

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

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(Genesis 1:26-31a)

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then God said:

**“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air, and the cattle,
and over all the wild animals
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”**

God created man in his image;

**in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.**

God blessed them, saying:

**“Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.**

**Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds
of the air,
and all the living things that move on the earth.”**

God also said:

**“See, I give you every seed-bearing plant
all over the earth
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it
to be your food;
and to all the animals of the land, all the birds
of the air,
and all the living creatures that crawl
on the ground,**

I give all the green plants for food.”

And so it happened.

**God looked at everything he had made, and he
found it very good.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Genesis 12:1-4a)

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram:

**“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father’s house to a land
that I will show you.**

**“I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.**

**I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you.
All the communities of the earth
shall find blessing in you.”**

Abram went as the Lord directed him.

The Word of the Lord.

(Genesis 15:4a,5-6)

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision.

The Lord took him outside and said:

**“Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.”**

**Abram put his faith in the Lord,
who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Genesis 23:1-4,17-20)

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The span of Sarah's life was one hundred and twenty-seven years.

**She died in Kiriatharba (that is, Hebron)
in the land of Canaan,
and Abraham performed the customary mourning
rites for her.**

Then he left the side of his dead one and addressed the Hittites:

**"Although I am a resident alien among you,
sell me from your holdings a piece of property
for a burial ground,
that I may bury my dead wife."**

**Thus Ephron's field in Machpelah, facing Mamre,
together with its cave and all the trees anywhere
within its limits,
was conveyed to Abraham by purchase
in the presence of all the Hittites who sat
on Ephron's town council.**

**After this transaction, Abraham buried his wife Sarah
in the cave of the field of Machpelah,
facing Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land
of Canaan.**

**Thus the field with its cave was transferred
from the Hittites to Abraham as a burial place.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Deuteronomy 34:1-8,10)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

**Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo,
the headland of Pisgah which faces Jericho,
and the Lord showed him all the land—
Gilead, and as far as Dan, all Naphtali,
the land of Ephraim and Manasseh,
all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,
the Negeb, the circuit of the Jordan
with the lowlands at Jericho, city of palms,
and as far as Zoar.**

The Lord then said to him,

**“This is the land
which I swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
that I would give to their descendants.**

**I have let you feast your eyes upon it, but you shall
not cross over.”**

**So there, in the land of Moab, Moses, the servant
of the Lord,**

**died as the Lord had said; and he was buried
in the ravine opposite Beth-peor
in the land of Moab,**

but to this day no one knows the place of his burial.

**Moses was one hundred and twenty years old
when he died,**

yet his eyes were undimmed and his vigor unabated.

**For thirty days the Israelites wept for Moses
in the plains of Moab, till they had completed
the period of grief and mourning for Moses.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Joshua 1:1-2,5b,7-9)

A reading from the Book of Joshua.

**After Moses, the servant of the Lord, had died,
the Lord said to Moses' aide Joshua, son of Nun:**

“My servant Moses is dead.

**So prepare to cross the Jordan here,
with all the people, into the land I will give
the Israelites.**

I will be with you as I was with Moses:

I will not leave you nor forsake you.

Above all, be firm and steadfast,

taking care to observe the entire law

which my servant Moses enjoined on you.

**Do not swerve from it either to the right or
to the left,**

that you may succeed wherever you go.

Keep this book of the law on your lips.

Recite it by day and by night,

**that you may observe carefully all that is written
in it;**

then you will successfully attain your goal.

I command you: be firm and steadfast!

**Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord,
your God, is with you wherever you go.”**

The Word of the Lord.

(Ruth 1:16-17)

A reading from the Book of Ruth.

**“Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you lodge
I will lodge,
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.**

**Wherever you die, I will die, and there be buried.
May the Lord do so and so to me, and more besides,
if anything but death separates me from you!”**

The Word of the Lord.

(2 Samuel 19:32-40)

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

**Barzillai the Gileadite also came down
from Rogelim
and escorted the king to the Jordan
for his crossing, taking leave of him there.**

**It was Barzillai,
a very old man of eighty and very wealthy
besides,
who had provisioned the king during his stay
in Mahanaim.**

**The king said to Barzillai,
“Cross over with me,
and I will provide for your old age as my guest
in Jerusalem.”**

**But Barzillai answered the king:
“How much longer have I to live,
that I should go up to Jerusalem
with the king?”**

**I am now eighty years old.
Can I distinguish between good and bad?
Can your servant taste what he eats and drinks,
or still appreciate the voices of singers and
songstresses?**

**Why should your servant be any further burden
to my lord the king?**

**In escorting the king across the Jordan,
your servant is doing little enough!**

Why should the king give me this reward?

**Please let your servant go back to die
in his own city by the tomb of his father
and mother.**

**Here is your servant Chimham.
Let him cross over with my lord the king.
Do for him whatever you will.”**

**Then the king said to him,
“Chimham shall come over with me,
 and I will do for him as you would wish.
And anything else you would like me to do for you,
 I will do.”**

**Then all the people crossed over the Jordan,
 but the king remained;
he kissed Barzillai and bade him Godspeed,
 as he returned to his own district.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Kings 19:4-8)

A reading from the first Book of Kings.

**Elijah went a day's journey into the desert,
until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it.
He prayed for death, saying:**

"This is enough, O Lord!

Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

**He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree,
but then an angel touched him and ordered him
to get up and eat.**

**Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake
and a jug of water.**

**After he ate and drank, he lay down again,
but the angel of the Lord came back a second time,
touched him, and ordered,**

**"Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long
for you!"**

**He got up, ate, and drank;
then strengthened by that food,
he walked forty days and forty nights
to the mountain of God, Horeb.**

The Word of the Lord.

(2 Maccabees 12:43-46)

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees.

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

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

**But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.**

**Thus he made atonement for the dead
that they might be freed from this sin.**

The Word of the Lord.

(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.

(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 unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with loving 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.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8,11)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

**There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for everything under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far
from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.**

God has made everything appropriate to its time.

The Word of the Lord.

(Ecclesiastes 12:1-7)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

**Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,
before the evil days come,
and the years approach of which you will say,
I have no pleasure in them;
Before the sun is darkened,
and the light, and the moon, and the stars,
while the clouds return after the rain;
When the guardians of the house tremble,
and the strong are bent,
and the grinders are idle because they are few,
and they who look through the windows grow blind;
When the doors to the street are shut,
and the sound of the mill is low;
when one waits for the chirp of a bird,
but all the daughters of song are suppressed;
And one fears heights, and perils in the street;
when the almond tree blooms,
and the locust grows sluggish
and the caper berry is without effect,
Because all go to their lasting home,
and mourners go about the streets;
Before the silver cord is snapped
and the golden bowl is broken,
and the pitcher is shattered at the spring,
and the broken pulley falls into the well,
And the dust returns to the earth as it once was,
and the life breath returns to God who gave it.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Song of Songs 2:8-14,16a; 8:6-7a)

A reading from the Song of Songs.

**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 dove, 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.”**

My lover belongs to me and I to him.

**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 a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Wisdom 1:13-15)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

**God did not make death,
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.
For he fashioned all things that they might have being;
and the creatures of the world are wholesome,
and there is not a destructive drug among them
nor any domain of the netherworld on earth,
for justice is undying.**

The Word of the Lord.

(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 forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them and found them worthy
of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love;
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Wisdom 4:7-15)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not

with the passing of time,

nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for 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 obscures what is right

and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent

mind.

Having become perfect in a short while,

he reached the fullness of a long career;

for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,

therefore he sped him out of the midst

of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,

nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

(Wisdom 7:7-11)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

**I prayed, and prudence was given me;
I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.
I preferred her to scepter and throne,
and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her,
 nor did I liken any priceless gem to her;
because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand,
 and before her, silver is to be accounted mire.
Beyond health and comeliness I loved her,
and I chose to have her rather than the light,
 because the splendor of her never yields to sleep.
Yet all good things together came to me
 in her company,
 and countless riches at her hands.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Sirach 2:1-11)

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

**My son, when you come to serve the Lord,
stand in justice and fear,
prepare yourself for trials.
Be sincere of heart and steadfast,
incline your ear and receive the word
of understanding,
undisturbed in time of adversity.
Wait on God, with patience, cling to him,
forsake him not;
thus will you be wise in all your ways.
Accept whatever befalls you,
when sorrowful, be steadfast,
and in crushing misfortune be patient;
For in fire gold and silver are tested,
and worthy people in the crucible of humiliation.
Trust God and God will help you;
trust in him, and he will direct your way;
keep his fear and grow old therein.**

**You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy,
turn not away lest you fall.
You who fear the Lord, trust him,
and your reward will not be lost.
You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.
You who fear the Lord, love him,
and your hearts will be enlightened.
Study the generations long past and understand;
has anyone hoped in the Lord and been
disappointed?**

**Has anyone persevered in his commandments and
been forsaken?**

**has anyone called upon him and been rebuffed?
Compassionate and merciful is the Lord;
he forgives sins, he saves in time of trouble
and he is a protector to all who seek him
in truth.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Sirach 18:1-13)

A reading from the book of Sirach.

