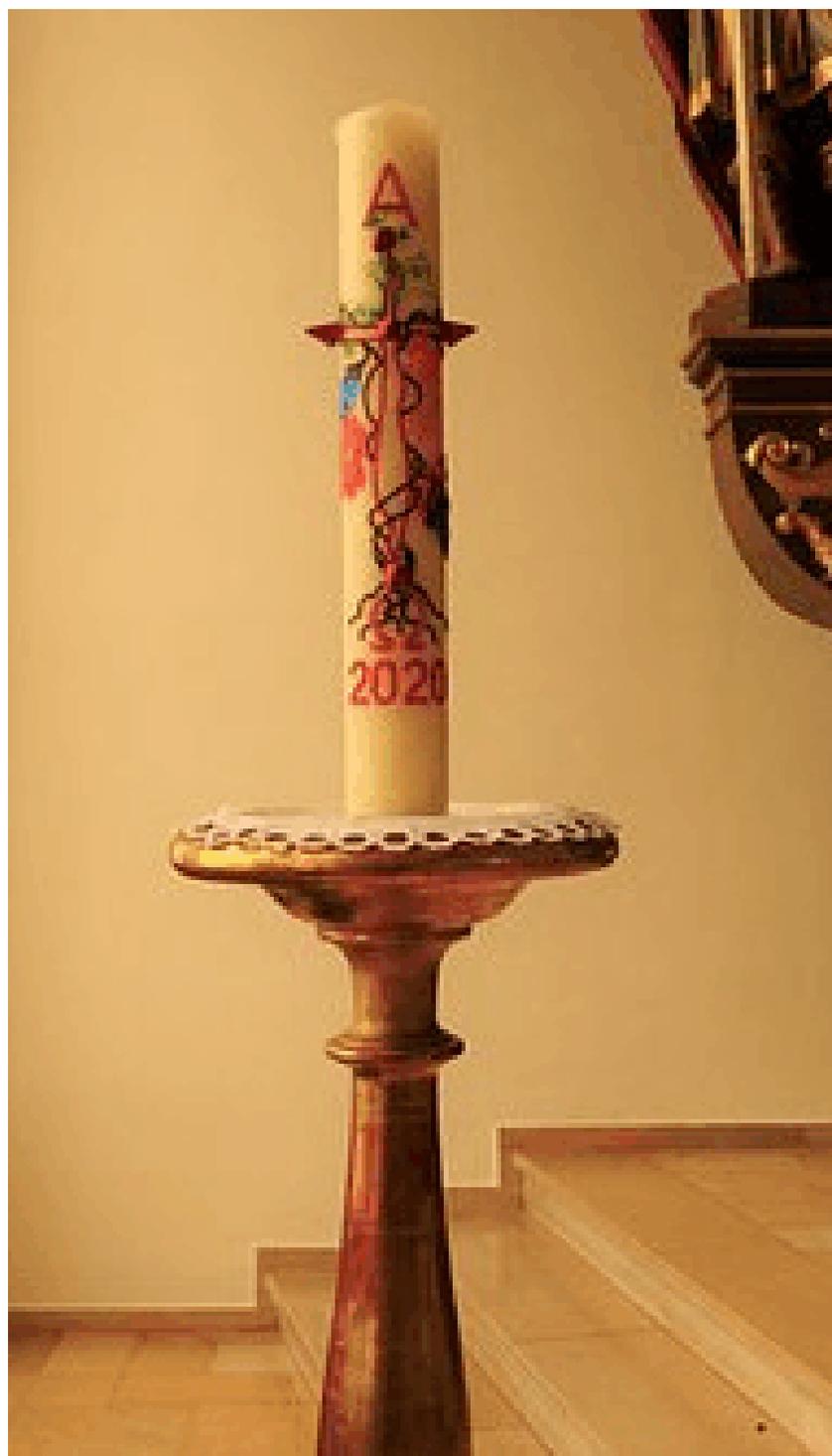


FUNERAL LECTIONARY



Funeral Lectionary – Index of Readings

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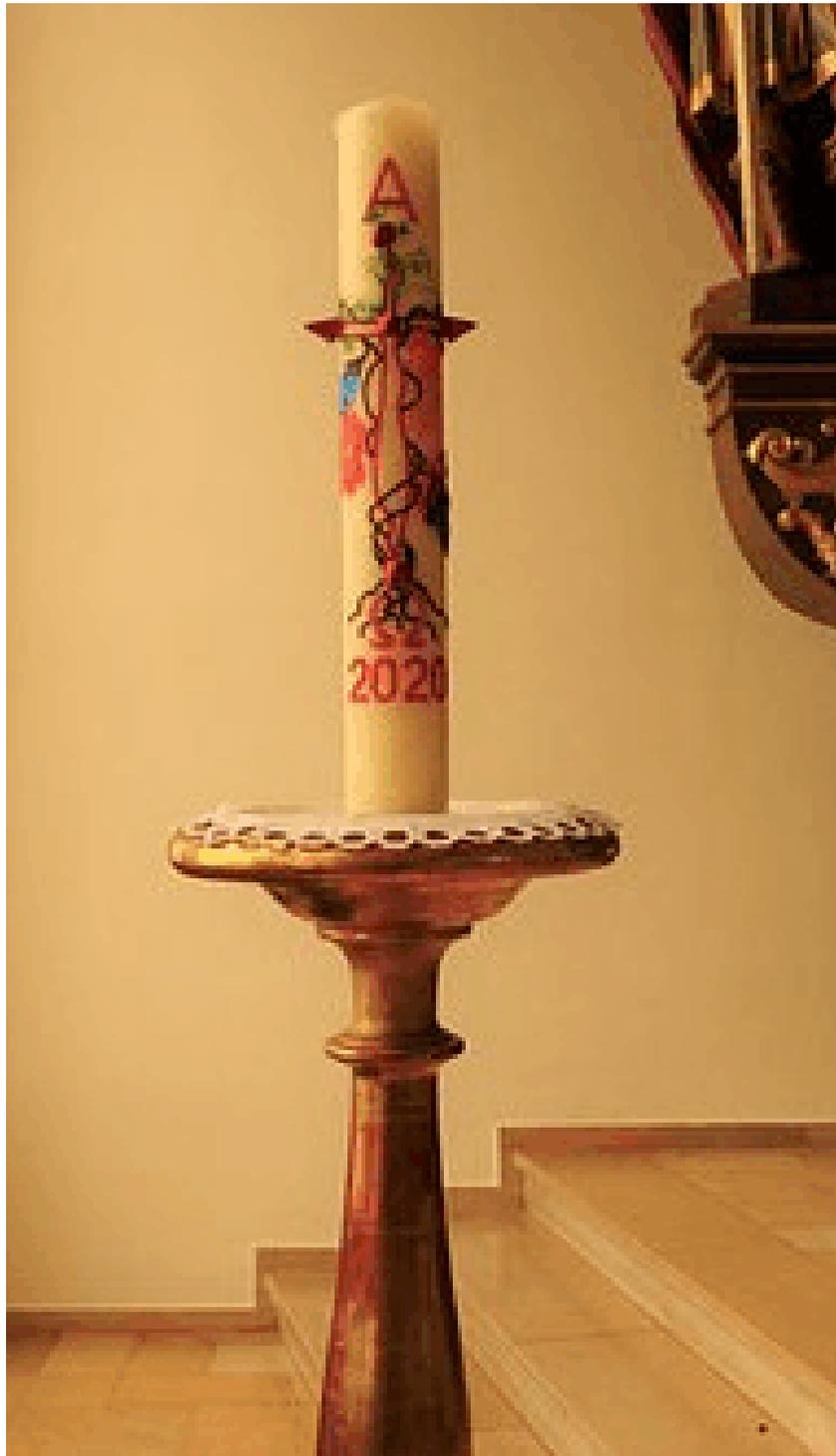
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FUNERAL LECTIONARY

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS



OT 1 Job 19:1, 23-27

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.

The Word of the Lord.

OT 2 [Longer Form] - Wisdom 3:1-9

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 from us, utter destruction.

But they are at 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 the 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 his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OT 2 [Shorter Form] - Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

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 from us, utter destruction.

But they are at 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 his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OT 3 **Wisdom 4:7-15**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Just people, though they die early, shall be at rest.

Length of days is not what makes age honorable,
nor number of years the true measure of life;
understanding, this is a person's gray hair,
untarnished life, this is ripe old age.

People who pleased God were loved;

they who lived among sinners were transported—
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert their minds
or deceit beguile their souls;

For the fascination with evil obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms innocent minds.

Having become perfect in a short while,
they reached the fullness of long careers;
for their souls were pleasing to the Lord,
therefore God sped them 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.

OT 4 Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

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.

OT 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.

OT 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.

OT 7 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second book of Maccabees.

Judas Maccabeus, 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 a sacrifice
offered for the sins of his fallen soldiers.

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 their sin.

