

Funeral Reading Selections



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FUNERAL LITURGY PLANNING SHEET

Name _____

Funeral Mass

Date _____

Time _____

Vigil Service

Time _____

Family Places the Pall

Rosary After the Vigil

Scripture Readings for Mass

Old Testament Selection _____

New Testament Selection _____

Gospel Selection _____

Hymns for Mass

Opening Song

Preparation of the Gifts

Communion Song

Closing Song

Mass Setting _____

Selection _____

Selection _____

Selection _____

Selection _____

Ministers for Mass

Lector—1st Reading _____

Lector—2nd Reading _____

Lector—Petitions _____

Extraordinary Minister(s) _____ bread/wine

_____ bread/wine

_____ bread/wine

Vocalist _____

Organist _____

(Other Side →)

Other Choices

Gift Bearers

If desired by the family, two individuals may bring up the bread and wine at the time of the preparation of the altar

Gift Bearers

No Gift Procession

Meal

Yes # to expect (estimate) _____

No

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

A1 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.

A2 Wisdom 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.

A3 **Wisdom 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 the hoary crown for men,
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.

A4 **Isaiah 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.

A5 **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.

A6 Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

[I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:]

"At that time there shall arise

Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;

It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.

At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;

Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,

And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever."

The word of the Lord.

A7 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.

A8 Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

A reading from the Book of Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;

A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,
peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;

Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;

A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.

Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,
priceless her chaste soul.

A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.

Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The word of the Lord.

A9 Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

The days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.

But this is the covenant which I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord.

I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives
how to know the Lord.

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

B1 Acts 10:34-43 or 10:34-36, 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

B2 Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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.

B3 Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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.

B4 Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

B5 Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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.

B6 **Romans 8:31-35, 37-39**

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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?

No one. Christ Jesus, who died, or rather was raised up,
who is at the right hand of God and 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.

B7 **Romans 14:7-9, 10-12**

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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."

Every one of us will have to give an account of himself before God.

The word of the Lord.

B8 **1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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.

B9 **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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.

B10 **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.

B11 **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

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

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.

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.

B12 **Philippians 3:20-21**

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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.

B13 **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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.

B14 **2 Timothy 2: 8-13**

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to Timothy

Remember that Jesus Christ,
 a descendant of David,
 was raised from the dead.
This is the gospel I preach;
 in preaching it I suffer as a criminal,
 even to the point of being thrown into chains –
 but there is no chaining the word of God!

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

You can depend on this:

 If we have died with him,
 we shall also live with him;
 If we hold out to the end,
 we shall also reign with him.

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

The word of the Lord.

B15 **1 John 3:1-2**

A reading from the first Letter of John

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

B16 **1 John 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.

B17 **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.

B18 **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 netherworld gave up their dead.

Each person was judged according to his conduct.

Then death and the netherworld 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.

B19 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.

GOSPEL READINGS

C1 Matthew 5:1-12

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside.

After he had sat down, his disciples gathered around him,
and he began to teach them:

"How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.

Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

[Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.]

Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are the single-hearted, for they shall see God.

Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God.

Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.

Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you

and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

C2 Matthew 11:25-30

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

On one occasion Jesus said:

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

Father, it is true.

You have graciously willed it so.

Everything has been given over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son but the Father,

and no one knows the Father but the Son –

and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome,
and I will refresh you.

Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble of heart.

Your souls will find rest,

for my yoke is easy and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C3 **Matthew 25:1-13**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The reign of God can be likened to ten bridesmaids

 who took their torches and went out to welcome the groom.

Five of them were foolish, while the other five were sensible.

The foolish ones, in taking their torches, brought no oil along,

 but the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their torches.

The groom delayed his coming,

 so they all began to nod, then to fall asleep.

At midnight someone shouted,

 'The groom is here! Come out and greet him!'

At the outcry all the virgins woke up and got their torches ready.

The foolish ones said to the sensible,

 'Give us some of your oil. Our torches are going out.'

But the sensible ones replied,

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

 You had better go to the dealers and buy yourselves some.'

While they went off to buy it the groom arrived,

 and the ones who were ready went in to the wedding with him.

Then the door was barred.

Later the other bridesmaids came back.

 'Master, master!' they cried. 'Open the door for us.'

