

Readings For The Funeral Liturgy

In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the word of God. The readings proclaim to the assembly the Paschal Mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God's designs for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own. A careful selection and use of readings from Scripture for the funeral rites will provide the family with an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears, and hopes.

In the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word at the funeral liturgy, **the Biblical readings may not be replaced by nonbiblical readings.**

– *Order of Christian Funerals*, General Introduction, nos. 22-23-

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Family members or friends are encouraged to participate in the Liturgy of the Word by assuming readings that are chosen.

First Reading (Old Testament)

A member of the family or another person reads one of the selected Old Testament readings from the Order of Christian Funerals.

Responsorial Psalm (Song of Praise)

Usually the responsorial psalm is sung. The psalm can also be read by a family member or friend.

Second Reading (New Testament)

A member of the family or another person reads one of the selected New Testament readings from the Order of Christian Funerals.

Gospel

The celebrant or deacon reads the Gospel from the selections in the Order of Christian Funerals. The Gospel is usually chosen by the family.

First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Job:

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.

All: Thanks be to God.

First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom:

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.

All: Thanks be to God

First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom: (Short Form)

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.

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.

All: Thanks be to God

First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom: (Short Form)

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.
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

All: Thanks be to God.

First Reading

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

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 of mourning
that veils all peoples,
The web of grief 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

All: Thanks be to God.

First Reading

A Readings form 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

All: Thanks be to God

First Reading

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel:

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

First Reading

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,
in as much 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

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

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

First Reading

A Reading from The Book of Ecclesiastes:

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.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

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,
what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached,
how 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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading (Short 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

All: Thanks be to God.

Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

Second Reading

A Reading from the letter of St. 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 reason
One might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
In that while we were still sinner 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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans:

Or 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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans:

Or 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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans:

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.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans:

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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter 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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading (long form)

A Reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

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;
then come the end,
when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father,
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading (short form)

A Reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from St. Paul's First Letter 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 twinkling 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

All: Thanks be to God

Second Reading:

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. 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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians:

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.

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

All: Thanks be to God

2 Cor 5:1,6-10

Second Reading

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter 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

All: Thanks be to God.

Philippians 3:20-21

Second Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul's to the Thessalonians:

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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul's 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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

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.

All: Thanks be to God

I John 3:1-2

Second Reading

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.

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.

All: Thanks be to God

Second Reading

A Reading from the Book of Revelation:

I heard a voice from heaven say,
“Write this:

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”
“Yes,” said the Spirit, “let them find rest from their labors,
for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Revelation 14:13

Second Reading

A Reading from the Book of Revelation:

I saw a great white throne, and him that sat upon it,
from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away;
and there was found no place for them.
I saw the dead, the great and the small,
standing before the throne;
and books were opened.

And another book was opened, which is the book of life.
The dead were judged out of the things
which were written in the books,
according to their works.

The sea gave up the dead that were in it;
Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them.
All the dead were judged every man according to their works.
Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.
This is the second death, even the lake of fire.
And if any was not found written in the book of life,
he was cast into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
For the first heaven and the first earth are passed away,
and the sea is no more.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from the Book of Revelations:

Then I saw a new heaven and a 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 as their God.
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."
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.
The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Second Reading

A Reading from the Book of Revelations:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
then I will enter his house and dine with him,
and he with me.

I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne,
as I myself first won the victory
and sit with my Father on his throne.

"Whoever has ears
ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading:

A Reading from the Second Letter of Timothy:

For 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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Reading From the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside.
After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him,
and he began to teach them;

"How blest are the poor in spirit;
the reign of God is theirs.
Blest too are the sorrowing;
they shall be consoled.
Blest are the lowly;
they shall inherit the land.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness;
they shall have their fill.
Blest are they who show mercy;
Mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are the single-hearted
for they shall see God.
Blest too are the peacemakers;
they shall be called the sons and daughters of God.
Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake:
the reign of God is theirs.
Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of slander against you
because of me.
Be glad and rejoice,
for your reward in heaven is great."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 5, 1-12

Gospel

A Reading From the Holy Gospel according to 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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 11:25-30

Gospel (*Short Form*)

A Reading From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

"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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 11:28-30

Gospel

A Reading From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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 into 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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 25:1-13

Gospel

A Reading From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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?'

G-4 continued

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 25:31-46

Gospel

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!"

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

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

Gospel (Short Form)

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Mark 15:33-39

Gospel

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 7:11-17

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

"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, the master will gird himself with the apron,
have the servants recline at the table,
and the master will proceed to wait on the servants.

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 12:35-40

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

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."

Jesus replied to him,

"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 23:33, 39-43

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

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
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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Gospel (Short Form)

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, 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 Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he 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.

G-10 continued

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Luke 24:13-35

Gospel (*Short Form*)

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, 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.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he 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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

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 his 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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

John 5:24-29

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to 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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

John 6:37-40

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

John 6:51-58

Gospel

A Reading from the 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.
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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

John 11:17-27

Gospel

A Reading from the 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!"

G-15 continued

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

John 11:32-45

Gospel

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

John 14:1-6

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

Father, my disciples 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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

John 17:24-26

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus carrying the cross himself
went out to what is called the Place of the Skull,
in Hebrew, Golgotha.
There they crucified him,
and with him two others,
one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

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.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

John 19:17-18,25-30

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John:

As the Father loves me, so I also love you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments,
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you.
No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.
You are my friends if you do what I command you.
I no longer call you slaves,
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.
I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.
It was not you who chose me,
but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.
This I command you: love one another.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

John 15:9-17

Gospel**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

One of the scribes,
when he came forward
and heard them disputing
and saw how well he had answered them,
asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Jesus replied, "The first is this:
'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone!
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with
all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these."

The scribe said to him,
"Well said, teacher. You are right in saying,
'He is One and there is no other than he.'
And 'to love him with all your heart,
with all your understanding, with all your strength,
and to love your neighbor as yourself'
is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding,
he said to him,
"You are not far from the kingdom of God."
And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Mark 12:28-34

Prayers of the Faithful

Presider:

God the Father raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

For *N.*, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that she may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our Prayer.

For our brother/sister, *N.*, who ate the body of Christ, the bread of Life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our Prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our Prayer.

For all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our Prayer.

For *N.*'s family and friends that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our Prayer.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our Prayer.

Presider:

God our Shelter and our strength,
you listen in love to the cry of your people:
hear the prayers we offer for all our departed brothers and sisters.
Cleanse them of their sins
and grant them the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.