



Funeral Mass Planning Guide

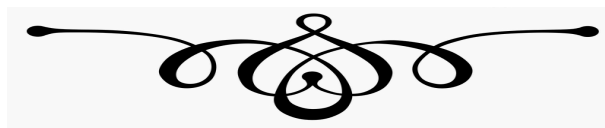
Mary, Mother of God Parish

705 E. Jefferson Street
Washington, IL 61571



Mary, Mother of God Parish, would like to extend our deepest sympathy at the loss of your loved one. Please know that we are here to support you and your family in prayer during this difficult time, and we are here to assist you with the planning of the funeral of your loved one.

Father John and Fr. Matt
& Mary, Mother of God Parish Staff



It can be difficult and challenging to plan for the funeral of a loved one in the midst of personal grieving. Our parish staff is well aware of this, so please know that we are here to guide you through the planning process and be of service to you in whatever way we can in order to make the planning less burdensome. We want to respect your privacy while also recognizing that a funeral Mass is a public act of worship whereby the community of God's people gathers together in prayer for the deceased as well as those who grieve. The funeral rites, when carefully planned and carried out, have the capacity to affirm our belief in Jesus' promise of eternal life and help us to find hope and peace in our grief and pain.

There are three parts of every Catholic Funeral. Those rites are: 1.) the Prayer Vigil or Wake (at the Funeral Home); 2.) the Funeral Mass (which takes place at the church of the deceased in the presence of their faith community); and 3.) the Committal Rite, (which takes place at the gravesite, mausoleum or columbarium). Funerals at Mary, Mother of God Parish are limited to Catholic parishioners and to those with significant ties to the parish.

We encourage and invite the family of the deceased to help the priest and members of the parish staff adapt and personalize the funeral rites in a meaningful way to convey the Church's consolation while reflecting the faith, life and personality of the deceased. In choosing the scriptural readings , designating family members or friends as readers, selecting the hymns and by sharing information about your loved one with the priest, families help to provide this special meaning to the funeral rites.

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ARRANGING FUNERAL MASS

Funerals are normally held at 10am depending on clergy and church availability. A visitation is normally held the evening before the Funeral Mass at the funeral home. A rosary or prayer service may be held a half hour prior to the visitation. The graveside committal service customarily follows immediately after the funeral Mass.

If the deceased has been cremated prior to the funeral, and will not be buried at a cemetery, a Memorial Mass is used in place of a Funeral Mass.

Your Funeral Director will place the call to the pastor to arrange a date and time for services at either St. Patrick Church or St. Monica Church. Our parish staff will contact the family to arrange an appointment to consult about the Funeral or Memorial Mass.

MUSIC

In times of grief and sorrow, we often turn to music as an expression of our faith—of those beliefs we cannot express in words. We encourage families to make full use of the Church’s rich tradition and the parish’s musical resources.

Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs

A list of appropriate hymns may be found on page 8 of this guide. Other hymns may be chosen, although the Catholic Church has guidelines for what songs are appropriate *during the funeral* Mass.

Soloists and Choirs

If you desire congregational singing, we will be happy to provide an accompanist and cantor (song leader). In addition, we can provide a choir if you wish. We hope our ministry in song eases your loss. If you wish to have a choir, or the services of a solo singer, the music director will assist in providing these.

The list on page 8 is a guide for selecting hymns appropriate to each section of the funeral Mass or memorial service. You may choose to follow it, or rearrange your options. If you have any questions, please ask.

There are many musical settings for each psalm choice. Once you have chosen the psalm you prefer (e.g. psalm 23), you may opt for a particular melody, or you may leave that to the discretion of the music director. Similarly, the director will choose an appropriate Gospel acclamation (“alleluia”) unless you indicate a preference.

Three choices are listed as the song of farewell, but others are also possible.

Certain songs, such as Schubert’s *Ave Maria* require a solo singer or instrument. Please keep that in mind as you make your choices. Below are four versions which can be sung. Each includes a link so you can listen and make an informed choice:

Ave Maria (Schubert) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3-g0qgVjwc>
Ave Maria (Bach-Gounod) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A7rUsFbECs>
Ave Maria (Norbet) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQahqVCQz-A>
Ave Maria (Kantor) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxL1iRLMqxE>

READINGS FOR MASS

We encourage family members and friends to take part in the Liturgy of the Word by reading the First Reading, Second Reading, Prayers of the Faithful, and possibly the Responsorial Psalm. Copies of the authorized readings are included but not limited to those in this booklet. If you choose a reading not in this booklet, please refer to the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops website (<https://bible.usccb.org/bible>) for authorized Bible translations. Other readings, poetry, etc. may not be included in a funeral/memorial Mass.

