

# Sacred Scripture



For  
Funerals

## Scripture Texts for Funeral Liturgies

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*Please see inside back cover  
for Gospel selections.*

# Old Testament



Please choose one

A reading from the Book of Job  
(Job 19: 1, 23-27)

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 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.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs  
(Proverbs 31: 10-31)

When one finds a worthy wife,  
her value is far beyond pearls.  
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,  
Has an unfailing prize.  
She brings him good, and not evil,  
All the days of her life.

She 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.

(Continued →)

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:  
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.

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes  
(Ecclesiastes 3: 1-14)

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 up.

A time to weep and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones,  
and a time to gather them;

A time to embrace,  
and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek and a time to lose;  
a time to keep and a time to cast away.

A time to rend and a time to sew;  
A time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate,  
a time of war and a time of peace.

What advantage have the workers from their toil?

(Continued —>)

I have considered the task that God has appointed  
for us to be busied about.

God has made everything appropriate to its time,  
and has put timelessness in our hearts,  
without our ever discovering,  
from beginning to end,  
the work which God has done.

I recognize that there is nothing better  
than to be glad and to do well during life.  
For everyone, moreover, to eat and drink  
and enjoy the fruit of all their labor  
is a gift of God.

I recognize that whatever God does  
will endure forever;  
there is no adding to it, or taking from it.

Thus has God done that the Lord may be revered.  
What now is has already been;  
what is to be, already is;  
and God restores  
what would otherwise be displaced.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Song of Songs  
(Song of Songs 3:2b–4a, 8:6b-7)

I will seek Him whom my heart loves.  
    I sought him, but did not find him.  
The watchmen came upon me,  
    As they made their rounds of the city;  
    Have you seen him whom my heart loves?

I had hardly left them,  
    when I found him whom my heart loves.  
I took hold of him and would not let him go.

Set me as a seal on your heart,  
    As a seal on your arm;  
For strong as death is love,  
    Relentless as the nether world is devotion;  
    Its flames are a blazing fire.

Deep waters cannot quench love,  
    Nor flood waters sweep it away.  
Were one to offer all he owns to purchase love,  
    He would be roundly mocked.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Book of Wisdom  
(Wisdom 3: 1-9)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
But they are in peace.

For if before us, 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, God proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings  
the Lord 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 the Lord shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with God in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones,  
and the Lord's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom  
(Wisdom 4: 7-15)

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 ancient crown for mortals,  
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 obscured 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 God's holy ones,  
and the Lord's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom  
(Wisdom 4: 7-15)

The just woman, though she 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 ancient crown for mortals,  
and an unsullied life,  
the attainment of old age.

She who pleased God was loved;  
she who lived among sinners was transported-  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert her mind  
or deceit beguile her 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,  
she reached the fullness of a long career;  
for her soul was pleasing to the Lord,  
therefore God sped her 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 God's holy ones,  
and the Lord's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Book of Sirach  
(Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14)

The Lord sets a father in honor over his children;  
A mother's authority God confirms  
over her daughters and sons.

Those who honor their father atone for sins;  
they store up riches who revere their mother.

Those who honor their father are gladdened by children,  
and when they pray they are heard.

Those who revere their father will live a long life;  
they obey the Lord who brings comfort to their mother.

My children, take care of your father when he is old;  
grieve him not as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him;  
revile him not in the fullness of your strength.

For kindness to a father will not be forgotten,  
it will serve as a sin offering - it will take lasting root.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah  
(Isaiah 25: 6-10)

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

On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,  
The web that is woven over all nations;  
God will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces;  
The reproach of his people God  
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 God has saved us!"  
For the hand of the Lord  
will rest on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel  
(Daniel 12:1-3)

“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.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees  
(12:43-46)

Judas, the ruler of Israel, then took up a collection  
among all his soldiers,  
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,  
which he sent to Jerusalem  
to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this  
he acted in a very excellent and noble way,  
inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind;  
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,  
it would have been  
superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.

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 absolved from their sin.

The Word of the Lord

# New Testament



Please choose one

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (Romans 6: 3-9)

Are you not aware  
that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus  
were baptized into his death?

Through baptism into his death  
we were buried with him,  
so that just as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
we too might live a new life.

If we have been united with him  
through likeness to his death,  
so shall we be through a like resurrection.

This we know: our old self was crucified with him  
so that the sinful body might be destroyed  
and we might be slaves to sin no longer.

A person who is dead has been freed from sin.

If we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we are also to live with him.

We know that Christ, once raised from the dead,  
will never die again;  
death has no more power over him.

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans  
(Romans 8: 14-23)

All who are led by the spirit of God are  
children of God.