**The Eternal is the judge of all things
without exception;
the Lord alone is just.**

**Whom has he made equal to describing his works,
and who can probe his mighty deeds?**

**Who can measure his majestic power,
or exhaust the tale of his mercies?**

**One cannot lessen, nor increase, nor penetrate
the wonders of the Lord.**

**When human beings end, they are only beginning,
and when they stop they are still bewildered.**

What are human beings, of what worth are they?

The good, the evil in them, what are these?

**The sum of their days is great
if it reaches a hundred years:**

**Like a drop of sea water, like a grain of sand,
so are these few years among the days of eternity.**

**That is why the Lord is patient with them
and showers upon them his mercy.**

**God sees and understands that their death is grievous,
and so forgives them all the more.**

**Human beings may be merciful to one another,
but the Lord's mercy reaches all flesh,**

**Reproving, admonishing, teaching,
as a shepherd guides his flock;**

**Merciful to those who accept his guidance,
who are diligent in his precepts.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Sirach 34:13-17)

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

**Lively is the courage of those who fear the Lord,
for they put their hope in their savior;
He who fears the Lord is never alarmed, never afraid;
for the Lord is his hope.
Happy the soul that fears the Lord!
In whom does he trust, and who is his support?
The eyes of the Lord are upon those who love him;
he is their mighty shield and strong support,
A shelter from the heat, a shade from the noonday sun,
a guard against stumbling, a help against falling.
He buoys up the spirits, brings a sparkle to the eyes,
gives health and life and blessing.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Sirach 35:4-9)

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

**Appear not before the Lord empty-handed,
for all that you offer is in fulfillment
of the precepts.**

**The just one's offering enriches the altar
and rises as a sweet odor before the Most High.**

**The just one's sacrifice is most pleasing,
nor will it ever be forgotten.**

**In a generous spirit pay homage to the Lord,
be not sparing of freewill gifts.**

**With each contribution show a cheerful countenance,
and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy.**

**Give to the Most High as he has given to you,
generously, according to your means.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Sirach 44:1-2,8-15)

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

**Now will I praise those godly men,
 our ancestors, in their own time;
The abounding glory of the Most High's portion,
 his own part, since the days of old.
Some of them have left behind a name
 and people recount their praiseworthy deeds.
But of others there is no memory,
 for when they ceased, they ceased.
And they are as though they had not lived,
 they and their children after them.
Yet these also were the godly ones
 whose virtues have not been forgotten;
Their wealth remains in their families,
 their heritage with their descendants;
Through God's covenant with them their family
 endures,
 their posterity, for their sake.**

**And for all time their progeny will endure,
 their glory will never be blotted out;
Their bodies are peacefully laid away,
 but their name lives on and on.
At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
 and the assembly proclaims their praise.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 9:2,6)

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

**The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.
For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 12:2-6)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**God indeed is my savior;
I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the Lord,
and he has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation, and say on that day:
Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name;
among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name.
Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement;
let this be known throughout all the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 25:6-10a)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all peoples
a feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil 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 every face;
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!”
For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 26:1a,19)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**On that day they will sing this song in the land
of Judah:**

**“Your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise;
awake and sing, you who lie in the dust.
For your dew is a dew of light,
and the land of shades gives birth.”**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 35:1-6,10)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.**

**They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.**

**The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;**

**They will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.**

**Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,**

**Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not!**

**Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;**

**With divine recompense
he comes to save you.**

**Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;**

**Then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.**

**Streams will burst forth in the desert,
and rivers in the steppe.**

**The burning sands will become pools,
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.**

**Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.**

**They will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 38:10-14,17b-20)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Once I said,

**“In the noontime of life I must depart!
To the gates of the nether world I shall be consigned
for the rest of my years.**

**I said, “I shall see the Lord no more
in the land of the living.**

**No longer shall I behold my fellow men
among those who dwell in the world.**

**My dwelling, like a shepherd’s tent,
is struck down and borne away from me;**

**You have folded up my life, like a weaver
who severs the last thread.**

**Day and night you give me over to torment;
I cry out until the dawn.**

**Like a lion he breaks all my bones;
[day and night you give me over to torment].**

**Like a swallow I utter shrill cries;
I moan like a dove.**

**My eyes grow weak, gazing heavenward;
O Lord, I am in straits; be my surety!**

**You have preserved my life
from the pit of destruction,
When you cast behind your back
all my sins.**

**For it is not the nether world that gives you thanks,
nor death that praises you;**

**Neither do those who go down into the pit
await your kindness.**

**The living, the living give you thanks,
as I do today.**

**Fathers declare to their sons,
O God, your faithfulness.
The Lord is our savior;
we shall sing to stringed instruments
In the house of the Lord
all the days of our life.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 40:28-31)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**Do you not know
or have you not heard?
The Lord is the eternal God,
creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint nor grow weary,
and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.
He give strength to the fainting;
for the weak he makes vigor abound.
Though young men faint and grow weary,
and youths stagger and fall,
They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength,
they will soar as with eagles' wings;
They will run and not grow weary,
walk and not grow faint.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 41:8-10,13)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**You, Israel, my servant,
 Jacob, whom I have chosen,
 offspring of Abraham my friend--
You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth
 and summoned from its far-off places.
You whom I have called my servant,
 whom I have chosen and will not cast off--
Fear not, I am with you:
 be not dismayed; I am your God.
I will strengthen you, and help you,
 and uphold you with my right hand of justice.**

**For I am the Lord, your God,
 who grasp your right hand;
It is I who say to you, "Fear not,
 I will help you."**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 43:1-4)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**But now, thus says the Lord,
 who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel:
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name: you are mine.
When you pass through the water, I will be with you;
 in the rivers you shall not drown.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned;
 the flames shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord, your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in return for you.
Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious,
 and because I love you,
I give men in return for you
 and peoples in exchange for your life.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 49:8,13-16)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

**In a time of favor I answer you,
on the day of salvation I help you,
To restore the land
and allot the desolate heritages.**

**Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth,
break forth into song, you mountains.
For the Lord comforts his people
and shows mercy to his afflicted.**

**But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget,
I will never forget you."**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 52:7-10)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the one who brings glad tidings,
announcing peace, bearing good news,
announcing salvation, and saying to Zion,
“Your God is King!”**

**Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry
together they shout for joy,
for they see directly, before their eyes,
the Lord restoring Zion.
Break out together in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For the Lord comforts his people,
he redeems Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 54:10-13)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**Though the mountains leave their place
and the hills be shaken,
my love shall never leave you
nor my covenant of peace be shaken,
says the Lord, who has mercy on you.
O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsolated,
I lay your pavements in carnelians,
and your foundations in sapphires;
I will make your battlements of rubies,
your gates of carbuncles,
and all your walls of precious stones.
All your children shall be taught by the Lord,
and great shall be the peace of your children.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 55:6-11)

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

**Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked his thoughts;
let him turn to the Lord for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.
Just as from the heavens
the rain and the snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to him who sows
and bread to him who eats,
so shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 57:15-16,18-19)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**Thus says the Lord who is high and exalted,
 living eternally, whose name is the Holy One:
On high I dwell, and in holiness,
 and with the crushed and dejected in spirit,
To revive the spirits of the dejected,
 to revive the hearts of the crushed.
I will not accuse forever,
 nor always be angry;
For their spirits would faint before me,
 the souls that I have made.
I saw their ways,
 but I will heal them and lead them;
I will give full comfort
 to them and to those who mourn for them,
I, the Creator, who gave them life.**

**Peace, peace to the far and the near,
 says the Lord; and I will heal them.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 58:6-9a,10b-11)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord God:

This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:

releasing those bound unjustly,

untying the thongs of the yoke;

Setting free the oppressed,

breaking every yoke;

Sharing your bread with the hungry,

sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;

Clothing the naked when you see them,

and not turning your back on your own.

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your wound shall quickly be healed;

your vindication shall go before you,

and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer,

you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!

Then light shall rise for you in the darkness,

and the gloom shall become for you like midday;

Then the Lord will guide you always

and give you plenty even on the parched land.

He will renew your strength,

and you shall be like a watered garden,

like a spring whose water never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 61:1-3a; 62:3)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly,
to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners.
To announce a year of favor from the Lord
and a day of vindication by our God,
to comfort all who mourn;
To place on those who mourn in Zion
a diadem instead of ashes,
To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.**

**You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord,
a royal diadem held by your God.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Isaiah 65:17-22)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

**Lo, I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;**

**The things of the past shall not be remembered
or come to mind.**

**Instead, there shall always be rejoicing and happiness
in what I create;**

**For I create Jerusalem to be a joy
and its people to be a delight;**

**I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and exult in my people.**

**No longer shall the sound of weeping be heard there,
or the sound of crying;**

**No longer shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out a full lifetime;
He dies a mere youth who reaches but a hundred years,
and one who fails of a hundred shall be thought
accursed.**

**They shall live in the houses they build,
and eat the fruit of the vineyards they plant.**

**They shall not build houses for others to live in,
or plant for others to eat.**

**As the years of a tree, so the years of my people;
and my chosen ones shall long enjoy the produce
of their hands.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Jeremiah 31:10-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

**Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
 proclaim it on distant isles, and say:
He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together,
 he guards them as a shepherd his flock.
The Lord shall ransom Jacob,
 he shall redeem him from the hand
 of his conqueror.
Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion,
 they shall come streaming to the Lord's blessings:
The grain, the wine, and the oil,
 the sheep and the oxen;
They themselves shall be like watered gardens,
 never again shall they languish.
Then the virgins shall make merry and dance,
 and young men and old as well.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
 I will console and gladden them after their sorrows.
I will lavish choice portions upon the priests,
 and my people shall be filled with my blessings,
says the Lord.**

The Word of the Lord.