Upon meeting with the priest to plan the Funeral Mass, the family will be provided with copies of the readings for those who will read them during the Mass. However, it is not necessary to bring those readings to church as there will be a book prepared for the funeral on the podium with selected readings and Prayers of the Faithful.

DISPLAYS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Displays of photographs and memorabilia may be displayed in the vestibule of the church. The funeral home should set up a table in the vestibule of the church for holy cards, or memorials.

The funeral home generally provides planter stands, easels, etc... for any displays.

FLOWERS

Flowers and wreaths are often a part of the funeral celebration. You may consider leaving one or two flower arrangements to beautify the church at the weekend Masses. These floral donations are greatly appreciated.

During Lent we do not use flowers on the altar, but they can be displayed around the casket.

FUNERAL LITURGY AT A GLANCE:

Introductory Rites*

- Sprinkling with Holy Water
- Placing of the Funeral Pall (may involve family or friends)

The Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading (may be read by family/friend)
- Responsorial Psalm (may be spoken or sung by cantor)
- Second Reading (May be read by family/friend)
- Gospel Acclamation (“alleluia” sung by cantor)
- Gospel Reading
- Homily
- Prayers of the Faithful (May be read by family/friend)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Offertory Song (Optional)
- The Offertory Procession (May involve family/friends)
(bread and wine are brought to the altar)
- The Eucharistic Prayer
- Mass Parts are Sung (optional)

Communion Rite

- The Lord’s Prayer
- The Rite of Peace
- Communion*
- Communion (optional hymn may be sung)

Final Commendation and Farewell

- Incensing of the Casket
- Song of Farewell (Optional)
- Prayer of Commendation
- Recessional (Optional: Song can be sung)

**Hymns and solos may be inserted at these points*

POSSIBLE PROCESSIONAL/ RECESSIONAL SONGS

Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Be Thou My Vision
Center Of My Life
Christ, Be Our Light
Come, Follow Me
Faith of Our Fathers
Fly Like a Bird
Glory And Praise To Our God
How Can I Keep From Singing
How Great Thou Art
I Am The Bread of Life
In Christ Alone
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
O How Blessed
Rain Down
Shall We Gather At The River
Sing With All The Saints In Glory
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Lord is My Hope
Though The Mountains May Fall

POSSIBLE OFFERTORY SONGS

All is Well With My Soul
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Be Still, My Soul
Be Thou My Vision
Center Of My Life
Dona Nobis Pacem
Fly Like A Bird
Here I Am, Lord
Hosea
How Can I Keep From Singing
How Great Thou Art
I Heard The Voice of Jesus
In Christ Alone
Irish Blessing
Jesus, Come To Us
Lord of All Hopefulness
O How Blessed
On Eagle's Wings
One Love Released
Only A Shadow
Prayer of St. Francis
Shall We Gather At The River
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling
The Lord is My Hope
We Have Been Told

POSSIBLE COMMUNION SONGS

All is Well With My Soul
Amazing Grace
As The Deer Longs
Ave Maria
Be Not Afraid
Be Still, My Soul
Because the Lord Is My Shepherd
Beyond the Moon and Stars
Come, Follow Me
Come To Me
Dona Nobis Pacem
Eye Has Not Seen
Fly Like A Bird
Give Me Jesus
Here I Am, Lord
Holy Darkness
Hosea
How Can I Keep From Singing
How Great Thou Art
I Have Loved You
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
In Christ Alone
Irish Blessing
Jesus, Come To Us
Like A Child Rests
Like A Shepherd
Lord of All Hopefulness
Love Goes On
O How Blessed
On Eagle's Wings
One Love Released
Only A Shadow
Only In God
Prayer of St. Francis
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Seek Ye First
Shepherd Me, O God
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling
10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
The Cry of the Poor
The Jesus Song
The Lord Is My Hope
This Alone
We Will Rise Again
With The Lord
You Are Near

POSSIBLE SONGS OF FAREWELL

May the Angels Lead You
O Loving God
Song of Farewell (by Sands)

FUNERAL LUNCHEON

The funeral luncheon is offered by our parish for parishioners who have a funeral Mass at St. Patrick or St. Monica Church. It is a very special service provided for parish families in their time of need following the death of their loved one.