But he answered,

 'I tell you, I do not know you.'

The moral is:

 keep your eyes open, for you know not the day or the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C4 **Matthew 25:31-46**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Come, you whom my Father has blessed.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven,

 he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.

Then he will separate them into two groups,

 as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.

The sheep he will place on his right hand, the goats on his left.

The king will say to those on his right:

 'Come. You have my Father's blessing!

 Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

 I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me.

 I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the just will ask him:

 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you

 or see you thirsty and give you drink?

 When did we welcome you away from home

 or clothe you in your nakedness?

 When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?'

The king will answer them:

 'I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers,

 you did it for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left:

 'Out of my sight, you condemned,

 into that everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels!

 I was hungry and you gave me no food,

 I was thirsty and you gave me no drink.

 I was away from home and you gave me no welcome,

 naked and you gave me no clothing.

 I was ill and in prison and you did not come to comfort me.'

Then they in turn will ask:

 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or away from home

 or naked or ill or in prison and not attend you in your needs?'

He will answer them:

 'I assure you, as often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones,

 you neglected to do it to me.'

These will go off to eternal punishment and the just to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C5 **Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 or 15:33-39**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

(Long Form)

When noon came, darkness fell on the whole countryside
and lasted until midafternoon.

At that time Jesus cried in a loud voice,

"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"

which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

A few of the bystanders who heard it remarked,

"Listen! He is calling on Elijah!"

Someone ran off, and soaking a sponge in sour wine,

stuck it on a reed to try to make him drink.

The man said, "Now let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down."

Then Jesus, uttering a loud cry, breathed his last.

At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two

from top to bottom.

The centurion who stood guard over him,

on seeing the manner of his death, declared,

"Clearly this man was the Son of God!"

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene,

Mary the mother of James, and Salome

brought perfumed oils with which they intended to go
and anoint Jesus.

Very early, just after sunrise 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, they found that the stone had been rolled back.

(It was a huge one.)

On entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right,

dressed in a white robe.

This frightened them thoroughly, but he reassured them:

"You need not be amazed!

You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the one who was crucified.

He has been raised up; he is not here.

See the place where they laid him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR

(Short Form)

When noon came, darkness fell on the whole countryside
and lasted until midafternoon.

At that time Jesus cried in a loud voice,

"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"

which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

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from top to bottom.

The centurion who stood guard over him,

on seeing the manner of his death, declared,

"Clearly this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

C6 **Luke 7:11-17**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus went to a town called Naim,
and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.
As he approached the gate of the town,
a dead man was being carried out, the only son of a widowed mother.
A considerable crowd of townsfolk were with her.
The Lord was moved with pity upon seeing her and said to her,
"Do not cry."
Then he stepped forward and touched the litter;
at this, the bearers halted.
He said, "Young man, I bid you get up."
The dead man sat up and began to speak.
Then Jesus gave him back to his mother.
Fear seized them all and they began to praise God.
"A great prophet has risen among us," they said;
and, "God has visited his people."
This was the report that spread about him throughout Judea
and the surrounding country.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C7 **Luke 12:35-40**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told his disciples:
"Let your belts be fastened around your waists
and your lamps be burning ready.
Be like men awaiting their master's return from a wedding,
so that when he arrives and knocks,
you will open for him without delay.
It will go well with those servants whom the master finds wide-awake on his return.
I tell you, he will put on an apron, seat them at table,
and proceed to wait on them.
Should he happen to come at midnight or before sunrise
and find them prepared, it will go well with them.
You know as well as I that if the head of the house knew when the thief was coming
he would not let him break into his house.
Be on guard, therefore.
The Son of Man will come when you least expect him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C8 **Luke 23:33, 39-43**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today you will be with me in paradise.
When Jesus and the others came to Skull Place, as it was called,
they crucified him there and the criminals as well,
one on his right and the other on his left.
One of the criminals hanging in crucifixion blasphemed him:
"Aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us."
But the other one rebuked him:
"Have you no fear of God,
seeing you are under the same sentence?
We deserve it, after all.
We are only paying the price for what we've done,
but this man has done nothing wrong."
He then said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign."
And Jesus replied,
"I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise."
The Gospel of the Lord.