(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.

(Ezekiel 34:11-16)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock

**when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,
so will I tend my sheep.**

I will rescue them from every place

**where they were scattered
when it was cloudy and dark.**

I will lead them out from among the peoples

and gather them from the foreign lands;

I will bring them back to their own country

**and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel
in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places.**

In good pastures will I pasture them,

**and on the mountain heights of Israel
shall be their grazing ground.**

There they shall lie down on good grazing ground,

**and in rich pastures shall they be pastured
on the mountains of Israel.**

I myself will pasture my sheep;

I myself will give them rest, says the Lord God.

The lost I will seek out,

the strayed I will bring back,

the injured I will bind up,

the sick I will heal,

**but the sleek and the strong I will destroy,
shepherding them rightly.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Ezekiel 37:11-14)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

Then the Lord said to me:

**Son of man, these bones are the whole house
of Israel.**

They have been saying,

**“Our bones are dried up,
our hope is lost, and we are cut off.”**

Therefore, prophesy and say to them:

Thus says the Lord God:

**O my people, I will open your graves
and have you rise from them,
and bring you back to the land of Israel.**

**Then you shall know that I am the Lord,
when I open your graves and have you rise
from them,**

O my people!

**I will put my spirit in you that you may live,
and I will settle you upon your land;
thus you shall know that I am the Lord.**

I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

(Daniel 12:1-3)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel.

**In those days, I, Daniel,
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.

(Micah 6:6-8)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

**With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow before God most high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams
with myriad streams of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my crime,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
You have been told, O man, what is good,
and what the Lord requires of you:
Only to do the right and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Habakkuk 2:2-4)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk.

Then the Lord answered me and said:

**Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets,
so that one can read it readily.**

**For the vision still has its time,
presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint;
if it delays, wait for it,
it will surely come, it will not be late.**

**The rash one has no integrity;
but the just one, because of faith, shall live.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Zephaniah 3:16-20)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah.

On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!

**The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty savior;**

**He will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love.**

**He will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.**

**I will remove disaster from among you,
so that none may recount your disgrace.**

**Yes, at that time I will deal
with all who oppress you:**

**I will save the lame,
and assemble the outcasts;**

**I will give them praise and renown in all the earth,
when I bring about their restoration.**

**At that time I will bring you home,
and at that time I will gather you;**

**For I will give you renown and praise,
among all the peoples of the earth.**

**When I bring about your restoration
before your very eyes, says the Lord.**

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

- | | |
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| NT-1 Acts 10:34-43 | NT-18 Galatians 6:7-10 |
| NT-2 Romans 5:5-11 | NT-19 Ephesians 1:1-10 |
| NT-3 Romans 5:17-21 | NT-20 Ephesians 3:14-21 |
| NT-4 Romans 6:3-11 | NT-21 Philippians 3:20-21 |
| NT-5 Romans 8:14-23 | NT-22 Philippians 4:4-9 |
| NT-6 Romans 8:31b-37 | NT-23 Colossians 3:1-4 |
| NT-7 Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12 | NT-24 Colossians 3:14-14,17,23-24 |
| NT-8 1 Corinthians 2:1-7,9-10a | NT-25 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 |
| NT-9 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 | NT-26 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6,8-11 |
| NT-10 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 | NT-27 2 Timothy 2:8-13 |
| NT-11 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 | NT-28 2 Timothy 4:6-8 |
| NT-12 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 | NT-29 Hebrews 11:1-2,8-10,13-16 |
| NT-13 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 | NT-30 James 5:7-11 |
| NT-14 2 Corinthians 1:1-7 | NT-31 1 Peter 1:3-9 |
| NT-15 2 Corinthians 4:7-15 | NT-32 1 Peter 2:20b-25 |
| NT-16 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1 | NT-33 1 John 1:1-4 |
| NT-17 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 | NT-34 1 John 3:1-2 |
| | NT-35 1 John 3:14-16 |
| | NT-36 1 John 4:7-12,17 |
| | NT-37 Revelation 7:9-17 |
| | NT-38 Revelation 14:13 |
| | NT-39 Revelation 21:1-7 |
| | NT-40 Revelation 22:1-7 |

(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 him
and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.
You know the word that he sent to the Israelites
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ,
who is Lord of all,
what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.**

**He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.**

**We are witnesses of all that he did
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.**

**They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.
This man God raised on the third day and granted
that he be visible,
not to all the people, but to us,
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose
from the dead.**

**He commissioned us to preach to the people
and testify that he is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.**

**To him all the prophets bear witness
that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”**

The Word of the Lord.

(Romans 5:5-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,

**because the love of God has been poured out
into our hearts through the Holy Spirit
that has been given to us.**

For Christ, while we were still helpless,

died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die

**for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.**

But God proves his love for us

in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then since we are now justified

**by his blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.**

Indeed, if, while we were enemies,

**we were reconciled to God through the death
of his Son,**

**how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.**

Not only that,

**but we also boast of God through our Lord
Jesus Christ,**

through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

(Romans 5:17-21)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

**If, by the transgression of one,
death came to reign through that one,
how much more will those who receive
the abundance of grace
and the gift of justification
come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.**

**In conclusion, just as through one transgression
condemnation came upon all,
so through one righteous act
acquittal and life came to all.**

**For just as through the disobedience of one man
the many were made sinners,
so, through the obedience of one
the many will be made righteous.**

**The law entered in so that transgression might increase
but, where sin increased,
grace overflowed all the more,
so that, as sin reigned in death,
grace also might reign through justification
for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Romans 6:3-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

**We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.**

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

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

**We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies
no more;**

death no longer has power over him.

**As to his death, he died to sin once and for all;
as to his life, he lives for God.**

**Consequently, you too must think of yourselves
as being dead to sin
and living for God in Christ Jesus.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Romans 8:14-23)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

**Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons 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 himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.**

**I consider that the sufferings of this present time are
as nothing**

compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

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

**We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains
even until now;**

**and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption
of our bodies.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Romans 8:31b-39)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

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

He who did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

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

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

As it is written:

For your sake we are being slain all the day;

we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.

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.

(Romans 14:7-9,10b-12)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,

and if we die, we die for the Lord;

so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,

**that he might be Lord of both the dead and
the living.**

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 2:1-10)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

**When I came to you proclaiming the mystery of God,
I did not come with sublimity of words or
of wisdom.**

**For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**

**I came to you in weakness and fear and much
trembling,**

**and my message and my proclamation
were not with persuasive [words of] wisdom,
but with a demonstration of spirit and power,
so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom
but on the power of God.**

**Yet we do speak a wisdom to those who are mature,
not a wisdom of this age,
nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away.**

**Rather we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden,
which God predetermined before the ages
for our glory,**

**and which none of the rulers of this age knew;
for, if they had known it,
they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

But as it is written,

***"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,
and what has not entered the human heart,
what God has prepared for those who love him,"
this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.***

**For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths
of God.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

**Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all
run in the race,
but only one wins the prize?**

Run so as to win.

**Every athlete exercises discipline in every way.
They do it to win a perishable crown,
but we an imperishable one.**

Thus I do not run aimlessly;

I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing.

**No, I drive my body and train it,
for fear that, after having preached to others,
I myself should be disqualified.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

**Brothers and sisters:
Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.**

But I will show you a still more excellent way.

**If I speak in human and angelic tongues
but do not have love,
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.
And if I have the gift of prophecy
and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away everything I own,
and if I hand my body over so that I may boast
but do not have love, I gain nothing.**

**Love is patient, love is kind.
It is not jealous, love is not pompous,
it is not inflated, it is not rude,
it does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood
over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
but rejoices with the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.**

Love never fails.

