

Preparing a Funeral Liturgy ***Saint John Chrysostom & Saint Theresa Avila***

Introduction

Please accept our sincerest sympathy during this time of your personal loss and know that the Collaborative Parishes of Saint Theresa of Avila and Saint John Chrysostom hold you and your loved ones in prayer.

“In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity.”

Every Catholic Funeral Liturgy is a celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The deceased is remembered as one who shared in Christ’s life through baptism and so we believe that the deceased lives in Christ forever.

When we suffer the passing of a loved one or face the certainty of our own death, the Church’s funeral rites provide a place where we can grieve, remember, face our fear, give thanks, celebrate, and above all connect our personal human experience to that of the believing community and to the life of Jesus Christ.

Vigil (wake) and related rites and prayers:

The vigil for the deceased is the principal rite celebrated by the Christian community in the time following the death and before the funeral liturgy. Words of remembrance may be spoken at this time. The vigil may be held in the home of the deceased, in the funeral home or in the church.

Funeral Liturgy:

Because the funeral liturgy is the central celebration for the deceased it should be scheduled and coordinated with the parish which will allow family, friends, and members of the parish community to be present.

Rite of Committal: (Burial)

The rite of committal at the conclusion of the funeral rites is the last act of the community of faith in caring for the body or remains of its deceased. Whenever possible, the rite of committal is to be celebrated at the site of committal, that is, beside the open grave or place of interment.

Preparing a Funeral Liturgy ***Saint John Chrysostom & Saint Theresa Avila***

Planning the Rites

When possible, the family should be involved in the planning of the funeral liturgy. This section will help guide you through the process. The family is invited to fill out the **Funeral Liturgy Planning Sheet** indicating their choices in the appropriate places.

Pallbearers – Family members or friends of the deceased may be selected as pallbearers. This can be coordinated with the funeral director.

Placing of the Pall – Members of the family or friends may place the pall on the casket. The white funeral pall reminds us that the deceased was given the promise of eternal life at Baptism.

Symbols of the Christian Life – One symbol of the Christian life may be carried in the procession and placed on the coffin during the entrance rite. This may be the family Bible as a sign that Christians live by the Word of God and faithfulness to the Word leads to eternal life. It might also be a cross: a sign that the Christian is marked by the cross in Baptism and through Jesus' suffering on the cross is brought to the victory of His Resurrection.

Readings – The family may select one text each from the Old Testament Readings and New Testament Readings. Non-biblical texts may not replace scriptural readings at Mass. If there is an adult family member or friend who is a parish reader or is comfortable with public speaking, you may want to invite them to do the readings, which are proclaimed from appropriate printed material and not from any mobile device. The readings provided in this guide are for preparation purposes.

Music – Funeral music reflects not only the grief of the family, but the whole truth about the life and death of a Christian: This is why the Church requires that only appropriate liturgical music be used and that the primary focus be to support the worshipping community. Ideally there should be a balance between music expressing grief, loss, and the need for comfort, and music expressing the believing

Preparing a Funeral Liturgy
Saint John Chrysostom & Saint Theresa Avila

community's joyful hope that both the deceased and those who celebrate the Funeral liturgy are entering into the risen life of Jesus, the Lord.

Presentation of Gifts – The Church encourages that two family members or friends present the gifts of Bread and Wine for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Words of Remembrance – The funeral rite offers the option for some words of remembrance. A member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased following the prayer after communion. One speaker may be chosen by the family to offer a presentation that should be simple, brief, well prepared, and appropriate for its place during Mass. Inside jokes, long stories or crude language are not appropriate. **Please keep the length to five minutes.** Within the context of the funeral liturgy, the tone of such a personal reflection should remain one of faith and hope and should emphasize the way the deceased lived a Christian life. Words of remembrance are also appropriate at the Vigil/Wake instead of at the celebration of the funeral Mass. Words of remembrance are to be provided to the Priest Celebrant the day before the Funeral Mass.

Flowers- During the season of Lent flowers are not used in the church. During all other times of the year, the funeral director may bring memorial flowers to decorate the sanctuary.

Memorial Mass- The funeral is called a “Memorial Mass” when the body or cremated remains (called cremains) of the deceased are not present for the Liturgy. Except for the body or remains, some aspects are the same as a funeral and the family should be involved in the planning.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #1

A reading from the book of Job (19:23-27)

Job answered and said: Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with 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.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #2A (LONG FORM)

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

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.

She rises while it is still night and distributes food to her household. 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 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. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land.

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.

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.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #2B (SHORT FORM)

A reading from the book of Proverbs (31:10-ff.)