You did not receive a spirit of slavery  
leading you back into fear,  
but a spirit of adoption  
through which we cry out,  
"Abba!," that is "Father!"

The spirit gives witness with our spirit  
that we are children of God.

But if we are children, we are heirs as well:  
heirs of God, heirs with Christ.

If only we suffer with him  
so as to be glorified with him.

I consider the sufferings of the present  
to be as nothing  
compared with the glory to be revealed in us.

Indeed, the whole created world eagerly awaits  
the revelation of the children of God.

Creation was made subject to futility,  
not of its own accord  
but by him who once subjected it;  
yet not without hope,  
because the world itself will be freed  
from its slavery to corruption  
and share in the glorious freedom  
of the children of God.

Continued—>

Yes, we know that all creation groans  
and is in agony even until now.

Not only that, but we ourselves,  
although we have the spirit as first fruits,  
groan inwardly while we await the redemption  
of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans  
(Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39)

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

Is it possible that he who did not spare his own son  
but handed him over for the sake of us all  
will not grant us all things besides?

Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones?  
God, who justifies?

Who shall condemn them?

Christ Jesus, who died or rather was raised up,  
who is at the right hand of God  
and who intercedes for us?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Trial, or distress, or persecution,  
or hunger, or nakedness,  
or danger, or the sword?

Yet, in all this, we are more than conquerors  
because of him who has loved us.

For I am certain

that neither death nor life,  
neither angels nor principalities,  
neither the present nor the future,  
nor powers,  
neither height nor depth  
nor any other creature,  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God  
that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans  
(Romans 14: 7-9, 10-12)

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 in death, we are the Lord's.

That is why Christ died and came to life again,  
that He might be Lord of both  
the dead and the living.

We shall all have to appear  
before the judgment seat of God.

It is written,  
"as surely as I live, says the Lord,  
every knee shall bend before me  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians  
(1 Corinthians 13: 4-13)

Love is patient; love is kind.  
Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs,  
it is not snobbish.  
Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking,  
It is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries.  
Love does not rejoice in what is wrong,  
But rejoices with the truth.  
There is no limit to love's forbearance,  
To its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love never fails.  
Prophecies will cease,  
Tongues will be silent, knowledge will pass away.  
Our knowledge is imperfect  
    and our prophesying is imperfect.  
When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away.  
When I was a child I used to talk like a child,  
Think like a child, reason like a child.  
When I became a man I put childish ways aside,

Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror;  
Then we shall see face to face.  
My knowledge is imperfect now;  
Then I shall know even as I am known.

There are in the end three things that last:  
    faith, hope and love,  
    and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians  
(2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10)

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 the heavens,  
not made by hands but to 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.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians  
(Philippians 3: 20-21)

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.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians  
(1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18)

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

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

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

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

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

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy  
(2 Timothy 2:8-13)

Beloved

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.

A reading from the second letter to Timothy (2 Timothy 4: 1-8)

Before God and before Christ Jesus  
    who is to be judge of the living and the dead,  
I put this duty to you,  
    in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom:  
proclaim the message and,  
    welcome or unwelcome, insist on it.  
Refute falsehood,  
    correct error, call to obedience -  
    but do all with patience  
    and with the intention of teaching.

The time is sure to come when,  
    far from being content with sound teaching,  
people will be avid for the latest novelty  
    and collect themselves a whole series of teachers  
    according to their own tastes;  
and then, instead of listening to the truth,  
    they will turn to myths.

Be careful always to choose the right course;  
    be brave under trials;  
    make the preaching of the Good News  
    your life's work in thoroughgoing service.

As for me,  
    my life is already being poured away as a libation,  
    and the time has come for me to be gone.  
    I have fought the good fight to the end;  
    I have run the race to the finish;  
    I have kept the faith;  
all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness  
    reserved for me,  
which the Lord, the righteous judge,  
    will give me on that Day;  
and not only to me,  
    but to all those  
    who have longed for his Appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the First Letter of John (1 John 3: 1-2)

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

Yet that in fact is what we are.

The reason the world does not recognize us  
is that it never recognized the Son.

Dearly beloved,  
we are God's children now;  
what we shall later be  
has not yet come to light.

We know that when it comes to light  
we shall be like him,  
for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation  
(Revelation 7: 9-17)

After this I had a vision of a great multitude,  
    which no one could count,  
    from every nation, race, people and tongue.  
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,  
    wearing white robes  
    and holding palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice:  
    “Salvation is from our God,  
    who is seated on the throne,  
    and from the Lamb.”