The Word of the Lord.

OT 8 Proverbs 31:10-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with skillful hands.

Like merchant ships,
she secures her provisions from afar.

She rises while it is still night,
and distributes food to her household.

She picks out a field to purchase;
out of her earnings she plants a
vineyard.

She is girt about with strength,
and sturdy are her arms.

She enjoys the success of her dealings;
at night her lamp is undimmed.

She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.

She fears not the snow for her household;
all her charges are doubly clothed.

She makes her own coverlets;
fine linen and purple are her clothing.

Her husband is prominent at the city gates
as he sits with the elders of the land.

She makes garments and sells them,
and stocks the merchants with belts.

She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs at the days to come.

She opens her mouth in wisdom,
and on her tongue is kindly counsel.

She watches the conduct of her household
and eats not her food in idleness.

Her children rise up and praise her;
her husband, too, extols her;
“Many are the women of proven worth,
but you have excelled them all.”

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord
is to be praised.

Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works
praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

OT 9 Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

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 sow:
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.
What advantage has the worker from his toil?
I have considered the task
of which God has appointed men to be busied about.
He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into their hearts,
without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end,
the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

OT 10 Song of Songs 2:8-14

A reading from the Song of Solomon.

Hark! My lover – here he comes
springing across the mountains,
leaping across the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag.

Here he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattices.

My lover speaks; he says to me:

“Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!
For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of pruning the vines has come,
and the song of the dove is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines in bloom, give forth fragrance.
Arise my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!”

“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the secret recesses of the cliff,
let me see you, let me hear your voice,
for your voice is sweet, and you are lovely.”

The Word of the Lord.

OT 11 **Song of Songs 8:6-7**

A reading from the Song of Solomon.

Set me as a seal on your heart,
as a seal on your arm;
for stern as death is love,
relentless as the nether world is devotion;
its flames are blazing fire.

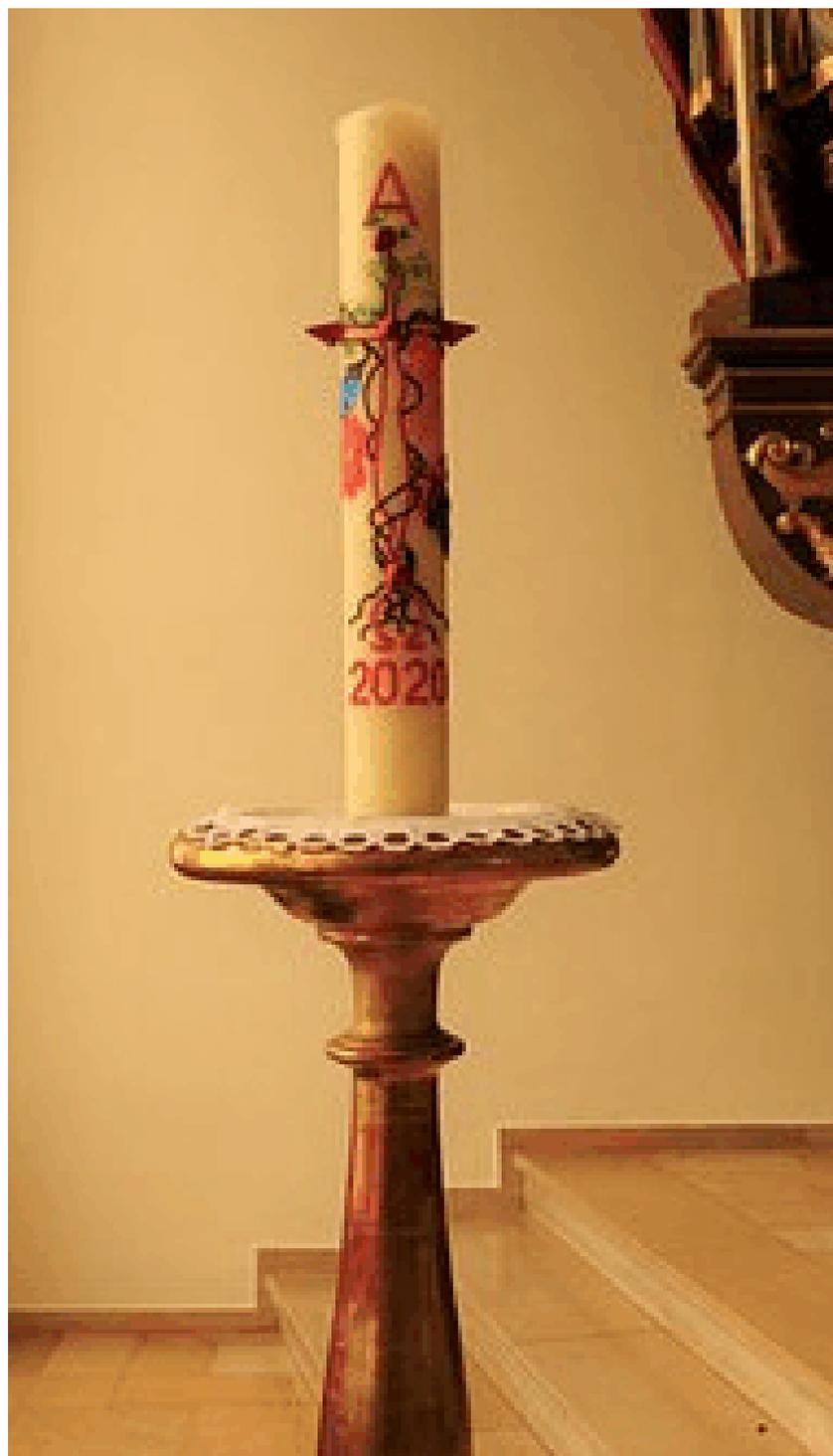
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away.