**If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing;
if tongues, they will cease;
if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.**

**For we know partially and we prophesy partially,
but when the perfect comes, the partial
will pass away.**

**When I was a child, I used to talk as a child,
think as a child, reason as a child;
when I became a man, I put aside childish things.**

**At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror,
but then face to face.**

**At present I know partially;
then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.**

**So faith, hope, love remain, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 15:12-20)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

**If Christ is preached as raised from the dead,
how can some among you say there is
no resurrection of the dead?**

**If there is no resurrection of the dead,
then neither has Christ been raised.**

**And if Christ has not been raised, then empty [too] is
our preaching;
empty, too, your faith.**

**Then we are also false witnesses to God,
because we testified against God that he raised
Christ,
whom he did not raise if in fact the dead
are not raised.**

**For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ
been raised,
and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain;
you are still in your sins.**

**Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ
have perished.**

**If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are the most pitiable people of all.**

**But now Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 15:20-28)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

**Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

**For since death came through man,
the resurrection of the dead came also
through man.**

**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 he hands over the kingdom to his God and
Father,
when he has destroyed every sovereignty
and every authority and power.**

**For he must reign until he has put all his enemies
under his feet.**

**The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
for “he subjected everything under his feet.”
But when it says that everything has been subjected,
it is clear that it excludes the One
who subjected everything to him.**

**When everything is subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected
to the one who subjected everything to him,
so that God may be all in all.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 15:51-58)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

**We shall not all fall asleep,
but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye,
at the last trumpet.**

**For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.**

**For that which is corruptible must clothe itself
with incorruptibility,
and that which is mortal must clothe itself
with immortality.**

**And when that which is corruptible clothes itself
with incorruptibility
and that which is mortal clothes itself
with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:
*“Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”***

**The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.**

**But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters,
be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work
of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**

The Word of the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 1:1-7)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

**Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and Timothy our brother,
to the Church of God that is in Corinth,
with all the holy ones throughout Achaia:
grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God
of all encouragement,
who encourages us in our every affliction,
so that we may be able to encourage
those who are in any affliction
with the encouragement with which we ourselves
are encouraged by God.**

**For as Christ's sufferings overflow to us,
so through Christ does our encouragement also
overflow.**

**If we are afflicted,
it is for your encouragement and salvation;
if we are encouraged,
it is for your encouragement,
which enables you to endure the same sufferings
that we suffer.**

**Our hope for you is firm,
for we know that as you share in the sufferings,
you also share in the encouragement.**

The Word of the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 4:7-15)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

**We hold this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the surpassing power may be of God and
not from us.**

**We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned;
struck down, but not destroyed;
always carrying about in the body the dying
of Jesus,
so that the life Jesus may also be manifested
in our body.**

**For we who live are constantly being given up to death
for the sake of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may be manifested
in our mortal flesh.**

So death is at work in us, but life in you.

**Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith,
according to what is written,
“I believed, therefore I spoke,”
we too believe and therefore speak,
knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.**

**Everything indeed is for you,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance
on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow
for the glory of God.**

The Word of the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

**We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.**

**Everything indeed is for you,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance
on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow
for the glory of God.**

**Therefore, we are not discouraged;
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.**

**For this momentary light affliction
is producing for us an eternal weight of glory
beyond all comparison,
as we look not to what is seen but to what is
unseen;
for what is seen is transitory,
but what is unseen is eternal.**

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

The Word of the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 5:1,6-10)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sister:

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

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

(Galatians 6:7-10)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians.

Brothers and sisters:

Make no mistake:

**God is not mocked,
for a person will reap only what he sows,
because the one who sows for the flesh will reap
corruption from the flesh,
but the one who sows for the spirit will reap
eternal life from the spirit.**

**Let us not grow tired of doing good,
for in due time we shall reap our harvest,
if we do not give up.**

**So then, while we have the opportunity,
let us do good to all,
but especially to those who belong to the family
of the faith.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Ephesians 1:1-10)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

**Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
to the holy ones who are in Ephesus
and faithful in Christ Jesus:
grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

**In Christ we have redemption by his Blood,
the forgiveness of transgressions,
in accord with the riches of his grace
that he lavished upon us.**

**In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us
the mystery of his will in accord with his favor
that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness
of times,**

**to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and
on earth.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Ephesians 3:14-21)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:

**For this reason I kneel before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth
is named,
that he may grant you in accord with the riches
of his glory
to be strengthened with power through his Spirit
in the inner self,
and that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith;
that you, rooted and grounded in love,
may have strength to comprehend
with all the holy ones
what is the breadth and length and height
and depth,
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses
knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness
of God.**

**Now to him who is able to accomplish far more
than all we ask or imagine,
by the power at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Philippians 3:20-21)

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the
Philippians.**

Brothers and sisters:

**Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Philippians 4:4-9)

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the
Philippians.**

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall 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.

(Colossians 3:1-4)

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the
Colossians.**

Brothers and sisters:

**If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.**

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

**For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ
in God.**

**When Christ your life appears,
then you too will appear with him in glory.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Colossians 3:12-17,23-24)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

**Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,
if one has a grievance against another;
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.**

**And over all these put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.**

**And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace into which you were also called
in one body.**

And be thankful.

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish
one another,
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.**

**And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

**Whatever you do, do from the heart,
as for the Lord and not for others,
knowing that you will receive from the Lord
the due payment of the inheritance;
be slaves of the Lord Christ.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.

Brothers and sisters:

**We do not want you to be unaware
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.

(1 Thessalonians 5:4-6,8-11)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.

Brothers and sisters:

You are not in darkness,

for that day to overtake you like a thief.

For all of you are children of the light

and children of the day.

We are not of the night or of darkness.

Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do,

but let us stay alert and sober.

But since we are of the day, let us be sober,

putting on the breastplate of faith and love

and the helmet

that is hope for salvation.

For God did not destine us for wrath,

but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who died for us so that whether we are awake

or asleep

we may live together with him.

Therefore, encourage one another and build one

another up,

as indeed you do.

The Word of the Lord.

(2 Timothy 2:8-13)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

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.

(2 Timothy 4:6-8)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved:

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

(Hebrews 11:1-2,8-10,13-16)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters:

**Faith is the realization of what is hoped for
and evidence of things not seen.**

Because of it the ancients were well attested.

**By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called
to go out to a place
that he was to receive as an inheritance;
he went out, not knowing where he was to go.**

**By faith he sojourned in the promised land
as in a foreign country,
dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs
of the same promise;
for he was looking forward to the city
with foundations,
whose architect and maker is God.**

All these died in faith.

**They did not receive what had been promised
but saw it and greeted it from afar
and acknowledged themselves to be strangers
and aliens on earth,
for those who speak thus show that they are seeking
a homeland.**

**If they had been thinking of the land from which
they had come,**

they would have had opportunity to return.

But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one.

**Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God,
for he has prepared a city for them.**

The Word of the Lord.

(James 5:7-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint James.

**Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord.**

**See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit
of the earth,
being patient with it
until it receives the early and the late rains.**

You too must be patient.

**Make your hearts firm,
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

**Do not complain, brothers and sisters,
about one another,
that you may not be judged.**

Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.

**Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers
and sisters,**

the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Indeed we call blessed those who have persevered.

**You have heard of the perseverance of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
because “the Lord is compassionate and merciful.”**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Peter 1:3-9)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter.

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who in his great mercy gave us a new birth
to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
from the dead,
to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled,
and unfading,
kept in heaven for you
who by the power of God are safeguarded
through faith,
to a salvation that is ready to be revealed
in the final time.**

**In this you rejoice, although now for a little while
you may have to suffer through various trials,
so that the genuineness of your faith,
more precious than gold that is perishable
even though tested by fire,
may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor
at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

**Although you have not seen him you love him;
even though you do not see him now yet believe
in him,
you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,
as you attain the goal of [your] faith, the salvation
of your souls.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 Peter 2:20b-25)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter.

Beloved:

**If you are patient when you suffer for doing
what is good,
this is a grace before God.**

**For to this you have been called,
because Christ also suffered for you,
leaving you an example that you should follow
in his footsteps.**

***He committed no sin, and no deceit was found
in his mouth.***

**When he was insulted, he returned no insult;
when he suffered, he did not threaten;
instead, he handed himself over to the one
who judges justly.**

**He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross,
so that, free from sin, we might live
for righteousness.**

By his wounds you have been healed.

**For you had gone astray like sheep,
but you have now returned to the shepherd
and guardian of your souls.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 John 1:1-4)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved:

**What was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we looked upon
and touched with our hands
concerns the Word of life—
for the life was made visible;
we have seen it and testify to it
and proclaim to you the eternal life
that was with the Father and was made visible
to us—
what we have seen and heard
we proclaim now to you,
so that you too may have fellowship with us;
for our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son, Jesus Christ.
We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.**

The Word of the Lord.

(1 John 3:1-2)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved:

**See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.**

And so we are.

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

**Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.**

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

The Word of the Lord.

(1 John 3:14-16)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved:

**We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love our brothers.**

Whoever does not love remains in death.

**Everyone who hates his brother and sister is
a murderer,**

**and you know that no murderer has eternal life
remaining in him.**

The way we came to know love

was that he laid down his life for us;

so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

(1 John 4:7-12,17)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

**Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God
and knows God.**

**Whoever is without love does not know God,
for God is love.**

**In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.**

**In this is love:
not that we have loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.**

**Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also must love one another.**

No one has ever seen God.

**Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.**

**In this is love brought to perfection among us,
that we have confidence on the day of judgment
because as he is, so are we in this world.**

The Word of the Lord.

(Revelation 7:9-17)

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

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

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

**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 forever 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.”**

**He said to me,
“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 him day and night in his temple.
The one who sits on the throne will shelter
them.**

**They will not hunger or thirst anymore,
nor will the sun or any heat strike them.
For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne
will shepherd them
and lead them to springs of life-giving
water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their
eyes.”**

The Word of the Lord.

(Revelation 14:13)

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I heard a voice from heaven say,

“Write this:

Blessed are the dead

who die in the Lord from now on.”

“Yes,” said the Spirit,

“let them find rest from their labors,

for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord.

(Revelation 21:1-7)

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

**Then I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed
away,**

and the sea was no more.

**I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

**I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them
as their God.**

**He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning,
wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away.”**

**The one who sat on the throne said,
“Behold, I make all things new.”**

**Then he said,
“Write these words down,
for they are trustworthy and true.”**

**He said to me,
“They are accomplished.**

**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.

(Revelation 22:1-7)

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

John said:

**An angel showed me the river of life-giving water,
sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne
of God**

and of the Lamb down the middle of its street.

