so that evil might not change their understanding or
guile deceive their souls.

For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and
roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a
short time, they fulfilled long years; for their souls were
pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took them quickly from the
midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not
understand, or take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and
mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy
ones.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 23)

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Or: If I should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

(Response.)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. (Response.)

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me. (Response.)

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (Response.)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. (Response.)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

(25:6-9)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. 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 forever.

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.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 23)

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(Response.)

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He makes me lie down in green pastures;
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Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with
me; your rod and your staff--
they comfort me. (Response.)

You prepare a table before me in
the presence of my enemies; you
anoint my head with oil; my cup
overflows. (Response.)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my
whole life long. (Response.)

A reading from the book of Lamentations

(3:17-26)

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord." The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 25)

Reader: Those who hope in you, O Lord, shall not be disappointed.

(Response.)

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

According to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! (Response.)

Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. (Response.)

O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

(Response.)

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

(12:1-3)

"At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, 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, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 42)

Reader: My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.

(Response.)

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my
soul longs for you, O God. (Response.)

My soul thirsts for God, for
the living God. When shall I
come and behold the face of
God? (Response.)

These things I remember, as
I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng, and led them in
procession to the house of God, with glad
shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude
keeping festival. (Response.)

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

(12:43-46)

The noble Judas Maccabeus took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honourably, taking account of the resurrection. For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen asleep would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought.

Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 103)

Reader: The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

(Response.)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. (Response.)

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. (Response.)

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. (Response.)

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. (Response.)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

(10:34-43)

Then Peter began to speak to them:

"I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

CHOICES FOR THE SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(5:5-11)

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person -- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(5:17-21)

If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(6:3-9)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(8:14-23)

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ

-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(8:31-35, 37-39)

If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(14:7-12)

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister?

Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister?

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

(15:20-28)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in his own order:

Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet."

But when it says,

"All things are put in subjection," it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him.

When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

(15:51-57)

Listen, I will tell you a mystery!

We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:13–5:1)

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart.

Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (5:1, 6-10)

We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. So we are always confident;

even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord

-- we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

(3:20-21)

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

(2:8-13)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David -- that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of John

(3:1-2)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this:

when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of John

(3:14-16)

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us -- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation

(14:13)

I heard a voice from heaven saying,
"Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord."
"Yes," says the Spirit,
"they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them."

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation (20:11 – 21:1)

I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.

Also another book was opened, the book of life.

And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books.

And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the second death, the lake of fire; and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation

(21:1-5a, 6b-7)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

The Word of the Lord.

THE GOSPEL IS USUALLY CHOSEN BY THE PRIEST

Alleluia. Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

(5:1-12a)

Jesus went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

(11:25-30)

At that time Jesus said,

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. Our true home is in heaven, and Jesus Christ whose return we long for will come from heaven to save us. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (25:1-13)

"The kingdom of heaven will be like this.
Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but
the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
But at midnight there was a shout,
"Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then
all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
The foolish said to the wise,
"Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us;
you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And
while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were
ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.
Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us.'
But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'
Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

(25:31-46)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food,

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,

I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

I was naked and you gave me clothing,

I was sick and you took care of me, I

was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him,

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?

And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?

And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them,

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

(Reading continues on next page)

Then he will say to those at his left hand,
"You that are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;
for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I
was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I
was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not give me clothing, sick
and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer,
"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or
naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?"

Then he will answer them, "Truly
I tell you,
just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you
did not do it to me.'

And these will go away into eternal punishment,
but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; glory and kingship be his for ever and ever. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

(15:33-39, 16:1-6)

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

"Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

They had been saying to one another,

"Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.

He has been raised; he is not here.

Look, there is the place they laid him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

(7:11-17)

Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still.

And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favourably on his people!" This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. Our true home is in heaven, and Jesus Christ whose return we long for will come from heaven to save us. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

(12:35-40)

Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.

If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this:

if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. Happy are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (23:33, 39-43)

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying,

"Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; glory and kingship be his for ever and ever. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

(23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6)

It was now about noon,
and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon,
while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn
in two.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph.

This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.

found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them,

"Why do you look for the living among the dead?

He is not here, but has risen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. God loved the world so much he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

(24:13-35)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

And he said to them,

"What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,

"Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

He asked them, "What things?"

They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

Moreover, some women of our group astounded us.

They were at the tomb early this morning, and

when they did not find his body there,

they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

Some of those who were with us went to the tomb

and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he

said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

(Reading continues on next page)

Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.

But they urged him strongly, saying,

"Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."

So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other,

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

They were saying,

"The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

(5:24-29)

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

"Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out

-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

(6:37-40)

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

(6:51-59)

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died.

But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

(11:17-27)

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus,

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him,

"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?" She said to him,

"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. God loved the world so much he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

(11:32-45)

When Mary, the sister of Lazarus, came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him,

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

But some of them said,

"Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,

"Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her,

"Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone.

And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.

Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. Happy are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

(12:23-28)

Jesus answered Andrew and Philip,

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.

Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

"Now my soul is troubled.

And what should I say -- "Father, save me from this hour"?

No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

(14:1-6)

Jesus said to his disciples,

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will

come again and will take you to myself, so

that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

(17:24-26)

Jesus prayed in the following words:

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.

I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

(19:17-18, 25-30)

Carrying the cross by himself,

Jesus went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture),

"I am thirsty."

A jar full of sour wine was standing there.

So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