Were one to offer all he owns to purchase love,
he would be roundly mocked.

The Word of the Lord.

FUNERAL LECTIONARY

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS



NT 1 [Longer Form] - Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears God 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 the 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 to all he did
both in the land 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 seen,
not by all but only by 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 to 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.

NT 1 [Shorter Form] - Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears God 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 the Lord of all.

He commissioned us to preach to the people
and to 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.

NT 2 Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Hope will 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 God's wrath?
Indeed, if, while we were God's enemies,
we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life?
Not only that,
but we boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 3 **Romans 5:17-21**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

If, by the transgression of one person, Adam, all died,
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 a single offense brought condemnation to all,
so one righteous act brought acquittal and life 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 came in order to increase offenses
but, where sin increased,
grace has far surpassed it,
so that, as sin reigned through death,
grace also might reign through justification
leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 4 [Longer Form] – Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Are you not aware 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,
so shall we 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.

NT 4 [Shorter Form] – Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Are you not aware 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.

NT 5 Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul 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 the present are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

Indeed the whole created world eagerly awaits
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 even until now.
Not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
we also groan inwardly
as we await the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 6 Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son,

but gave him up for us all,

how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring any 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 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.

NT 7 Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

None of us lives as our own master,

and none of us dies as our own master.

While we live, we are responsible to the Lord,

and when we die, we die as his servants;

both in life and death, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life again,

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 ourselves before God.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 8 [Longer Form] – 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul 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 comes the end,
when Jesus hands over the kingdom to God the Father.
Christ must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
for Scripture reads that:
“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 God,
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.

NT 8 [Shorter Form] – 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the first letter of Paul 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.

NT 9 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Now I am going to tell you a mystery.

Not all of us shall fall asleep,

but all of us are to be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye,
at the sound of the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,

the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we will be changed.

This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility,
and this mortal body with immortality.

When this corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility
and the mortal immortality,

then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is your victory?

O death, where 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.

NT 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 up the Lord Jesus
will raise us up along with Jesus
and place us in his presence.

Everything indeed is ordered to your benefit,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance
may bring greater glory to God
because they who give thanks are many.

We do not lose heart,
because our inner being is renewed each day
even while our body is wasting away.

The present burden of our trial is light enough
and earns for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

We do not fix our gaze on what is seen,
but on what is unseen.

What is seen is transitory;
what is unseen lasts forever.

Indeed, we know that when the earthly tent
in which we dwell is destroyed,
we have a dwelling provided for us by God,
a dwelling in heaven that will last forever.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 11 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Indeed, we know that when the earthly tent
in which we dwell is destroyed,
we have a dwelling provided for us by God
a dwelling in heaven that will last forever.

Therefore we continue to be confident.

We know that, while we dwell in the body,
we are away from the Lord.

We walk by faith, not by sight.

I repeat, we are full of confidence
and would much rather be away from the body
and at home with the Lord.

This being so, we make it our aim to please him
whether we are with him or away from him.

The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ
so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad,
according to his life in the body.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 12 Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

As you well know,

we have our citizenship in heaven;
it is from there that we eagerly await
the coming of our Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours
and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body,
by his power to subject everything to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 13 Philippians 4:4-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all,

but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding

will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true,

whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,

whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,

if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,

think about these things.