**On either side of the river grew the tree of life
that produces fruit twelve times a year,
once each month;**

**the leaves of the trees serve as medicine
for the nations.**

Nothing accursed will be found there anymore.

**The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it,
and his servants will worship him.**

**They will look upon his face,
and his name will be on their foreheads.**

**Night will be no more,
nor will they need light from lamp or sun,
for the Lord God shall give them light,
and they shall reign forever and ever.**

**And he said to me, "There words are trustworthy
and true,
and the Lord, the God of prophetic spirits,
sent his angel to show his servants
what must happen soon."**

"Behold, I am coming soon."

**Blessed is the one who keeps the prophetic message
of this book.**

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL READINGS

GOS-1 Matthew 5:1-12a
GOS-2 Matthew 5:13-16
GOS-3 Matthew 6:19-23
GOS-4 Matthew 7:24-27
GOS-5 Matthew 10:27-33
GOS-6 Matthew 11:25-30
GOS-7 Matthew 11:28-30
GOS-8 Matthew 13:1-9
GOS-9 Matthew 13:44-46
GOS-10 Matthew 14:22-33
GOS-11 Matthew 18:1-5
GOS-12 Matthew 22:31-33
GOS-13 Matthew 25:1-13
GOS-14 Matthew 25:14-23
GOS-15 Matthew 25:31-46
GOS-16 Mark 4:35-41
GOS-17 Mark 10:13-16
GOS-18 Mark 10:46-52
GOS-19 Mark 12:41-44
GOS-20 Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6
GOS-21 Luke 1:46-55
GOS-22 Luke 1:67-79
GOS-23 Luke 7:11-17
GOS-24 Luke 12:22-31
GOS-25 Luke 12:35-40, 42-44

GOS-26 Luke 22:14-20
GOS-27 Luke 23:33,39-43
GOS-28 Luke 23:44-46, 50,52-53; 24:1-5
GOS-29 Luke 24:1-12
GOS-30 Luke 24:13-35
GOS-31 Luke 24:35-48
GOS-32 John 3:13-21
GOS-33 John 5:24-29
GOS-34 John 6:35,37-40
GOS-35 John 6:44-51
GOS-36 John 6:51-58
GOS-37 John 10:1-10
GOS-38 John 10:11-18
GOS-39 John 10:14-15, 27-30
GOS-40 John 11:17-27
GOS-41 John 11:32-45
GOS-42 John 12:23-28
GOS-43 John 13:33-35
GOS-44 John 14:1-6
GOS-45 John 15:9-17
GOS-46 John 16:1-7
GOS-47 John 16:16-23
GOS-48 John 17:1-5
GOS-49 John 17:20-26
GOS-50 John 19:17-18, 25-30
GOS-51 John 20:11-18
GOS-52 John 20:19-29
GOS-53 John 21:15-19

(Matthew 5:1-12a)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came
to him.**

He began to teach them, saying:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Blessed are you when they insult you
and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely
because of me.**

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 5:13-16)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?

It is no longer good for anything

but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

**Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under
a bushel basket;**

it is set on a lampstand,

where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others,

that they may see your good deeds

and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 6:19-23)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and decay destroy,
and thieves break in and steal.**

**But store up treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor decay destroys,
nor thieves break in and steal.**

**For where your treasure is, there also will your heart
be.**

“The lamp of the body is the eye.

**If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled
with light;**

**but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be
in darkness.**

**And if the light in you is darkness,
how great will the darkness be.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 7:24-27)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts
on them**

will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine

but does not act on them

will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 10:27-33)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;
what you hear whispered,
proclaim on the housetops.**

**And do not be afraid of those who kill the body
but cannot kill the soul;
rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy
both soul and body in Gehenna.**

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?

**Yet not one of them falls to the ground
without your Father’s knowledge.**

Even all the hairs of your head are counted.

**So do not be afraid; you are worth more than
many sparrows.**

Everyone who acknowledges me before others

I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.

But whoever denies me before others,

I will deny before my heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 11:25-30)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

**“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to the childlike.**

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father,

and no one knows the Father except the Son

and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,

and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

for I am meek and humble of heart;

and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 11:28-30)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said:

**“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.**

**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.**

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 13:1-9)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down
by the sea.**

**Such large crowds gathered around him
that he got into a boat and sat down,
and the whole crowd stood along the shore.**

**And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:
“A sower went out to sow.**

**And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path,
and birds came and ate it up.**

**Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil.
It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep,
and when the sun rose it was scorched,
and it withered for lack of roots.**

**Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up
and choked it.**

**But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit,
a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.**

Whoever has ears out to hear.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 13:44-46)

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried
in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field.**

**Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant
searching for fine pearls.**

**When he finds a pearl of great price,
he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 14:22-33)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Jesus made the disciples get into a boat
and precede him to the other side of the sea,
while he dismissed the crowds.
After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself
to pray.
When it was evening he was there alone.
Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore,
was being tossed about by the waves,
for the wind was against it.
During the fourth watch of the night,
he came toward them, walking on the sea.
When the disciples saw him walking on the sea
they were terrified.
“It is a ghost,” they said, and they cried out in fear.
At once Jesus spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I;
do not be afraid.”
Peter said to him in reply,
“Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you
on the water.”
He said, “Come.”
Peter got out of the boat and began to walk
on the water toward Jesus.
But when he saw how strong the wind was
he became frightened;
and, beginning to sink, he cried out,**

“Lord, save me!”

**Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand
and caught him,
and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you
doubt?”**

**After they got into the boat, the wind died down.
Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying,
“Truly, you are the Son of God.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 18:1-5)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**The disciples approached Jesus and said,
 “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?”
He called a child over, placed it in their midst,
 and said,
 “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn
 and become like children,
 you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.
Whoever becomes humble like this child
 is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.
And whoever receives one child such as this
 in my name receives me.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 22:31-33)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to them in reply:

**“Concerning the resurrection of the dead,
have you not read what was said to you by God,
‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,
and the God of Jacob’?**

He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

**When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at
his teaching.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Matthew 25:1-13)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

**“The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins
who took their lamps and went out to meet
the bridegroom.**

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

**The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,
brought no oil with them,
but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.**

**Since the bridegroom was long delayed,
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**

At midnight, there was a cry,

‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise,

**‘Give us some of your oil,
for our lamps are going out.’**

But the wise ones replied,

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

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

**While they went off to buy it,
the bridegroom came**

**and those who were ready went 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.

(Matthew 25:14-23)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

**“A man going on a journey
called in his servants and entrusted his possessions
to them.**

**To one he gave five talents; to another, two, to a third,
one—**

to each according to his ability.

Then he went away.

**Immediately the one who received five talents went
and traded with them,
and made another five.**

**Likewise, the one who received two made another two.
But the man who received one went off
and dug a hole in the ground
and buried his master’s money.**

After a long time

**the master of those servants came back and settled
accounts with them.**

**The one who had received five talents
came forward bringing the additional five.**

**He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents.
See, I have made five more.’**

**His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and
faithful servant.**

Since you were faithful in small matters,

**I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'**

**Then the one who had received two talents also came
forward and said,**

**'Master, you gave me two talents.
See, I have made two more.'**

**His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and
faithful servant.'**

Since you were faithful in small matters,

**I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(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,
and all the angels with him,
he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.
And he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
He will place the sheep on his right and the goats
on his left.**

**Then the king will say to those on his right,
‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father.**

**Inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world.**

**For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.’**

**Then the righteous will answer him and say,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you drink?**

**When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,
or naked and clothe you?**

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

**And the king will say to them in reply,
‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did
for one of the least brothers of mine, you did
for me.’**

**Then he will say to those on his left,
‘Depart from me, you accursed,
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil
and his angels.**

**For I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you gave me no welcome,
naked and you gave me no clothing,
ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’**

**Then they will answer and say,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison,
and not minister to your needs?’**

**He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you,
what you did not do for one of these least ones,
you did not do for me.’**

**And these will go off to eternal punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Mark 4:35-41)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said
to his disciples:**

“Let us cross to the other side.”

**Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them
in the boat just as he was.**

And other boats were with him.

**A violent squall came up and waves were breaking
over the boat,**

so that it was already filling up.

Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.

They woke him and said to him,

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

He woke up,

rebuked the wind, and said to the sea,

“Quiet! Be still!”

The wind ceased and there was great calm.

Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified?

Do you not yet have faith?”

They were filled with great awe and said

to one another,

“Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Mark 10:13-16)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

**When Jesus saw this he became indignant
and said to them,**

**“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them,
for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.**

Amen, I say to you,

**whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God
like a child will not enter it.”**

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Mark 10:46-52)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples
and a sizable crowd,
Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus,
sat by the roadside begging.
On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth,
he began to cry out and say,
“Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me.”
And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.
But he kept calling out all the more,
“Son of David, have pity on me.”
Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”
So they called the blind man, saying to him,
“Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you.”
He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.
Jesus said to him in reply,
“What do you want me to do for you?”
The blind man replied to him, “Master, I want to see.”
Jesus told him,
“Go your way; your faith has saved you.”
Immediately he received his sight
and followed him on the way.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Mark 12:41-44)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Jesus sat down opposite the treasury
and observed how the crowd put money
into the treasury.**

Many rich people put in large sums.