Through the generosity of faithful volunteers within our parish, we are able to provide a luncheon and a time of fellowship and comfort for the grieving family following the funeral Mass.

Generally luncheons are offered in the school gymnasium at St. Patrick Church and in the Church Hall at St. Monica Church. Occasionally the gym is not available.

Families are asked to pay for the meat course only, but our funeral committee will arrange the entire meal.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial gifts in the name of the deceased may also be directed to the Parish and are greatly appreciated. Charitable donations to Mary, Mother of God Parish are a great alternative for families who do not wish to receive a lot of flowers.

Keep in mind, there is not a fee to be buried from the church. If the family has the means and wishes to make a donation to the parish, it would certainly be welcome, considering the parish resources used for the staff, building, funeral luncheons, etc.

HONORARIUM GUIDELINES

Most funeral directors itemize all costs within their billings. This is something that should be discussed with them. Included should be payments for these services (*if utilized):

Funeral Presider	\$200
*Pianist	\$150
*Soloist	\$125
*Choir	\$125
Altar Server (2)	\$10 each

WORKSHEET FOR THE MASS

Placing of Pall? *Circle One:* FAMILY / FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Names of Those Placing Pall: _____

Gifts for Altar Preparation by Family? *Circle One:* YES / NO # GIFTS: _____

Names of Gift Bearers: _____

Names of Pall Bearers (f Casket Present) : _____

READINGS & GOSPEL:

Old Testament (First) Reading: _____

Reader's Name: _____

Responsorial Psalm:: *Circle One:* READ / SUNG

Readers Name If Not Sung: _____

New Testament (Second) Reading: _____

Reader's Name: _____

Gospel Reading (Read by Priest or Deacon): _____

Prayers of the Faithful: *Circle One:* Read by either DEACON / FAMILY

Reader's Name if Not Deacon: _____

MUSIC:

Opening: _____ # _____

Offertory: _____ # _____

Communion: _____ # _____

Final Commendation: *Circle One:* SONG OF FAREWELL / MAY THE ANGELS LEAD YOU / O LOVING GOD

Recessional: _____ # _____

NOTES FOR FATHER:

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1.Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

Then Job answered and said:
Oh, would that my words were written down!
Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead
they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
Whom I myself shall see:
my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him,
And from my flesh I shall see God;
my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

2. Wisdom 3:1-9 or 3:1-6. 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But 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

3. Wisdom 4:7-14

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But the just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;

he who lived among sinners was transported—

Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career;

for his soul was pleasing to the LORD, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord

4. Isaiah 25: 6. 7-9

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
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:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord

5. Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
His mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.
Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

6. Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:

"At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever."

The Word of the Lord

7. Maccabees 12:43-46

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 of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. 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 freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord

PSALMS

1. Psalm 23

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Repeat and hand gesture to have the congregation join you.)

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/. Hand Invitation**

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/. Hand Invitation**

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **R/. Hand Invitation**

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/. Hand Invitation**

2. Psalm 25

R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; to you I lift my soul.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD;
and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD. **R/.**

Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins. **R/.**

Preserve my life, and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you,
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
because I wait for you, O LORD. **R/.**

3. 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/.**

4. Psalm 63

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.
R/.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
for your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you. **R/.**

Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.
R/.

You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me. **R/.**

5. Psalm 103

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes. **R/**

As father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust. **R/.**

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity
to eternity toward those who fear him,
And his justice toward children's children
among those who keep his covenant
and remember to fulfill his precepts. **R/.**

6. Psalm 130

R/. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication. **R/.**

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered. **R/.**

I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.
More than sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the Lord. **R/.**

For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption;
and he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities. **R/.**

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

1.Acts: 10:34-43

Reader: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and (in) Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised (on) the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins

through his name."