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #3

A reading from the Book of Sirach (3:1-ff.)

Children listen to your father, do what I tell you, and so be safe;

For the Lord honors the father in his children,

and holds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins;

he who honors his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own.

He shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honors his father,

He who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

He serves his parents as he does his Lord.

Respect your father in deed as well as word,

so that blessing may come on you from him;

Since a father's blessing makes the houses of his children firm.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #4A (LONG FORM)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-11)

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh.

a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

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

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

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;

a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;

a time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed us to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without our ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

Old Testament Readings

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING FORM #4B (SHORT FORM)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-11)

There is an appointed time for everything,

and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh.

a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

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

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A time to seek, and a time to lose;

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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.

Old Testament Readings

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING #5A (Long Form)

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

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

For if before us, indeed, they be punished, now 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.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #5B (Short Form)

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

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

For if before us, indeed, they be punished, now 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.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #6

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

The just ones, though they 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 crown for us, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. The one who pleased God was loved; those who lived among sinners were transported, snatched away, lest wickedness pervert their minds or deceit beguile their souls. Having become perfect in a short while, they reached the fullness of a long career; for their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore He sped them out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #7

A reading from the book of Sirach (44:10-15)

Now will I praise those godly people, our ancestors, each in their own time.

These were godly people 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 family 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.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

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 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 saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #9

A reading from the book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

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.

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #10

A reading from the book of Sirach (6:5-17)

When one finds a faithful friend, His value is far beyond gold.

He is clothed with strength and dignity, and he laughs at the days to come.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; He who finds one finds a treasure.

A faithful friend is beyond price, No sum can balance his worth.

Let your acquaintances be many, But one in a thousand your faithful friend.

For he who loves his friends behaves accordingly, and his friends will be like himself.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING #11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and 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.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #1 (Long Form)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34 –43)

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said,*

“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.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #1B (Short Form)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34 –36, 42-43)

Peter proceeded to speak and said:

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)

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.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #3

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:17-21)

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

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

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

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #4A (LONG FORM)

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

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 the union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #4B (SHORT FORM)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-4;8-9)

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. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #5

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

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba,* Father!”

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

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

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #6

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

Brothers and Sisters: If God is for us, who can be against? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for 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 Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him, who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor 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.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (14:7-12)

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."

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #8

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (13:1-8)

If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Love never fails. There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love. The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #9A (Long Form)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:20-28)

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #9B (Short Form)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:20-23)

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #10

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57)

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.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #11

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:14-5:1)

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.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #12

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (5:1,6-10)

Brothers and Sisters: 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.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #13

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

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.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #14

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #15

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

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we persevere, we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him, he will deny us. If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #16

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy (2:6-8)

Beloved: I am already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that Day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me-and not only to me but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #17

A reading from the first letter of John (3:1-2)

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet, so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God. 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 God, for we shall see God as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #18

A reading from the first letter of John (3:14-16)

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 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.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #19

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

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this down: 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 good works accompany them"

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #20

A reading from the book of Revelation (20:11-21:1)

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NEW TESTAMENT READING #21

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

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. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my child.

The Word of the Lord.

Funeral Prayers of the Faithful

Please select 4 to 6 prayers that are most appropriate for the deceased and his/her family, filling in the name of the deceased.

The response to each petition is: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Let us pray for _____, In baptism he/she died with Christ, may he/she now share in fullness of his resurrection.

We pray to the lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

God is full of mercy and compassion. May he forgive _____ any sins he/she committed through human frailty.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the sorrowing family, relatives and friends of _____ that you may find strength and consolation in your Christian faith and in the love and support of this community.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

God of all consolation, help us to comfort one another in our grief, finding light in time. We pray for all those we have loved who have died. Lord give them reward of their goodness.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who care for the sick and dying, especially those who cared for _____ during his/her illness.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all parents who grieve over the death of their children; that they may be comforted in the knowledge that they rest in God.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, who stood by the cross as her Son was dying, help those who mourn and be with all of us in our time of need.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

Funeral Prayers of the Faithful

We pray for those here today, that our memory of _____ whom we loved, inspires us with a renewed love for all of our sisters and brothers.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for all of us here today and for all members of our Church; that we may be prepared for the hour of our own death, when God will call us by name, to pass from this world to the next.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

That those who are burdened by their loss may be blessed with courage, strength, and patience.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

That those who mourn the loss of _____ may be embraced by consolation and peace.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***

That _____ and all who have died may be judged in mercy on the last day, and may all of us, the living and the dead, rise in glory and grace on that great day.

We pray to the Lord. ***R/ Lord, hear our prayer.***