

**Scripture Readings
for the Funeral (with or without Mass)**

(What follows is a list of some of the most commonly chosen scripture readings for the funeral Mass. You are asked to make your selections and enter them below, as well as on the *Funeral Planning Sheet*, also contained in this packet.)

Reading I (Old Testament):

Page # _____

Reading # _____

Reader _____

Responsorial Psalm (If read):

Page # _____

Reading # _____

Reader _____

Reading II (New Testament):

Page # _____

Reading # _____

Reader _____

(Please consult the priest or deacon on the selection of the Gospel reading.)

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

(Please Select 1)

1 Jb 19, 1. 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

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

The Word of the Lord.

2 Wis 3, 1-9 or 3, 1-6. 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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

2.A (Short Form)

But the souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
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.

3 Wis 4, 7-14

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 our crown,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported.
Having become perfect in a short while, he
reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,

therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

4 Is 25, 6. 7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord God will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the Lord for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

5 Lam 3, 17-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

6. Dn 12, 1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

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

The Word of the Lord.

7 2 Mc 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Typically, the responsorial psalm is sung. If, however, it is not sung but will be read, please select 1 from this section.)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
(PSALAM RESPONSE)
(Please Select 1)

1. Ps 23, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

2. Ps 25, 6-7. 17-18. 20-21

R. (1) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Remember that your compassion, O Lord,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

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

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

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

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

3. Ps 27, 1. 4. 7. 8. 9. 13-14

R. (1) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Your presence, O Lord, I seek.
Hide not your face from me.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.
30. Ps 42, 2. 3. 5; 43, 3. 4. 5

R. (Ps 42, 3) My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

As the hind longs for the running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

R. My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.

When shall I go and behold the face of God?

R. My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

When I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,
Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival.

R. My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
And bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling-place.

R. My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
O God, my God!

R. My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

Why are you so downcast, O my soul?
Why do you sigh within me?
Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking him,
in the presence of my savior and my God.

R. My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

4. Ps 63, 2-3. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9

R. (2) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Ps 103, 8. 10. 13-14. 15-16. 17-18

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

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

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

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

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Man's days are like those of grass;
like a flower of the field he blooms;
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,
and his place knows him no more.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

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

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

33. Ps 115, 5. 6; 116, 10-11. 15-16

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

They have mouths but speak not;
they have eyes but see not;
They have ears but hear not;
they have noses but smell not.

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
I said in my alarm,
"No man is dependable."

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant;
you have loosed my bonds.

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

6. Ps 122, 1-2. 3-4. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9

R. (1) I rejoiced when I heard them say:
let us go to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,
"We will go up to the house of the Lord."
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
let us go to the house of the Lord.
Jerusalem, built as a city
with compact unity.
To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
let us go to the house of the Lord.

According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David.

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
let us go to the house of the Lord.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings.

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
let us go to the house of the Lord.

Because of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you!"
Because of the house of the Lord, our God,
I will pray for your good.

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
let us go to the house of the Lord.

7. Ps 130, 1-2. 3-4. 4-6. 7-8

R. (1) Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

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

R. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities,
Lord, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

R. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

I trust in the Lord;
my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than sentinels wait for the dawn.
More than sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel hope in the Lord.

R. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

For with the Lord is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption;
And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities.

R. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.
36. Ps 143, 1-2. 5-6. 7. 8. 10

R. (1) O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer;
hearken to my pleading in your faithfulness;
in your justice answer me.
And enter not into judgment with your servant,
for before you no living man is just.

R. O Lord, hear my prayer.

I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all your doings,
the works of your hands I ponder.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like parched land.

R. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Hasten to answer me, O Lord,
for my spirit fails me.
At dawn let me hear of your kindness,
for in you I trust.

R. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.
May your good spirit guide me
on level ground.

R. O Lord, hear my prayer.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

(Please Select 1)

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS
(Please Select 1)

1. 2 Tm 4, 6-8. 16-18

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who will judge the living and the dead,
and by his appearing and his kingly power:

proclaim the word;
be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient;
convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

Be self-possessed in all circumstances;
put up with hardship;
perform the work of an evangelist;
fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a libation,
and the time of my departure is at hand.
I have competed well;
I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.
From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,
which the Lord, the just judge,
will award to me on that day,
and not only to me,
but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Word of the Lord.

2. Acts 10, 34-43 or 10, 34-36. 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

(Long Form)

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words: "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality. Rather, the man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. This is the message he has sent to the son of Israel, 'the good news of peace' proclaimed through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all. I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John preached; of the way God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the devil, and God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him finally, 'hanging him on a tree,' only to have God raise him up on the third day and grant that he be seen, not by all, but only by such witnesses as had been chosen beforehand by God -- by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that he is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets testify, saying that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

OR

2.A (Short Form)

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words: "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality. Rather, the man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. This is the message he has sent to the sons of Israel, 'the good news of peace' proclaimed through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that he is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets testify, saying that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

3. Rom 5, 5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Hope will not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless men. It is rare that anyone should lay down his life for a just man, though it is barely possible that for a good man someone may have the courage to die. It is precisely in this that God proves his love for us: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Now that we have been justified by his blood, it is all the more certain that we shall be saved by him from God's wrath. For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him by the death of his Son, it is all the more certain that we who have been reconciled will be saved by his life. Not only that; we go so far as to make God our boast through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

