

Funeral Readings ~ Contents

Reading I from the Old Testament

- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 1) 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 | C1 |
| 2) Job 19:1, 23-27 | C2 |
| 3) Wisdom 3:1-9 | C3 |
| <i>or 3:1-6, 9</i> | |
| 4) Wisdom 4:7-14 | C4 |
| 5) Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 | C5 |
| 6) Lamentations 3:17-26 | C6 |
| 7) Daniel 12:1-3 | C7 |

Reading I from the New Testament during the Season of Easter

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1) Acts 10:34-43 | C8 |
| <i>or 10:34-36, 42-43</i> | |
| 2) Revelation 7:9-10, 15-17 | |
| 3) Revelation 14:13 | C9 |
| 4) Revelation 20:11 – 21:1 | C10 |
| 5) Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 | C11 |

Reading II from the New Testament

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1) Romans 5:5-11 | E1 | 9) 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1 | E9 |
| 2) Romans 5:17-21 | E2 | 10) 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 | E10 |
| 3) Romans 6:3-9 | E3 | 11) Ephesians 1:3-10 | |
| <i>or 6:3-4, 8-9</i> | | 12) Philippians 3:20-21 | E11 |
| 4) Romans 8:14-23 | E4 | 13) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | E12 |
| 5) Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 | E5 | 14) 2 Timothy 2:8-13 | E13 |
| 6) Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12 | E6 | 15) 1 John 3:1-2 | E14 |
| 7) 1 Corinthians 15:20-24a, 25-28 | E7 | 16) 1 John 3:14-16 | E15 |
| <i>or 15:20-23</i> | | | |
| 8) 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 | E8 | | |

Gospel

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| 1) Matthew 5:1-12a | G1 | 16) John 11:32-45 | G15 |
| 2) Matthew 11:25-30 | G2 | 17) John 12:23-28 | G16 |
| 3) Matthew 25:1-13 | G3 | <i>or 12:23-26</i> | |
| 4) Matthew 25:31-46 | G4 | 18) John 14:1-6 | G17 |
| 5) Mark 10:13-16 | | 19) John 17:24-26 | G18 |
| 6) Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 | G5 | 20) John 19:17-18, 25-29 | G18 |
| <i>or 15:33-39</i> | | | |
| 7) Luke 7:11-17 | G6 | | |
| 8) Luke 12:35-40 | G7 | | |
| 9) Luke 23:33, 39-43 | G8 | | |
| 10) Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a | G9 | | |
| <i>or 23:44-46, 50, 52-53</i> | | | |
| 11) Luke 24:13-35 | G10 | | |
| <i>or 24:13-16, 28-35</i> | | | |
| 12) John 5:24-29 | G11 | | |
| 13) John 6:37-40 | G12 | | |
| 14) John 6:51-58 | G13 | | |
| 15) John 11:17-27 | G14 | | |
| <i>or 11:21-27</i> | | | |

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.

Thanks be to God.



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 in the eyes of 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.

Thanks be to God.

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 in the eyes of men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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.
Because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones,
and God's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

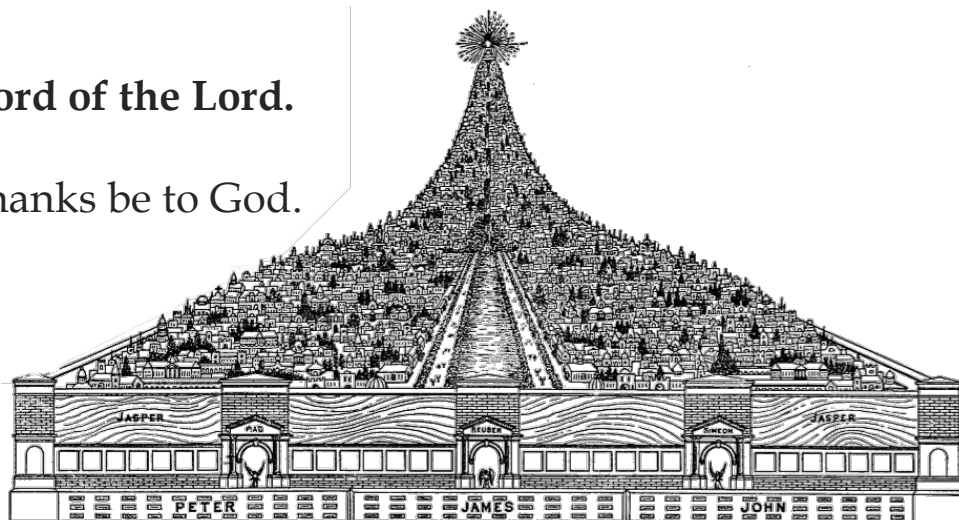
On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all peoples
A feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy rich food and pure choice wines.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away
the tears from 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.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