Keep on doing

what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.”

The Word of the Lord.

NT 14 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Brothers and sisters,

we would have you be clear about those who sleep in death;
otherwise, you might yield to grief,
like those who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
God will bring forth with him from the dead
those who also have fallen asleep believing in him.

We say to you,
as if the Lord himself has said it,
that we who live, who survive until his coming,
will in no way have an advantage over those who have fallen asleep.

No, the Lord himself will come down from heaven
at the word of command,
at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet;
and those who have died in Christ will rise first.

Then we, the living, the survivors,
will be caught up with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thenceforth we shall be with the Lord unceasingly.
Console one another with this message.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 15 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of David,
was raised from the dead.

This is the gospel I preach;
in preaching it I suffer as a criminal,
even to the point of being thrown into chains--
but there is no chaining the word of God!

Therefore I bear with all of this
for the sake of those whom God has chosen,
in order that they may obtain
the salvation to be found in Christ Jesus
and with it eternal glory.

You can depend on this:
If we have died with him,
we shall also live with him.
If we hold out to the end,
we shall also reign with him.
But if we deny him
he will deny us.
If we are unfaithful
he will still remain faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 16 Hebrews 13:1-8

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.

Do not forget to entertain strangers,

for by so doing

some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners,

and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Marriage should be honored by all,

and the marriage should be kept pure,

for God will judge the adulterer

and all the sexually immoral.

Keep your lives free from the love of money

and be content with what you have,

because God has said,

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can a person do to me?”

Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you.

Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 17 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
in letting us be called the children of God.

Yet that is what we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know the Son.

Dearly beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall later 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.

NT 18 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 and sisters.

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer
has eternal life remaining in him.

The way we came to understand love
was that Jesus laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives
for our brothers and sisters.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 19 Revelation 14:13

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I heard a voice from heaven saying,

"Write this: Happy now are the dead who die in the Lord."

"Yes," said the Spirit,

they will rest from their labors,

for their good works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord.

NT 20 Revelation 20:11-21:1

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I saw a large and white throne
and the One who was sitting on it.
The earth and the sky fled from his presence
until they could no longer be seen.
I saw the dead, the great and the lowly,
standing before the throne,
and scrolls were opened.
Lastly, among the scrolls, the book of life was opened.
The dead were judged according to their deeds,
as recorded in the scrolls.
The sea gave up its dead;
then death and the nether world gave up their dead.
All the dead were judged according to their conduct.
Then death and the nether world were hurled
into the pool of fire, which is the second death;
anyone whose name was not found
inscribed in the book of the living
was hurled into this pool of fire.
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth passed away,
and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 21 Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the book of Revelation.

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 a holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
beautiful as a bride prepared to meet her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne cry out:

“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.

He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people
and he shall be their God who is always with them.

He will wipe away 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.