C9 **Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-6 or 23:44-49**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit.

(Long Form)

It was around midday, and darkness came over the whole land
until mid-afternoon with an eclipse of the sun.

The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two.

Jesus uttered a loud cry and said,

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

After he had said this, he expired.

The centurion, upon seeing what had happened,

gave glory to God by saying, "Surely this was an innocent man."

After the crowd assembled for this spectacle

witnessed what had happened,

they returned beating their breasts.

All his friends and the women who had accompanied him

from Galilee were standing at a distance watching everything.

On the first day of the week, at dawn,

the women came to the tomb

bringing the spices they had prepared.

They found the stone rolled back from the tomb;

but when they entered the tomb,

they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were still at a loss over what to think of this,

two men in dazzling garments stood beside them.

Terrified, the women bowed to the ground.

The men said to them:

"Why do you search for the Living One among the dead?

He is not here; he has been raised up."

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR

(Short Form)

It was around midday, and darkness came over the whole land
until mid-afternoon with an eclipse of the sun.

The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two.

Jesus uttered a loud cry and said,

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

After he had said this, he expired.

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All his friends and the women who had accompanied him

from Galilee were standing at a distance watching everything.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C10 Luke 24:13-35 or 24:13-16, 28-35

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?

(Long Form)

Two of the disciples of Jesus on that same day [the first day of the week] were making their way to a village named Emmaus seven miles distant from Jerusalem, discussing as they went all that had happened.

In the course of their lively exchange,

Jesus approached and began to walk along with them.

However, they were restrained from recognizing him.

He said to them, "What are you discussing as you go your way?"

They halted in distress and one of them, Cleopas by name, asked him,

"Are you the only resident of Jerusalem

who does not know the things that went on there these past few days?"

He said to them, "What things?"

They said:

"All those that had to do with Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people; how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.

We were hoping that he was the one who would set Israel free.

Besides all this, today, the third day since these things happened, some women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news.

They were at the tomb before dawn and failed to find his body, but returned with the tale that they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive.

Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said; but him they did not see."

Then he said to them,

"What little sense you have!

How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced!

Did not the Messiah have to undergo all this so as to enter into his glory?"

Beginning, then, with Moses and all the prophets,

he interpreted for them every passage of Scripture which referred to him.

By now they were near the village to which they were going, and he acted as if he were going farther.

But they pressed him:

"Stay with us. It is nearly evening -- the day is practically over."

So he went in to stay with them.

When he had seated himself with them to eat, he took bread,

pronounced the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him; whereupon he vanished from their sight.

They said to one another,

"Were not our hearts burning inside us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled.

They were greeted with,

"The Lord has been raised! It is true! He has appeared to Simon."

Then they recounted what had happened on the road and how they had come to know him in the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR

(Short Form)

Two of the disciples of Jesus on that same day [the first day of the week] were making their way to a village named Emmaus seven miles distant from Jerusalem, discussing as they went all that had happened.

In the course of their lively exchange,

Jesus approached and began to walk along with them.

However, they were restrained from recognizing him.

By now they were near the village to which they were going, and he acted as if he were going farther.

But they pressed him:

"Stay with us. It is nearly evening -- the day is practically over."

So he went in to stay with them.

When he had seated himself with them to eat, he took bread, pronounced the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them.

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Then they recounted what had happened on the road and how they had come to know him in the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C11 **John 5:24-29**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

“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.

C12 **John 6:37-40**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life
and I will raise him up on the last day.

Jesus said to the crowd:

"All that the Father gives me shall come to me;
no one who comes will I ever reject,
because it is not to do my own will
that I have come down from heaven,
but to do the will of him who sent me.

It is the will of him who sent me
that I should lose nothing of what he has given me;
rather, that I should raise it up on the last day.

Indeed, this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who looks upon the Son
and believes in him shall have eternal life.

Him I will raise up on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C13 **John 6:51-58**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus told the crowd:

"I myself am the living bread come down from heaven.
If anyone eats this bread, he shall live forever;
the bread I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world."

At this the Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,

"How can he give us his flesh to eat?"

Thereupon Jesus said to them:

"Let me solemnly assure you,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you have no life in you.