**The Lord is God from of old,
creator of the ends of the earth.**

**He does not faint or grow weary,
and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.**

**He gives power to the faint,
abundant strength to the weak.**

**Though young men faint and grow weary,
and youths stagger and fall,**

**They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength,
they will soar on eagles' wings;**

**They will run and not grow weary,
walk and not grow faint.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

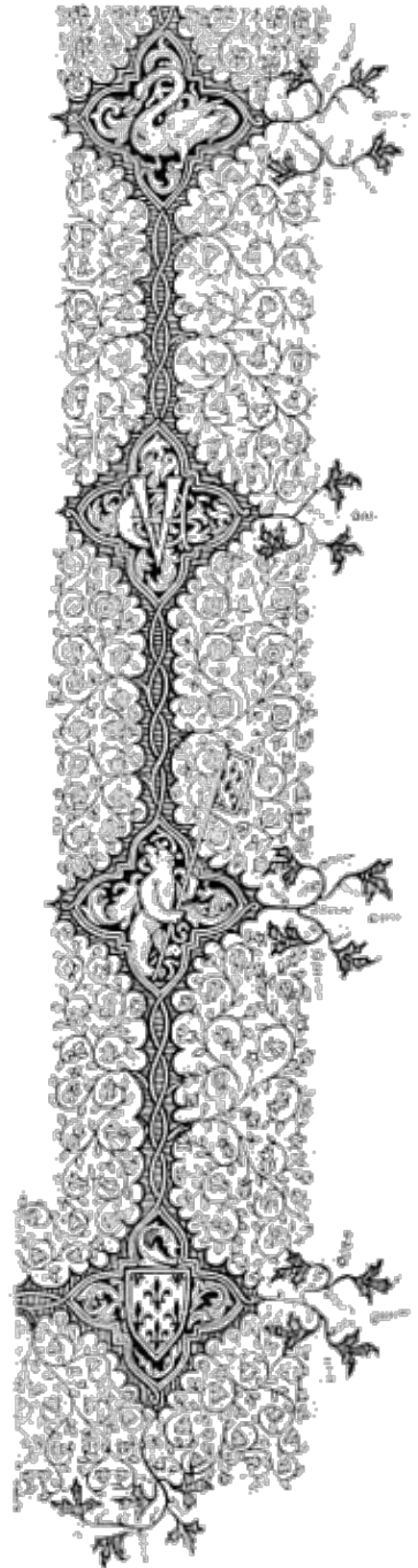
**My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the LORD.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.**

**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.

Thanks be to God.



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.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the book of Joshua

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

**"Moses my servant is dead.
So now, you and the whole people with you,
prepare to cross the Jordan to the land
that I will give the Israelites.**

**Every place where you set foot I have given you,
as I promised Moses.**

**As I was with Moses, I will be with you:
I will not leave you nor forsake you.**

**Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous!
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD,
your God, is with you wherever you go."**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Who shall find a valiant woman?

For her worth is far above jewels.

The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.

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

She looks for wool and flax

and works with her hands in delight.

She rises also while it is still night
and gives food to her household
and portions to her maidens.

She considers a field and buys it;
from her earnings she plants a vineyard.