**A poor widow also came and put in two small coins
worth a few cents.**

**Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them,
“Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more
than all the other contributors to the treasury.
For they have all contributed from their surplus
wealth,
but she, from her poverty, has contributed
all she had,
her whole livelihood.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(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 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 give it to him to drink, saying,
"Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."
Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top
to bottom.
When the centurion who stood facing him
saw how he breathed his last he said,
"Truly this man was the Son of God!"
When the sabbath was over,
Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James,
and Salome
bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.
Very early when the sun had risen,
on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.
They were saying to one another,
"Who will roll back the stone for us
from the entrance to the tomb?"**

**When they looked up,
they saw that the stone had been rolled back;
it was very large.
On entering the tomb they saw a young man
sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe,
and they were utterly amazed.
He said to them, "Do not be amazed!
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here.
Behold the place where they laid him."**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Luke 1:46-55)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

And Mary said:

**“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his children forever.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Luke 1:67-79)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied,
saying:**

**“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
for he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hand of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days
of our life.**

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet
of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare
his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and
the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way peace.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(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.

(Luke 12:22-31)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life
and what you will eat,
or about your body and what you will wear.
For life is more than food and the body more
than clothing.**

**Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap;
they have neither storehouse nor barn,
yet God feeds them.**

**How much more important are you than birds!
Can any of you by worrying add a moment
to your lifespan?**

**If even the smallest things are beyond your control,
why are you anxious about the rest?**

Notice how the flowers grow.

They do not toil or spin.

**But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor
was dressed like one of them.**

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

**As for you,
do not seek what you are to eat
and what you are to drink,
and do not worry anymore.**

All the nations of the world seek for these things,

**and your Father knows that you need them.
Instead, seek his kingdom,
and these other things will be given you besides.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Luke 12:35-40,42-44)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“Gird your loins and light your lamps
and be like servants who await their master’s return
from a wedding,
ready to open immediately when he comes
and knocks.**

**Blessed are those servants
whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.**

**Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,
have the servants recline at table,
and proceed to wait on them.**

**And should he come in the second or third watch
and find them prepared in this way,
blessed are those servants.**

Be sure of this:

**if the master of the house had known the hour
when the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be broken into.**

**You also must be prepared, for at an hour you
do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.”**

And the Lord said,

**“Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward
whom the master will put in charge of his servants
to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?**

Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival

**finds doing so.
Truly, I say to you, the master will put the servant
in charge of all his property.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Luke 22:14-20)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When the hour came,

Jesus took his place at table with the apostles.

He said to them,

**“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you
before I suffer,**

for, I tell you, I shall not eat it again

until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said,

“Take this and share it among yourselves;

for I tell you that from this time on

I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine

until the kingdom of God comes.”

Then he took the bread, said the blessing,

broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

“This is my body, which will be given for you;

do this in memory of me.”

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

which will be shed for you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(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 him and the criminals there,
one on his right, the other on his left.**

**Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus,
saying,**

**“Are you not the Christ?
Save yourself and us.”**

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

**“Have you no fear of God,
for you are subject to the same condemnation?**

**And indeed, we have been condemned justly,
for the sentence we received corresponds
to our crimes,**

but this man has done nothing criminal.”

Then he said,

**“Jesus, remember me when you come into your
kingdom.”**

He replied to him,

**“Amen, I say to you,
today you will be with me in Paradise.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Luke 23:44-46,50-53; 24:1-5)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**It was now about noon and darkness came
over the whole land
until three in the afternoon
because of an eclipse of the sun.**

**Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.
Jesus cried out in a loud voice,**

**“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”;
and when he had said this he breathed his last.**

**Now there was a virtuous and righteous man
named Joseph who,**

**though he was a member of the council,
had not consented to their plan of action.**

**He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea
and was awaiting the kingdom of God.**

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 women who had come from Galilee with Jesus
took the spices they had prepared
and went to the tomb.**

**They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;
but when they entered,
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.**

While they were puzzling over this, behold,

**two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.
They were terrified and bowed their faces
to the ground.**

They said to them,

**“Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Luke 24:1-12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**At daybreak on the first day of the week
the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus
took the spices they had prepared
and went to the tomb.**

**They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;
but when they entered,
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.**

**While they were puzzling over this, behold,
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.**

**They were terrified and bowed their faces
to the ground.**

They said to them,

**“Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised.”**

**Remember what he said to you while he was still
in Galilee,**

**that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners
and be crucified, and rise on the third day.”**

And they remembered his words.

**Then they returned from the tomb
and announced all these things to the eleven
and to all the others.**

**The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna,
and Mary the mother of James;
the others who accompanied them also told this
to the apostles,
but their story seemed like nonsense**

**and they did not believe them.
But Peter got up and ran to the tomb,
bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone;
then he went home amazed at what had happened.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Luke 24:13-35)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**That very day, the first day of the week,
two of Jesus' 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 Christ 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.

(Luke 24:35-48)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**The two disciples recounted
what had taken place on the way
and how Jesus was made known to them
in the breaking of the bread.**

**While they were still speaking about this,
he stood in their midst and said to them,
“Peace be with you.”**

**But they were startled and terrified
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled?
And why do questions arise in your hearts?
Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.
Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have
flesh and bones
as you can see I have.”**

**And as he said this,
he showed them his hands and his feet.
While they were still incredulous for joy and were
amazed,
he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?”
They gave him a piece of baked fish;
he took it and ate it in front of them.**

He said them,

**“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was
still with you,**

**that everything written about me in the law
of Moses**

and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”

**Then he opened their minds to understand
the Scriptures.**

And he said to them,

**“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day**

**and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name to all the nations,
beginning from Jerusalem.**

You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 3:13-21)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

**“No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who has come down from heaven,
the Son of Man.**

**And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in him may have
eternal life.”**

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might not perish
but might have eternal life.**

**For God did not send his Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.**

**Whoever believes in him will not be condemned,
but whoever does not believe has already
been condemned,
because he has not believed in the name
of the only Son of God.**

**And this is the verdict,
that the light came into the world,
but people preferred darkness to light,
because their works were evil.**

**For everyone who does wicked things hates the light
and does not come toward the light,**

**so that his works might not be exposed.
But whoever lives the truth comes to the light,
so that his works may be clearly seen as done
in God.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 5:24-29)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus answered 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 to the Son the possession of life
in himself.**

**And he gave him power to exercise judgment,
because he is the Son of Man.**

**Do not be amazed at this,
because the hour is coming in which all who are
in the tombs
will hear his voice and will come out,
those who have done good deeds
to the resurrection of life,
but those who have done wicked deeds
to the resurrection of condemnation.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 6:35,37-40)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowds:

**“I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me will never hunger,
and whoever believes in me will never thirst.**

**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.

(John 6:44-51)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowds:

**“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent
me draw him,
and I will raise him on the last day.
It is written in the prophets:**

They shall all be taught by God.

**Everyone who listens to my Father and learns
from him comes to me.**

**Not that anyone has seen the Father
except the one who is from God;
he has seen the Father.**

**Amen, amen, I say to you,
whoever believes has eternal life.**

I am the bread of life.

**Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert,
but they died;**

**this is the bread that comes down from heaven
so that one may eat it and not die.**

**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 Gospel of the Lord.

(John 6:51-58)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowds:

**“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.

(John 10:1-10)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

**“Amen, amen, I say to you,
 whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate
 but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber.
But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd
 of the sheep.**

**The gatekeeper opens it for him,
 and the sheep hear his voice,
 as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name
 and leads them out.**

**When he has driven out all his own,
 he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him,
 because they recognize his voice.**

**But they will not follow a stranger;
 they will run away from him,
 because they do not recognize the voice
 of strangers.”**

**Although Jesus used this figure of speech,
 the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying
 to tell them.**

**So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you,
 I am the gate for the sheep.**

**All who came before me are thieves and robbers,
 but the sheep did not listen to them.**

I am the gate.

Whoever enters through me will be saved,

**and will come in and go out and find pasture.
A thief comes only to steal and slaughter
and destroy;
I came so that they might have life
and have it more abundantly.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 10:11-18)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

“I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

A hired man, who is not a shepherd

and whose sheep are not his own,

sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep

and runs away,

and the wolf catches and scatters them.

**This is because he works for pay and has no concern
for the sheep.**

I am the good shepherd,

and I know mine and mine know me,

**just as the Father knows me and I know
the Father;**

and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.

**These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,
and there will be one flock, one shepherd.**

This is why the Father loves me,

**because I lay down my life in order to take it up
again.**

No one takes it from me,

but I lay it down on my own.

I have power to lay it down,

and power to take it up again.

This command I have received from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 10:14-15,27-30)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

**“I am the good shepherd,
and I know mine and mine know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know
the Father;
and I will lay down my life for the sheep.**

**My sheep hear my voice;
I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.
No one can take them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given them to me, is greater
than all,
and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand.
The Father and I are one.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(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 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 Christ,
the Son of God,
the one who is coming into the world.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(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 done 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.

(John 12:23-28)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus answered 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.

(John 13:33-35)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“My children, I will be with you only a little longer.
You will look for me, and as I told the Jews,
‘Where I go you cannot come,’”
so now I say it to you.**

**I give you a new commandment: love one another.
As I have loved you, so you also should love
one another.**

**This is how all will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(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.