4. Rom 5, 17-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

If death began its reign through one man because of his offense, much more shall those who receive the overflowing grace and gift of justice live and reign through the one man, Jesus Christ. To sum up, then: just as a single offense brought condemnation to all men, a single righteous act brought all men acquittal and life. Just as through one man's disobedience all became sinners, so through one man's obedience all shall become just. The law came in order to increase offenses; but despite the increase of sin, grace has far surpassed it, so that, as sin reigned through death, grace may reign by way of justice leading to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

5. Rom 6, 3-9 or 6, 3-4. 8-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(Long Form)

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection. This we know: our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A man who is dead has been freed from sin. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

OR

5.A (Short Form)

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

6. Rom 8, 14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. You did not receive a spirit of slavery leading you back into fear, but a spirit of adoption through which we cry out, "Abba!" (that is, "Father"). The Spirit himself gives witness with our spirit that we are children of God. But if we are children, we are heirs as well: heirs of God, heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so as to be glorified with him.

I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us. Indeed, the whole created world eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God. Creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but by him who once subjected it; yet not without hope, because the world itself will be freed from its slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. Yes, we know that all creation groans and is in

agony even until now. Not only that, but we ourselves, although we have the Spirit as first fruits, groan inwardly while we await the redemption of our bodies. The Word of the Lord.

7. Rom 8, 31-35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who can be against us? Is it possible that he who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for the sake of us all will not grant us all things besides? Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones? God, who justifies? Who shall condemn them? Christ Jesus, who died or rather was raised up, who is at the right hand of God and who intercedes for us? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Trial, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or the sword? Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of him who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor powers, neither height nor depth nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

8. Rom 14, 7-9. 10-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master. While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die we die as his servants. Both in life and in death we are the Lord's. That is why Christ died and came to life again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. We shall all have to appear before the judgment seat of God. It is written, "As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me and every tongue shall give praise to God."

The Word of the Lord.

9. 1 Cor 15, 20-24. 25-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death came through a man; hence the resurrection of the dead comes through a man also. Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits and then, at his coming, all those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when, after having destroyed every sovereignty, authority, and power, he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under his feet, and the last enemy to be destroyed is death. Scripture reads that God "has placed all things under his feet." But when it says that everything has been made subject, it is clear that he who has made everything subject to Christ is excluded. When, finally, all has been subjected to the Son, he will then subject himself to the One who made all things subject to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

10. 1 Cor 15, 51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

I am going to tell you a mystery. Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed -- in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality. When the corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility and the mortal immortality, then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

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

We know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling in the heavens, not made by hands but to last forever. Therefore we continue to be confident. We know that while we dwell in the body we are away from the Lord. We walk by faith, not by sight. I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. This being so, we make it our aim to please him whether we are with him or away from him. The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad, according to his life in the body.

The Word of the Lord.

11. Phil 3, 20-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

We have our citizenship in heaven; it is from there that we eagerly await the coming of our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body, by his power to subject everything to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

12. 1 Thes 4, 13-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death, brothers; otherwise you might yield to grief, like those who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in him. We say to you, as if the Lord himself had said it, that we who live, who survive until his coming, will in no way have an advantage over those who have fallen asleep. No, the Lord himself will come down from heaven at the word of command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet; and those who have died in Christ will rise first. Then we, the living, the survivors, will be caught up

with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thenceforth we shall be with the Lord unceasingly. Console one another with this message.

The Word of the Lord.

13. 2 Tm 2, 8-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

Remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, was raised from the dead. This is the gospel I preach; in preaching it I suffer as a criminal, even to the point of being thrown into chains -- but there is no chaining the word of God! Therefore I bear with all of this for the sake of those whom God has chosen, in order that they may obtain the salvation to be found in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

You can depend on this:

If we have died with him

we shall also live with him;

If we hold out to the end

we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he will still remain faithful; for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

14. 1 Jn 3, 1-2

A reading from the first letter of John

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

Yet that in fact is what we are.

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

Dearly beloved,

we are God's children now;

what we shall later be has not yet come to light.

We know that when it comes to light

we shall be like him,

for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

15. 1 Jn 3, 14-16

A reading from the first letter of John

That we have passed from death to life we know
because we love the brothers.
The man who does not love is among the living dead.
Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that eternal life
abides in no murderer's heart.
The way we came to understand love
was that he laid down his life for us;
we too must lay down our lives for our brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

16. Revelation 14, 13

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me: "Write this down: Happy now are the dead who die in the Lord!" The Spirit added, "Yes, they shall find rest from their labors, for their good works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord.

17. Revelation 20, 11--21, 1

A reading from the book of Revelation

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

The Word of the Lord.

18. Revelation 21, 1-5. 6-7

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, saw new heavens and a new earth. The former heavens and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer. I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, beautiful as a bride prepared to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne cry out: "This is God's dwelling among men. He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people, and he shall be their God who is always with them. He shall wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away."

The One who sat on the throne said to me, "See, I make all things new!" I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To anyone who thirsts I will give to drink without cost from the spring of life-giving water. He who wins the victory shall inherit these gifts; I will be his God and he shall be my son."

The Word of the Lord.