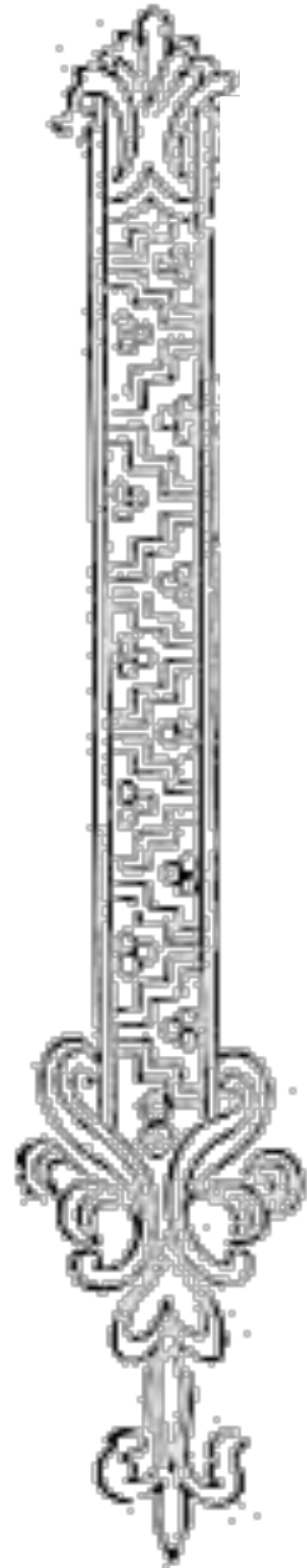
She girds herself with strength
and makes her arms strong.

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,

But a woman who fears the LORD,
she shall be praised.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

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

A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

A time to kill and a time to heal;

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

A time to search and a time to give up as lost;

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate;

A time for war and a time for peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toils?

I have considered the task that God has appointed
for the sons of men to be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time,

and has put the timeless into their hearts,

without man's ever discovering,

from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice

and to do good in one's lifetime;

moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good
in all his labor – it is the gift of God.

A reading from the book of Sirach

**Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter;
whoever finds one finds a treasure.**

**Faithful friends are beyond price,
no amount can balance their worth.**

**Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;
those who fear God will find them.**

**Those who fear the Lord enjoy stable friendship,
for as they are, so will their neighbors be.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say,

“Write this:

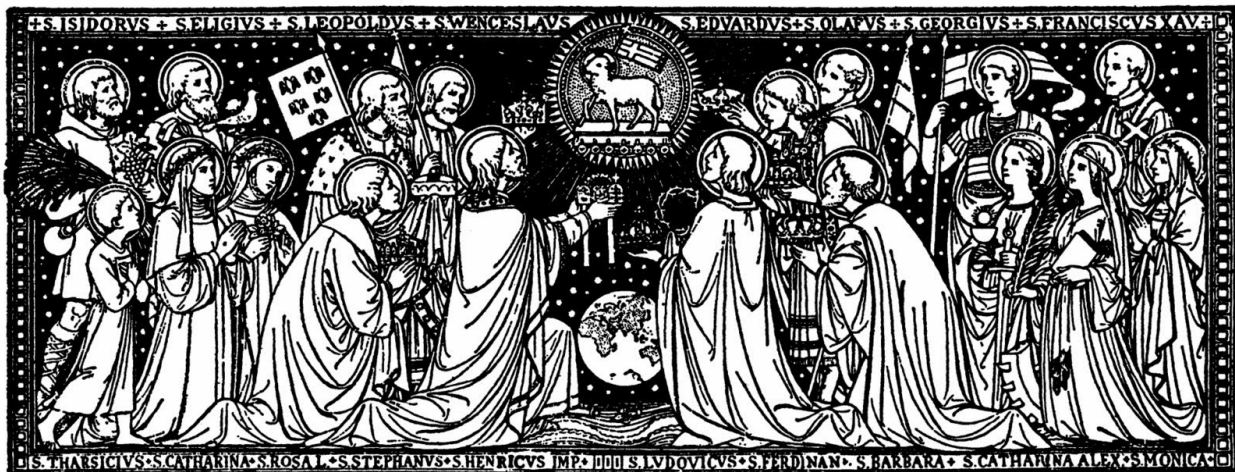
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!”

