

Funeral Readings

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes [Eccl 3:1-11]

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 cast away.

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.

What advantage has the worker from his toil?

I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Book of Lamentations [Lam 3: 17-26]

My life is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
My enduring hope, I said,
has perished before the LORD.

The thought of my wretched homelessness
is wormwood and poison;
Remembering it over and over,
my soul is downcast.

But this I will call to mind;
therefore I will hope:
The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted,
his compassion is not spent;

They are renewed each morning—
great is your faithfulness!
The LORD is my portion, I tell myself,
therefore I will hope in him.

The LORD is good to those who trust in him,
to the one that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the LORD's deliverance.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah [Is 25: 6-9]

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples
A feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

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:
“Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us!
This is the LORD to whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

[Jer 31: 10-13]

Hear the word of the LORD, you nations,
proclaim it on distant coasts, and say:
The One who scattered Israel, now gathers them;
he guards them as a shepherd his flock.

The LORD shall ransom Jacob,
he shall redeem him from a hand too strong for him.

Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion,
they shall come streaming to the LORD's blessings:
The grain, the wine, and the oil, flocks of sheep and cattle;
They themselves shall be like watered gardens, never again neglected.

Then young women shall make merry and dance,
young men and old as well.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will show them compassion and have them rejoice after their sorrows.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of Proverbs [Prv 31: 10-12, 17-18, 20, 25-31]

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is
far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has
an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil, all the
days of her life.
She is girt about with strength, and sturdy
are her arms.
She enjoys the success of her dealings; at
night her lamp is undimmed.
She reaches out her hands to the poor, and
extends her arms to the needy.
She is clothed with strength and dignity, and
she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her
tongue is kindly counsel.
She watches the conduct of her household,
and eats not her food in idleness.
Her children rise up and praise her; her
husband, too, extols her:
"Many are the women of proven worth, but
you have excelled them all."
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the
woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works
praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of Wisdom

[Wis 3: 1-9]

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.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord shall be their King forever.
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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm [Psalm 23]

R). The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul. **R).**

He guides me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side

With your rod and your staff

that give me courage. **R).**

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows. **R).**

Only goodness and kindness follow me

all the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

for years to come. **R).**

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 116]

R). I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Gracious is the Lord and just;
yes, our God is merciful.
The Lord keeps the little ones;
I was brought low, and he saved me. **R).**

I believed, even when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted”;
I said in my alarm,
“No man is dependable.” **R).**

Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant;
you have loosed my bonds. **R).**

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 27]

R). The Lord is my light and my salvation

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid? **R).**

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple. **R).**

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Your presence, O Lord, I seek.
Hide not your face from me. **R).**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. **R).**

New Testament Reading

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John [1 Jn 3:1-3]

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.
Yet so 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 shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

Everyone who has this hope based on him
makes himself pure, as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament Reading

A reading from the first letter of St. John [1 Jn 3: 1-2]

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.
Yet so 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 shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Reading

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

[1 Thes 4:13-18]

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament Reading

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians. [2 Cor 5: 1, 6-10]

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.

So we are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each one may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Reading

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy [2 Tm 4: 6-8]

I am already being poured out like a libation,
and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have competed well;
I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,
which the Lord, the just judge,
will award to me on that day,
and not only to me,
but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans [Rom 8: 14-23]

Those 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 received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, “Abba, Father!”

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation
the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans [Rom 6: 3-9]

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

[For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin.]

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Reading

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

[Rom 8: 18-27]

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of this present time are as nothing
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We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains
even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

For in hope we were saved.
Now hope that sees for itself is not hope.
For who hopes for what one sees?
But if we hope for what we do not see,
we wait with endurance.

In the same way, the Spirit too
comes to the aid of our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but the Spirit itself intercedes
with inexpressible groanings.

And the one who searches hearts
knows what is the intention of the Spirit,
because it intercedes for the holy ones
according to God's will.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans [Rom 14: 7-9, 10b-12]

No one of us lives for oneself,
and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
for it is written:

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee
shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [Jn 11: 17-27]

When Jesus arrived [at the tomb of Lazarus], he found that Lazarus had already been [there] for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles* away.

And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John [Jn 6: 37-40]

Jesus said to his disciples,

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will
but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me,
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,
but that I should raise it (on) the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him (on) the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy gospel according to John [Jn 6: 51-58]

Jesus said to the crowd:

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John [Jn 12: 23-32]

Jesus said to his disciples,

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

[Jn 14: 1-6]

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, 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

Gospel Reading

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

[Jn 21: 15-19]

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

[Lk 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53; 24: 1-6a]

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

[Lk 23: 33, 39-43]

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [Mk 4: 26-34]

Jesus said, "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come."

He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [Mk 10: 13-16]

People were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter into it."

Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew [Mt 5: 1-12a]

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

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

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [Mt 6: 25-34]

Jesus said to his disciples,

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”

Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?

Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?

Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them.

If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?

So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’

All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.

Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [Mt 11: 25-30]

At that time Jesus answered: “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.