He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal,
and I will raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food and my blood real drink.
The man who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me, and I in him.

Just as the Father who has life sent me
and I have life because of the Father,
so the man 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 died nonetheless,
the man who feeds on this bread shall live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C14 **John 11:17-27 or 11:21-27**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

(Long Form)

When Jesus arrived at Bethany,

he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

The village was not far from Jerusalem – just under two miles –

and many Jewish people had come out to console Martha and Mary over their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him, while Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus,

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would never have died.

Even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus assured her.

"I know he will rise again," Martha replied, "in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her:

"I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me,

though he should die, will come to life;

and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied.

"I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God:

he who is to come into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR

(Short Form)

Martha said to Jesus,

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would never have died.

Even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus assured her.

"I know he will rise again," Martha replied, "in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her:

"I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me,

though he should die, will come to life;

and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied.

"I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God:

he who is to come into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C15 **John 11:32-45**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lazarus, come out.

When Mary the sister of Lazarus came to the place where Jesus was,

seeing him, she fell at his feet and said to him,

"Lord, if you had been here my brother would never have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping,

and the Jewish folk who had accompanied her also weeping,

he was troubled in spirit, moved by the deepest emotions.

"Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Lord, come and see," they said.

Jesus began to weep, which caused the Jews to remark,

"See how much he loved him!"

But some said,

"He opened the eyes of that blind man.

Why could he not have done something to stop

this man from dying?"

Once again troubled in spirit, Jesus approached the tomb.

It was a cave with a stone laid across it.

"Take away the stone," Jesus directed.

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him,

"Lord, it has been four days now; surely there will be a stench!"

Jesus replied,

"Did I not assure you that if you believed

you would see the glory of God?"

They then took away the stone and Jesus looked upward and said:

"Father, I thank you for having heard me.

I know that you always hear me

but I have said this for the sake of the crowd,

that they may believe that you sent me."

Having said this, he called loudly,

"Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, bound hand and foot with linen strips,

his face wrapped in a cloth.

"Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go free."

This caused many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary,

and had seen what Jesus did, to put their faith in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C16 **John 12:23-28 or 12:23-26**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

(Long Form)

Jesus told his disciples:

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I solemnly assure you,
unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat.

But if it dies, it produces much fruit.

The man who loves his life loses it,
while the man who hates his life in this world
preserves it to life eternal.

If anyone would serve me, let him follow me;
where I am, there will my servant be.

Anyone who serves me, the Father will honor.
My soul is troubled now, yet what should I say --
Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this that I came to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from the sky:

"I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR

(Short Form)

Jesus told his disciples:

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I solemnly assure you,
unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat.

But if it dies, it produces much fruit.

The man who loves his life loses it,
while the man who hates his life in this world
preserves it to life eternal.

If anyone would serve me, let him follow me;
where I am, there will my servant be.

Anyone who serves me, the Father will honor."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C17 **John 14:1-6**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There are many rooms in my Father's house.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Have faith in God and faith in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places;
otherwise, how could I have told you
that I was going to prepare a place for you?

I am indeed going to prepare a place for you,
and then I shall come back to take you with me,
that where I am you also may be.

You know the way that leads where I go."

"Lord," said Thomas, "we do not know where you are going.

How can we know the way?"

Jesus told him:

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life;
no one comes to the Father but through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C18 **John 17:24-26**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am.

Raising his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed and said:

"Father, all those you gave me

I would have in my company where I am,
to see this glory of mine which is your gift to me,
because of the love you bore me before the world began.

Just Father, the world has not known you,
but I have known you;
and these men have known that you sent me.

To them I have revealed your name,
and I will continue to reveal it
so that your love for me may live in them,
and I may live in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C19 **John 19:17-18, 25-39**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross 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 Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple 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.

Now since it was preparation day,
in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross
on the sabbath,
for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,
the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken
and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first
and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,
they did not break his legs,
but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,
and immediately blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;
he knows that he is speaking the truth,
so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:

Not a bone of it will be broken.

And again another passage says:

They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea,
secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate if he could remove the Body of Jesus.

And Pilate permitted it.

So he came and took his body.

Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night,
also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes
weighing about one hundred pounds.

The Gospel of the Lord.