“Yes,” said the Spirit,

“let them find rest from their labors,
for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the book of Revelation

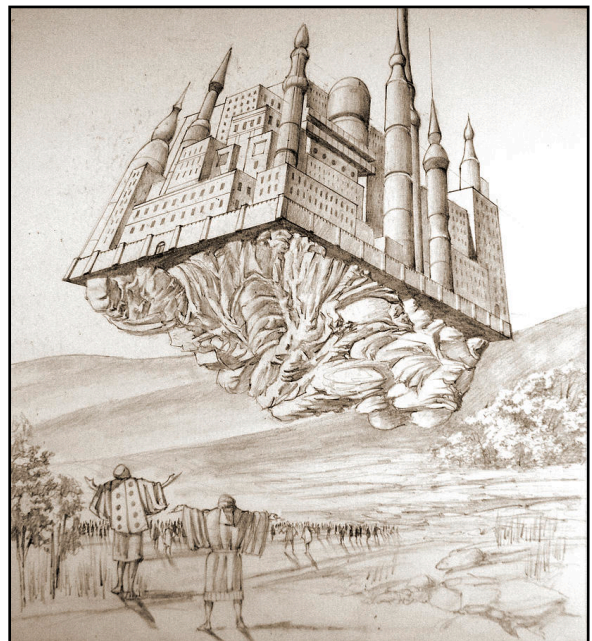
I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and former earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's 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 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.

Thanks be to God.

Art by James Robinson at pixels.com



A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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,
yet 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.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters:

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

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

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

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

**For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.**

**We know that Christ,
raised from the dead,
dies no more;
death no longer has
power over him.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters:

**Are you aware that we who are 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.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters,

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

He who did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

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

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

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

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution,

or famine, or nakedness,

or peril, or the sword?

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.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

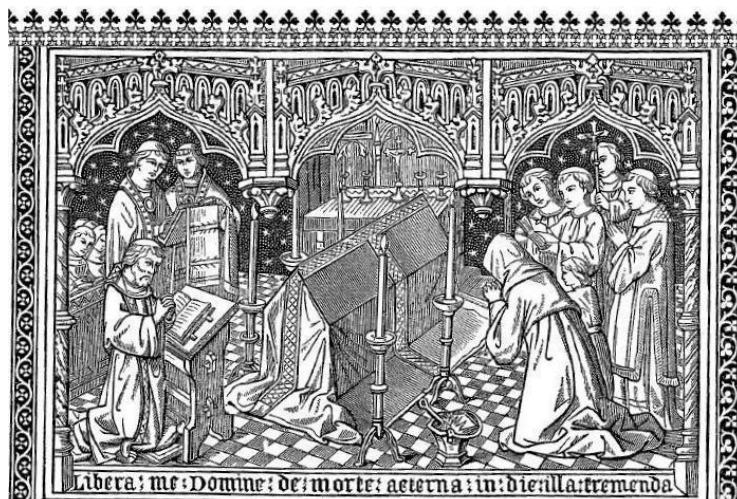
For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
for it is written:

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

So then each of us shall give an accounting of ourselves to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous; is not pompous,
it is not inflated, it is not rude,
it does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered,
it does not brood over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters,

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

For since death came through 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 firstfruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

then comes the end,

when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father.

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.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters,
Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have
fallen asleep.
For since death came through 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 firstfruits;
then, at his coming,
those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

**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.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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.

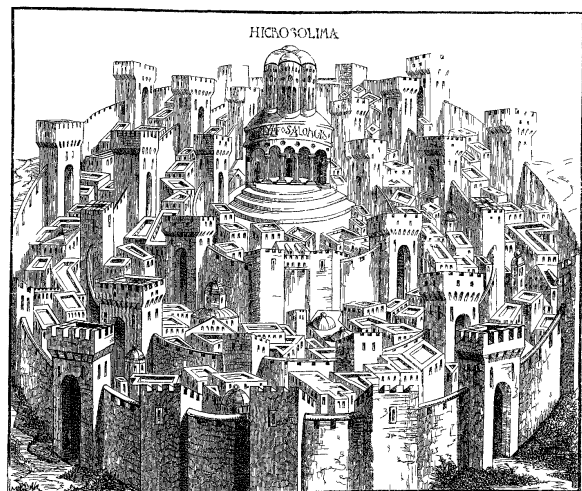
So we are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

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.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

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.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers,

whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing

what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

**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.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine.

Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

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 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.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

**For I am already being poured out like a libation,
and the time of my departure is at hand.
I have competed well; I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.**

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the first letter of St. John

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 him.
Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
We do know
that when it is revealed
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the first letter of St. John

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

**Whoever does not love remains in death.
You who hate your brother or sister is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer
has eternal life remaining in them.**

**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 and sisters.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

He began to teach them, saying:



Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

On one occasion, Jesus spoke thus:

**“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to the childlike.
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”**

**“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him,
he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.
And he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
Then the king will say to those on his right,
‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world.
For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’**

**Then the righteous will answer him and say,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you drink?
When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,
or naked and clothe you?
When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’**

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



Then he will say to those on his left,
‘Depart from me, you accursed,
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
For I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you gave me no welcome,
naked and you gave me no clothing,
ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’

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

He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you,
what you did not do for one of these least ones,
you did not do for me.’
And these will go off to eternal punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of the disciples of Jesus were going
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,
and they were conversing
about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.
He asked them,
“What are you discussing as you walk along?”
They stopped, looking downcast.
One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,
“Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know of the things
that have taken place there in these days?”
And he replied to them, “What sort of things?”
They said to him,
“The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over
to a sentence of death and crucified him.
But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;
and besides all this,
it is now the third day since this took place.



Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:
they were at the tomb early in the morning
and did not find his body;
they came back and reported
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb
and found things just as the women had described,
but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into his glory?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them what referred to him
in all the Scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.

But they urged him, "Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way
and opened the Scriptures to us?"



So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,
“The Lord has truly been raised
and has appeared to Simon!”
Then the two recounted
what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them
in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of the disciples of Jesus were going
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,
and they were conversing
about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.

But they urged him, "Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way
and opened the Scriptures to us?"



So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,
“The Lord has truly been raised
and has appeared to Simon!”
Then the two recounted
what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them
in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon
and darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.
Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.
Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”;
and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man
named Joseph who,
though he was a member of the council,
he went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
After he had taken the body down,
he wrapped it in a linen cloth
and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb
in which no one had yet been buried.

But at daybreak on the first day of the week 24:1
the women took the spices they had prepared
and went to the tomb.
They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;
but when they entered,
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.



While they were puzzling over this, behold,
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.
They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.
They said to them,
“Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here,
but he has been raised.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

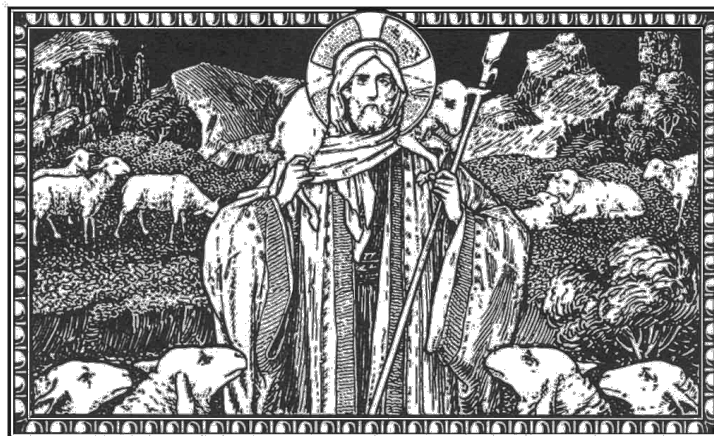
“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will
but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me,
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,
but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise them on the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.

And many of the people had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

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

Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him,

“I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her,

“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord.

I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him,

“I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her,

“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to him,

“Yes, Lord.

I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,
she fell at his feet and said to him,
“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping
and the people who had come with her weeping,
he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,
“Where have you laid him?”

They said to him, “Sir, come and see.”

And Jesus wept.

So the people said, “See how he loved him.”

But some of them said,

“Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man
have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said,

“Take away the stone.”

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

“Lord, by now there will be a stench;
he has been dead for four days.”

Jesus said to her,

“Did I not tell you
that if you believe you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone.

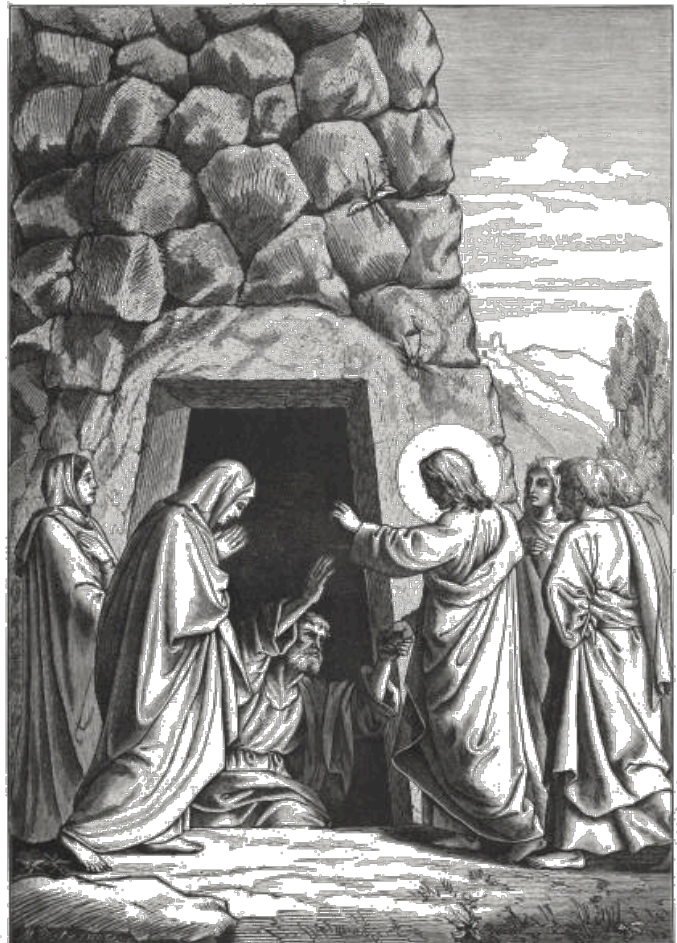


And Jesus raised his eyes and said,
“Father, I thank you for hearing me.
I know that you always hear me;
but because of the crowd here I have said this,
that they may believe that you sent me.”
And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice,
“Lazarus, come out!”
The dead man came out,
tied hand and foot with burial bands,
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them,
“Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the people
who had come to Mary
and seen what he had done
began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus told his disciples:

**“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.**

**Whoever loves their life loses it,
and whoever hates their life in this world
will preserve it for eternal life.**

**Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me.**

**“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?
‘Father, save me from this hour’?
But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.
Father, glorify your name.”
Then a voice came from heaven,
“I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus told his disciples:

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
Amen, amen, I say to you,

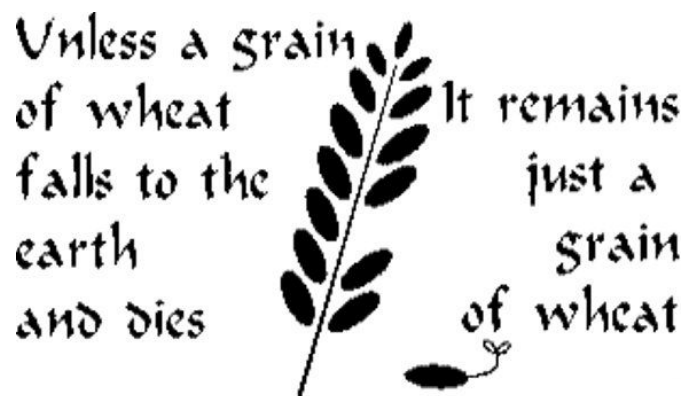
unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves their life loses it,
and whoever hates their life in this world
will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.
If there were not, would I have told you
that I am going to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself,
so that where I am you also may be.
Where I am going you know the way.”

Thomas said to him,

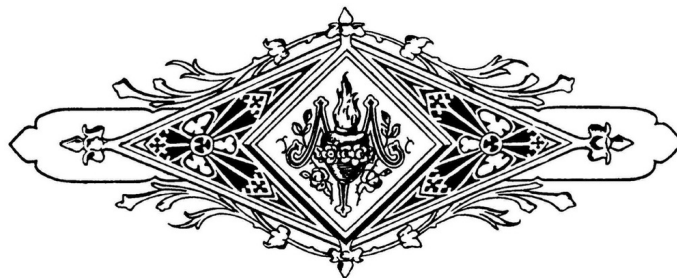
“Master, we do not know where you are going;
how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him,

“I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,

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

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

I no longer call you slaves,

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

I have called you friends,

**because I have told you everything I have heard
from my Father.**

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

and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,

so that whatever you ask the Father in my name

he may give you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Response: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.**

R./ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.**

R./ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

R./ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

R./ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

R./ The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake**

R./ The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.**

R./ The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

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

R./ The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

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

R./ The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.