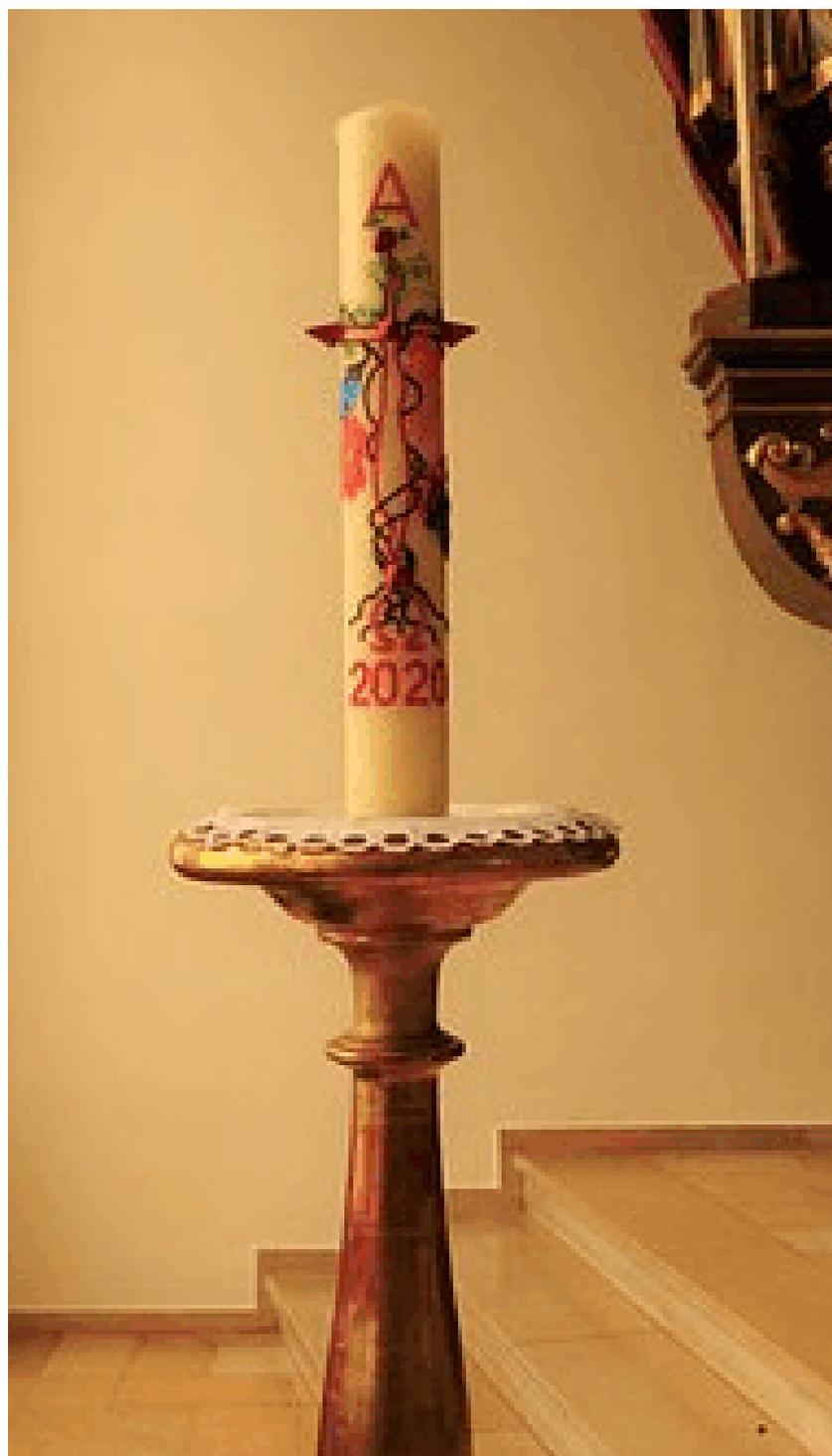
To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.

The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son.”

The Word of the Lord.

FUNERAL LECTIONARY

GOSPEL READINGS



G 1 Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When he saw the crowds, Jesus 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 shall be comforted.

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

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

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

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

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called the 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 slander against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward shall be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 2 Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus:

“Father, Lord of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise;
for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever
you have revealed to the childlike.

Father, it is true.

You have graciously willed it so.

Everything has been given over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son but the Father,
and no one knows the Father but 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 gentle and humble of heart.

You will find rest for yourselves,
for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 3 Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

“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 these virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise,

‘give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.’

But the wise ones replied,

‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you.

Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’

While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom arrived

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.

G 4 Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy gospel
according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
escorted by all the angels,
he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations
will be assembled before him.

Then he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep
from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right hand
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 virtuous will answer him and say,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry
and feed you,

or thirsty and give you a 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 ones 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.
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 come to 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 virtuous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 5 [Longer Form] – Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6

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 brought 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,
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.

G 5 [Shorter Form] – Mark 15:33-39

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.

G 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.

G 7 Luke 12:35-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be dressed for action and light your lamps.

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 put on an apron,
seat them at table, and proceed to wait on them.

Should he come at midnight or before sunrise
and find them prepared, 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.

G 8 Luke 23:33, 39-43

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

When they 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 Messiah? Save yourself and us.”

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,

“Have you no fear of God,
since 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.

G 9 [Longer Form] – 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 about 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.
The women 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.

G 9 [Shorter Form] – Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land
until about 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.

G 10 [Longer Form] – Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy gospel
according to Luke.

Now that very day, the first day of the week, two
of the disciples 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.

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.

G 10 [Shorter Form] – Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Now that very day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples
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.

G 11 **John 5:24-29**

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the Jews:

“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 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.

G 12 John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to 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.

G 13 John 6:51-58

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.

G 14 [Longer Form] – **John 11:17-27**

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany 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.

G 14 [Shorter Form] – **John 11:21-27**

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

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.

G 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.

G 16 [Longer Form] – John 12:23-28

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 Gospel of the Lord.

G 16 [Shorter Form] – John 12:23-26

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 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.

G 18 John 17:24-26

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 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.

G 19 John 19:17-18, 25-30

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.