All the angels stood around the throne  
    and around the elders  
    and the four living creatures.  
They prostrated themselves before the throne,  
    worshipped God, and exclaimed:

    “Amen. Blessing and glory,  
    wisdom and thanksgiving,  
    honor, power and might  
    be to our God for ever and ever.  
    Amen.”

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me,  
    “Who are these wearing white robes,  
    and where did they come from?”

I said to him, “My lord, you are the one who knows.”

(Continued →)

“These are the ones who have survived  
the time of great distress;  
they have washed their robes  
and made them white  
in the blood of the Lamb.

‘For this reason they stand before God’s throne  
and worship God day and night  
in the temple.  
The one who sits on the throne  
will shelter them.

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

For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne  
will shepherd them  
and lead them to springs of life-giving water,  
and God will wipe every tear  
from their eyes.”

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Book of Revelation (Revelation 14:13)

I heard a voice from heaven say:

“Write this:

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord .”

“Yes,” said the Spirit,

“let them rest from their labors,  
for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Book of Revelation (Revelation 21: 1-5, 6, 7)

I, John, saw new heavens and a new earth.

The former heavens and the former earth  
had passed away,  
and the sea was no longer.

I also saw a new Jerusalem, the Holy City,  
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:

"This is God's dwelling among people.  
God shall dwell with them  
and they shall be the Lord's people,  
and he shall be their God  
who is always with them.

God shall wipe every tear from their eyes,  
and there shall be no more death or mourning,  
crying out or pain,  
for the former world has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said to me,

"See I make all things new!  
I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the beginning and the end.  
To anyone who thirsts  
I will give to drink without cost  
from the spring of life-giving water.

Those who win the victory shall inherit these gifts;  
I will be their God and they shall be my people."

The Word of the Lord.

# Gospels



Please choose one

A reading from the holy Gospel According to Matthew (Matthew 5:1-12a)

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

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

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

Blessed are the lowly,  
For they will inherit the land.

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

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

Blessed are the pure of heart,  
For they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
For they will be called  
the sons and daughters 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.

Be glad and rejoice  
for your reward in heaven is great.”

The Gospel of the Lord

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 11: 25-30)

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus:

“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 merest children.

Yes, Father, you have graciously willed it so.

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 find life burdensome,  
and I will refresh you

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
(Matthew 25: 31-40)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and 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.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 7:11-17)

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (16:19-31)

“There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.

When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.’

Abraham replied, ‘My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.’

He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.’

But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.’ He said, ‘Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ Then Abraham said, ‘If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.’”

The Gospel of the Lord



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

When they came to a 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? Then save yourself and us." The other, however rebuked him, saying, "Have you no fear of God, for you are under 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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
(Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24: 1-6a)

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

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, he 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 woman 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 among the dead? He is not here, he has been raised."

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
(Luke 24:13-35.)

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. It happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but they were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking distressed. 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 happened here in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. We were hoping that he would be the one to set Israel free; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, have astounded us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body, but came back and reported that they had 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."

(Continued →)

He said to them, "How foolish you are! How slow to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the messiah should suffer these things and so 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.

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 for us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found the eleven gathered together. They were greeted with, "The Lord is risen 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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
(John 6:37-40)

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 to do 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 them 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 them on the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
(John 6: 51-58)

Jesus said to the crowd:

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

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, 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 them 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 them. Just as the Father who has life 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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 11: 17-27)

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; while 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 they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I 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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
(John 12: 23-28)

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 their life loses it, and whoever hates their 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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 14: 1-6)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, how could I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? I am going to prepare a place for you, then I will come back and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. You know the way that leads where I go.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Pick one

Matthew 5: 1-12a	The Beatitudes	35
Matthew 11:25-30	Jesus' offer to comfort the weary and burdened.	36
Matthew 25:31-40	Whatsoever you do . . . You do it for me.	37
Luke 7:11-17	Young man, I say to you, arise	38
Luke 16:1-31	The Rich man and Lazarus	39-40
Luke 23:33, 39-43	Jesus promises paradise to the one crucified beside him.	41
Luke 23:44-46,50,52-53; 24:1-6	Luke's account of the resurrection	42
Luke 24:13-35	They recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread	43-44
John 6:37-40	Jesus' promise of eternal life to those who receive him	45
John 6: 51-58	Jesus offers himself as the bread which brings eternal life	46
John 11:17-27	I am the resurrection and the life.	47
John 12: 23-28	If the grain of wheat dies it produces much fruit.	48
John 14: 1-6	There are many rooms in the Father's house.	49

*\*Please do not feel  
that you must find someone to be the lector.  
This can be a very difficult ministry at this time.  
If you wish, a parish lector will minister at the funeral liturgy.*