(John 15:9-17)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments,

you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father’s commandments

and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that

my joy might be in you and

your joy might be complete.

“This is my commandment:

love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,

to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,

**because a slave does not know what his master
is doing.**

I have called you friends,

because I have told you

everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you

and appointed you to go and bear fruit that

will remain,

so that whatever you ask the Father in my name

**he may give you.
This I command you: love one another.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 16:1-7)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I have told you this so that you may not fall away.

They will expel you from the synagogues;

in fact, the hour is coming when everyone

who kills you

will think he is offering worship to God.

They will do this because they have not known either

the Father or me.

I have told you this so that when their hour comes

you may remember that I told you.

I did not tell you this from the beginning,

because I was with you.

But now I am going to the one who sent me,

and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’

But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts.

But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go.

For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you.

But if I go, I will send him to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 16:16-23)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“A little while and you will no longer see me,
and again a little while later and you will see me.”**

**So some of his disciples said to one another,
“What does this mean that he is saying to us,
‘A little while and you will not see me,
and again a little while and you will see me,’
and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?”**

**So they said, “What is this ‘little while’ of which
he speaks?**

We do not know what he means.”

**Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said
to them,**

**“Are you discussing with one another what I said,
‘A little while and you will not see me,
and again a little while and you will see me’?**

**Amen, amen, I say to you,
you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices;
you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.**

**When a woman is in labor,
she is in anguish because her hour has arrived;
but when she has given birth to a child,
she no longer remembers the pain because
of her joy
that a child has been born into the world.**

So you also are now in anguish.

But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice,

**and no one will take your joy away from you.
On that day you will not question me about anything.
Amen, amen, I say to you,
whatever you ask the Father in my name
he will give you.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 17:1-5)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said,

“Father, the hour has come.

**Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify
you,**

**just as you gave him authority over all people,
so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave
him.**

Now this is eternal life,

**that they should know you, the only true God,
and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.**

I glorified you on earth

by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do.

Now glorify me, Father, with you,

**with the glory that I had with you before the world
began.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 17:20-26)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed, saying:

“I pray not only for these,

**but also for those who will believe in me
through their word,**

so that they may all be one,

as you, Father, are in me and I in you,

that they also may be in us,

that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me,

so that they may be one, as we are one,

I in them and you in me,

that they may be brought to perfection as one,

that the world may know that you sent me,

and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Father, they are your gift to me.

I wish that where I am they also may be with me,

that they may see my glory that you gave me,

**because you loved me before the foundation
of the world.**

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,

but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

**I made known to them your name and I will make it
known,**

**that the love with which you loved me
may be in them and I in them.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 19:17-18,25-30)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**They took Jesus, and, carrying the cross for himself,
he 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.

(John 20:11-18)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping.
And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb
and saw two angels in white sitting there,
one at the head and one at the feet
where the Body of Jesus had been.
And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them, "They have taken my Lord,
and I don't know where they laid him."
When she had said this, she turned around and saw
Jesus there,
but did not know it was Jesus.
Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
Whom are you looking for?"
She thought it was the gardener and said to him,
"Sir, if you carried him away,
tell me where you laid him,
and I will take him."
Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni,"
which means Teacher.
Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me,
for I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and tell them,
'I am going to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.'"
Mary went and announced to the disciples,
"I have seen the Lord,"
and then reported what he had told her.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 20:19-29)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked,
where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands
and his side.**

**The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them
and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."**

**Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him,
"We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them,
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands
and put my finger into the nailmarks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."**

Now a week later his disciples were again inside

**and Thomas was with them.
Jesus came, although the doors were locked,
and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be
with you."
Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here
and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving, but believe."
Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and
my God!"
Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe
because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have
believed."**

The Gospel of the Lord.

(John 21:15-19)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said
to Simon Peter,**

**“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than
these?”**

**Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know
that I love you.”**

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

He then said to Simon Peter a second time,

“Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

**Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know
that I love you.”**

Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

Jesus said to him the third time,

“Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

**Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him
a third time,**

“Do you love me?” and he said to him,

**“Lord, you know everything; you know that I love
you.”**

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

**Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger,
you used to dress yourself and go where you
wanted;**

**but when you grow old, you will stretch out
your hands,**

and someone else will dress you

and lead you where you do not want to go.”

**He said this signifying by what kind of death
he would glorify God.**

And when he had this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Our brother/sister N. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Many people die by violence, war, and famine every day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

**We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray
for our brother/sister N. Strengthen our hope so that
we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.
We pray...**

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our brother/sister who ate the Body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of our brother/sister N., that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the Word they proclaim. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those in public office may promote justice and peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may deliver the soul of his servant N. from the powers of darkness and death. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may establish him/her in light and peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who celebrate the Eucharist may be enlightened by the Word of God and nourished by the bread of life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

As we remember N. with love, we pray that he/she may now enjoy the fullness of life with Christ in heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who grieve for N., that they may know that God loves them and will never abandon them. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves, that our remembrance of N. may be a source of comfort and strength to us. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the lost and forgotten of the earth, that the love of God may touch their lives and reassure them of their worth and goodness. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That each of us may believe we are precious to God and that God has our names written on the palm of his hand. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Now that N. has come to the end of his/her earthly journey, may Christ show himself to him/her, and give him/her a place at the eternal banquet. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ in his mercy may blot out all his/her sins. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn N.'s passing, that they may not be afraid to show their sorrow and to talk about it to God and to other people. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may see Christ as the companion of our lives, and allow him to draw close to us, especially in the dark moments of our journey. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are crushed by failure and disappointment and who have no hope left. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who departed from this life believing in God, that they may find light, happiness and peace in his kingdom. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the followers of Christ, that they may not seek the riches of this world, but those things which make them pleasing in the sight of God. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N., who was gentle, sincere, kind and peace-loving, may now come to possess the full happiness of the kingdom of God. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That as he/she bore the marks of a disciple of Christ on earth, Christ may now declare him/her blessed before his Father in heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn N.'s passing, that Christ may bless and comfort them in their sorrow. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here present, that we may hunger after a life of goodness, so that even here on earth we may taste true happiness and peace of mind. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all our departed relatives and friends, and for all who have died in the peace of Christ, that they may enjoy the fullness of eternal of life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. died with Christ in baptism; may he/she now share the fullness of his risen life in heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all the sufferings and trials he/she endured during life may win for him/her full remission of his/her sins.

We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he/she may reap a rich harvest from all his/her acts of self-denial and generosity. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ, who himself knew the anguish of death, may comfort all those who mourn for N., especially his/her family. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here present, that we may not be afraid to die to self so that we can live for Christ and for others. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have no hope of a life beyond the grave, that they too may hear and believe the Good News of Christ. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may reach out his hand and rescue our sister/brother N. from the waters of death and bring him/her safely to the shores of eternity. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ, who knows and understands our weakness, may grant him/her full pardon for his/her sins. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who grieve for N. may be comforted by the faith that assures them that he/she has gone to a land where there is no more sorrow, lament or death. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who worship here, that they may experience the closeness of Christ to them during this celebration and so grow in faith in him. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have no faith, and who are at the mercy of the cold winds of anguish and despair. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed, that God may bring them into that land where the reign of death is ended. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. was anchored to Christ in baptism; may he/she now come to share with him in the prize of everlasting glory. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may forgive his/her sins, and protect him/her with his loving care. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those laden with grief, especially the family of N., that the Lord may grant them courage and strength. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Lord may open the eyes of all those who are blinded by materialism so that they may be able to glimpse the good things God has prepared for those who follow Christ. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the followers of Christ, that they may not merely believe in his words but live by them. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all present may have their faith in Christ and in his Gospel renewed and deepened by their participation in this celebration. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N. may reap with joy a rich harvest from all the good he/she did during life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he/she may also reap the fruits of those things for which he/she strove and which eluded him/her during this life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may consign to the flames of his mercy the weeds and thorns of his/her sins. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn N.'s death, that they may find strength in the knowledge that for many days to come they will continue to reap the harvest of goodness he/she sowed. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For this community of faith, that we, like seeds planted by God in the same field, may help one another to grow. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For each of us, that we may draw inspiration from N.'s example, and so persevere in goodness. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. has departed his/her earthly home; may he/she reach the joy and peace of the Father's house. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may have mercy on him/her, forgive his/her sins, and bring him/her to everlasting life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn his/her passing, that they may be comforted by the hope that he/she has gone to his/her everlasting home. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here, that nothing in this life may cause us to forget our eternal home. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all our deceased relatives and friends, that the Lord may bring these and all the departed into the light of his presence. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. experienced the love of Christ the Good Shepherd in this life; may he/she now enjoy the fullness of eternal life in the kingdom of the Father. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ the Good Shepherd may heal in him/her the wounds caused by his/her sins and the sins of others. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

May those who grieve over his/her loss be comforted by the hope that the Good Shepherd will take care of him/her. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves, that we may listen attentively to the voice of the Good Shepherd so that he may lead us along the path of eternal life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed, especially our relatives and friends, that they may dwell in the house of the Lord forever. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who do not follow Christ because they do not hear his voice or know him. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N., who has departed from us, may reach the safety of eternity's shore. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N., who entered the death and resurrection of Christ in the waters of baptism, may know the fullness of life with Christ in eternity. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn for him/her, that the Lord may turn their sorrow into joy. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who live with physical and emotional pain, that God may bring them healing and hope in suffering. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Lord may grant eternal life to all those whom we loved in this life but whom death has taken from us. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves, that we may so live here on earth that when death comes we may pass with ease to that other shore. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