The Word of the Lord

Shorter form:

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

2. Romans 5:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

3. Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

4. Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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

Shorter form:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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. 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

Romans 6:3-9

5. Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For 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 first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

6. Romans 8:31-35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

7. Romans 14:7-9. 10-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

None 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

8. Corinthians 15:20-23, 24b-28

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper 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 his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty 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 itself, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will (also) be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

Corinthians 15:20-23, 24b-28

Shorter form:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord

9. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

"Death is 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

10. 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For 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.

The Word of the Lord

11. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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

12. Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord

13. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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

14. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him
we shall also live with him;
If we persevere
we shall also reign with him.
But if we deny him
he will deny us.
If we are unfaithful
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord

15. 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John

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

16. 1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first letter of John

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers (and sisters).

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL READINGS

1. Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

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. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord

2. Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

At that time Jesus said in reply, "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 your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord

3. Matthew 25: 1-13

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went to the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

4. Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who 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 drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, 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 no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord

5. Mark 15: 33-39; 16:1-6

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark:

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him."

The Gospel of the Lord

5. Mark 15: 33-39 (shorter version)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

6. Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord

7. Luke 12:35-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

The Gospel of the Lord

8. Luke 23:33, 39-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

When the soldiers came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus 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 Christ? Save yourself and us." The other man, 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

9. Luke: 23:44-46; 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

It was 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. At daybreak on the first day of the week the women 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.

9. Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53

(Shorter form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

It was 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

10. Luke 24: 13-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

That very day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us; they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his Body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them, who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord

11. John 5: 24-29

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to 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 also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."

The Gospel of the Lord

12. John 6:37-40

A reading from the Gospel of John:

Jesus said to the crowd: "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

13. John 6:51-58

A reading from the holy Gospel of John:

Jesus told 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

14. John 11:17-27 or 11:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb 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. 21Martha 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

15. John 11:32-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell 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 had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

16. John 12:23-28 or 12:23-26

The words in italics may be omitted

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus told 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."*

The Gospel of the Lord

17. John 14:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

18. John 17: 24-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Father, those whom you gave me are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS FOR THE FUNERAL OF A CHILD

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A Reading from the book of Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
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

2.Lamentations 3:22-26

A reading form the book of Lamentations:

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 Lor's deliverance.

The word of the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

1. Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

Reading from the book of Romans

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.

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

2. Romans 14: 7-9

A Reading from the book of Romans

None 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.

The Word of the Lord

3. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A Reading from the book 1 Corinthians

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits
of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.
For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming,
those who belong to Christ;

The Word of the Lord

4. Ephesians 1:3-5

A Reading from the book of Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
in the heavens,
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the
world,
to be holy and without blemish before him.
In love he destined us for adoption to himself through
Jesus Christ,
in accord with the favor of his will.

The Word of the Lord

5. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18

A Reading from the book of First Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers,
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.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

6. Revelation 7:9-10, 15-17

A Reading from the book of Revelation

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.

They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation comes from* our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb."

"For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple.

The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.

They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them.

For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them

and lead them to springs of life-giving water,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The Word of the Lord

7.Revelation 21: 1a, 3-5a

A reading from the book of Revelation

Then, I saw a new heaven and new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed
away,
And the sea was no more.
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
Coming down out of heaven from God,
Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be His people
And God himself will always be with them.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
And there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing
or pain,[for]
The old order has passed away""
The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all
things new."
Then he said, "Write these words down,
For they are trustworthy and true."

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL READINGS

1. Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel of Matthew:

At that time Jesus said in reply,
"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 your selves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord

2. Mark 10:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel of Mark:

And people were bringing children to him 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 it.”

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

The Gospel of the Lord

3. John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy Gospel of John:

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

4. John 6:51-58

A reading from the holy Gospel of John:

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

5. John 11:32-38, 40

A reading from the holy Gospel of John:

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,
she fell 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 had
come with her weeping,
he became perturbed and deeply troubled,
and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said,

"See how he loved him."

But some of them said,

"Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man
have done something so that this man would not have
died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said to her,

"Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glo-
ry of God?"

The Gospel of the Lord

6. John 19:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel of John:

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister,
Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.
When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved,
he said to his mother,
"Woman, behold, your son."
Then he said to the disciple,
"Behold, your mother."
And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.
After this, aware that everything was now finished,
in order that the scripture might be fulfilled,
Jesus said, "I thirst."
There was a vessel filled with common wine.
So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth.
When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished."
And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord