

LITURGY FOR FUNERAL MASSES

Readings for Funeral Mass Outside of Easter Time

OLD TESTAMENT READING – First Reading

Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING – First Reading

Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not
With the passing of time,
Nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING – First Reading

Isaiah 25:6a,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 to whom we looked;
Let us rejoice and be glad that He has saved us!”

The Word of the Lord

OLD TESTAMENT READING – First Reading

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 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 who seeks Him;
It is good to hope in silence
For the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

OLD TESTAMENT READING – First Reading

Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

I, Daniel, mourned and I hear the 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 to everlasting life,
Others to reproach and everlasting disgrace.
But those with insight 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

During Easter Time: New Testament Readings
(Easter Season falls between Easter Sunday and Pentecost)

During the Easter season one of the following readings is used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:34-43

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears Him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him.

You know the word that He sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed

Peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,

What has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee

After the baptism that John preached,

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with all those

Oppressed by the devil for God is with him.

We are all 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 READING DURING EASTER SEASON

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 (shorter form)

The 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 READING DURING EASTER SEASON

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Revelation 14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this:
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
"Yes", said the Spirit,
"Let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them".

The Word of the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT READING DURING EASTER SEASON

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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.
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 READING DURING EASTER SEASON

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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,
For there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
For the older 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 a gift
From the spring of life-giving water.
The victor will inherit these gifts,
And I shall be his God,
And he will be my son.

The Word of the Lord

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT – Second Reading

A Reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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 who has been given to us.
For Christ, while we are 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

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT – Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters, if by transgression of the one,
How much more will those who receive the abundance of grace
And to the gift of justification
Come to reign in life through the one transgression
Condemnation came upon all,
So, through one righteous act,
Acquittal and life came to all.
For just as through the disobedience of the one man
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 READING – Second Reading

A reading from Saint Paul to the Romans

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 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 in 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 READING – Second Reading

A Reading from Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:14-23

Brothers and sisters: Those who are led by the spirit of God are sons of God.
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to all 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 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 READING – Second Reading

A Reading from Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:31b-35,37-39

Brothers and sisters, if God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

But handed him over for us all,

Will he not also give us everything else along with him?

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

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

Who also is at the right hand of God,

Who 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 principalities,

Nor present things, nor future things,

Nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

Nor any other creature will be able to separate us

From the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Second Reading

A Reading from Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 14:7-9,10c-12

Brothers and sisters: No one 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.
Why then do you judge your brother?
Or you, why do you look down on your brother?
For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of God;
For it is written:
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,
And every tongue shall give praise to God."
So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Second Reading

A Reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

I 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 man,
The resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die,
So too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
But each one in proper order:
Christ the 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 then it says that everything has been 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 READING – Second Reading

A Reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters, Behold I tell you a mystery.
We shall not all fall asleep, but we will be all be changed,
In an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound, and 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 this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility,
And this 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 READING – Second Reading

Reading from Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

2 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 READING – Second Reading

A Reading from Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

2 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.
We are always courageous,
Although we know that while we are at home in the body
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 judgement seat of Christ,
So that each may receive recompense,
According to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Second Reading

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

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 READING – Second Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

I 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,
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 READING – Second Reading

A Reading from Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David:

Such is my Gospel, so 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,

Do 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.

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

FUNERAL LITURGY
RESPONSORIAL PSALMS FOR FUNERALS

Psalm 23:1-3,4,5,6

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

Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18,20-21

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Psalm 27:1,4,7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Psalm 42:2,3,5cdef,43:3,4,5

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

Psalm 103:8 and 10,13-14,15-16,17-18

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Psalm 116:5,6,10-11,15-16ac

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

Psalm 122:1-2,4-5,6-7,8-9

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

Psalm 130: 1-2,3-4,5-6ab,6c-7,8

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

Psalm 143:1-2,5-6,7ab,8ab,10

O Lord, hear my prayer.