At baptism Christ awakened N. to the life of God; may he now awaken him/her to the fullness of eternal life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. lived believing in Christ as the hope of his/her life; may Christ now lead him/her safely home to the Father's house. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may visit the family of N. with comfort, hope and peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may visit the community assembled here, and keep it rooted in faith and grounded in love. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may visit our world, which is dominated by death, and kindle in it the hope of eternal life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may visit all our departed relatives and friends and bring them into the light of his presence. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N., who was enlightened by Christ in baptism, may now enjoy the full vision of God. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the darkness of sin and death in N.'s life may be banished by the light of God's mercy. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

The light of Christ guided N. through this life; may this light now shine gently on those who mourn his/her death. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the darkness and despair of the poor may be dispelled by the light of Christ expressed in human justice and mercy. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God's eternal light may shine on all our departed relatives and friends. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the light of Christ may guide all of us safely through the shadows of this world until we reach our homeland of everlasting life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N., who began his/her spiritual journey at baptism may now reach its goal in the kingdom of heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. was nourished with the bread of life; may he/she now enjoy the banquet of eternal life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn for N., that they may be comforted by the faith that he/she has gone to God, the destination of all of us. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who worship here, that they may receive an increase of faith in God and in God's great promise. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those whose lives are empty because they lack spirituality and for those who are going through the desert of suffering. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God, with infinite power and great mercy, may bring all the dead into the promised land of the kingdom of heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. ate the bread of eternal life on earth; may he/she now enjoy the eternal banquet of which this is a foretaste. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may raise him/her up to the fullness of that divine life he came on earth to share with us. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For N.'s family, relatives and friends, whose spirits are cast down by sorrow, that they may find strength through faith. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That, strengthened by the bread Christ gives, we may journey all the way to the kingdom of heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who hunger for bread, for justice, for mercy and for love may be satisfied through the action of their brothers and sisters on their behalf. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are without faith, that Christ may open their ears to the Good News which tells of the unimaginable good things God has prepared for those who love him. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed, that they may enter into the full possession of the promised land of heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N. may enjoy the full flowering of the life Christ shared with him/her in the waters of baptism. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ called Lazarus from the tomb; may he call our brother/sister N. forth from this land of shadows to the land of eternal light. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may free him/her from the bondage of sin and death. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

As Christ comforted those in suffering and sorrow, may he comfort all of us who mourn N.'s passing, and especially N.'s family. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here present, that we may be strengthened in our faith in Christ, who is the resurrection and the life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who die without hope, that they too may hear the words of Christ and live forever. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. was enlightened by the wisdom of the Gospel in this life; may he/she now find his/her way into the eternal kingdom. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N. may pass safely through the gates of death and be blessed with eternal light and peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sorrowing family, relatives and friends of N., that they may find strength and consolation in their faith and in the love and support of the community. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, that through an effective preaching of the Gospel it may provide a lamp for a world darkened by doubt and unbelief. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For world leaders, that they may govern with wisdom so that the world may enjoy justice and peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here present, that we may never exchange what is lasting and priceless for what is passing and without true worth. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, that it may encourage its members to develop and use all their gifts of grace and nature. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For N., that for all the efforts he/she made, and the work he/she did, he/she may hear words of praise from Christ to whom we must all one day give an account of our lives. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God with abundant mercy may welcome our brother/sister, who sought to follow the way of Christ in his/her life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn for N., that they may be consoled by their remembrance of the gift he/she was to them in life and that God may turn their darkness into light. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves, that God may lead us to recognize our gifts and talents and strengthen our resolve to use them to hasten the coming of God's kingdom. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died, that they may continue to be a source of inspiration to us through the good things they taught us in this life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N., who spent his/her life in God's service, may obtain rest from his/her labors, and the reward of all his/her goodness. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may bring our brother/sister pardon and peace, and bring him/her to a place of light, happiness and peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may look with love on those who mourn N.'s passing. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who cared for N., that their generosity may be rewarded with abundant blessings. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all of us who have known him/her, and who take part in this celebration, may receive an increase of faith and hope. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all the dead, especially our relatives and friends, may find light, happiness and peace in the kingdom of heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. has reached the shore of eternity; now that his/her earthly tasks are completed, may he/she enjoy rest from all his/her labors. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith; may he/she now receive from Christ the crown of eternal glory which he won for us with his death and resurrection. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the hardships and sufferings N. endured in this life may gain for him/her remission of all his/her sins and everlasting life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who grieve over the death of our brother/sister, that through their faith in Christ their sorrow may soon be changed into joy. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who cared for N., that the Lord may reward them for their kindness and patience. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who knew and loved N., that they may draw inspiration from his/her life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. shared in the passion of Christ; may he/she now share in his risen glory. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

May the suffering by which N. was tested purify him/her and lead him/her to eternal life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn N.'s death, that they may be comforted by the knowledge that, after all his/her pain, he/she is now at peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who suffer, that they may bear their pain with Christ-like love and patience. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who work for the sick and suffering, that they may have a kind heart and gentle hands. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here present, that we may remember that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory which is waiting for us in the next. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died, that they may live forever in the glory of the children of God. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ, to whom N. was united in baptism, may welcome him/her into heaven and give him/her a share in his glory. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may extend abundant mercy and kindness to our brother/sister, who was taken suddenly from this life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the family, relatives and friends of N., that they may find comfort in their faith in God, and strength through the support of the community. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here, that we may grow in faith so that we can stand firm even when hardship, misfortune or tragedy visits us. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have left this world in God's friendship, especially those who were dear to us. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the ministers of the Church may always be generous agents of the compassion and mercy of Christ. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the pope and the bishops, that they may lead the people of God with courage and wisdom. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. bore witness to Christ on earth; may he/she now be crowned by him with honor and glory in heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn N.'s death, that they may be consoled in their loss by their gratitude to God for the witness to faith and love he/she gave. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who are suffering for their belief in Christ. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here present, that we may be inspired by the example of N. to witness to Christ in our daily lives with courage and generosity. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ, through his divine power, has broken the power of death; may he lead all our departed brothers and sisters into the joyful vision of his presence. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. lived Christ's commandment of love; may he/she now hear the words, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. showed much love for others in this life; may he/she now experience the loving mercy of God. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That from his/her place in the kingdom of the Father, our brother/sister may intercede for us and continue to help us. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn for N., that they may find strength through reaping the fruits of what N. sowed with love. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here present, that we may draw inspiration from the example of N. and so strive to live out in our own lives Christ's great commandment of love. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have died, who during their lives on earth loved and helped us. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

N. worked hard all his/her life and died believing in Christ; may Christ now give him/her rest from all his/her labors. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ may show our brother/sister abundant mercy, and give him/her the reward of his/her good deeds. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who bear the heavy burden of grief, especially N.'s family, that Christ may lighten their burden through the love and support of this community. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who are crushed with the burdens of life, that Christ may give them strength, hope and dignity. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all here present, that we may never lose sight of our great dignity as children of God and co-heirs with Christ to eternal glory. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who have died in the peace of Christ may find rest in his kingdom of light and peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all Christians, that they may follow Christ with constancy and generosity. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N., who proved himself/herself a good and faithful servant in this life, may now hear those wonderful words from Christ, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master.' We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Lord may show abundant mercy and steadfast love to our brother/sister. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn N., especially his/her family, that they may find inspiration and comfort in his/her example. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the grace of fidelity for all here present. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Lord may reward with eternal life all the faithful departed. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That, through the merits of Christ's passion, N. may know the limitless mercy of God and experience pardon and peace. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That, through Christ's victory over death, N. may overcome death and so enter into the fullness of everlasting life in heaven. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who grieve for our brother/sister, that their faith may assure them that he/she is numbered among the chosen ones of God. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That, through our faith in the resurrection of Christ, we may overcome any fear of death, and so live in the joy and freedom of the children of God. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have no faith and who are therefore without hope, that their hearts may be moved by the message of the Gospel. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all people called by faith and united in hope may understand death as the doorway to new life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That our brother/sister, N., claimed by God in baptism, be welcomed into the reign of everlasting joy. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the family and friends of N. in the long days ahead may find comfort and support in the love of their community. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who have died recently and all who will die soon may find peace in Christ. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That one day all of us here will enjoy glorious new life in the company of N. and all the saints. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N. may be with God this day and receive eternal life. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That N.'s family may find healing in one another's presence at this difficult time. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who loved and prayed for N. during his/her life may be consoled. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the medical personnel who cared for N. at the time of his/her death may have peace of heart. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who have died, especially those who have died suddenly, may be gathered into God's arms. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we who assemble here today may find comfort as we struggle with our grieving at the death of N. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That members of Christ's body, the Church, may know they are in full union with their loved ones who have died. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the family and friends of N., who mourn his/her early death, may receive strength from the God of all consolation. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That children who face sickness, danger or even death may receive support from the Christian community surrounding them. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all children, especially those close to N., may find hope and joy in each other. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we who have been left behind as N. goes to enjoy the company of the angels and saints in heaven, may find comfort in our belief that he/she will intercede for us. We pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.