

## FUNERAL READINGS

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## ***A DEDICATED PERSON***

### **First Reading**

*A reading from the book of Sirach 2:1-9*

If you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be hasty in time of calamity. Cleave to him and do not depart, that you may be honoured at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you, and in changes that humble you be patient. For gold is tested in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust in him, and he will help you; make your ways straight, and hope in him.

You, who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy, and turn not aside, lest you fall. You, who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not fail; you who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for everlasting joy and mercy.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **Second Reading**

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul  
To the Corinthians 9:24-27*

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air, but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***Gospel***

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
10:11-15, 17-18*

Jesus said:

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. ‘I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ‘For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again; this charge I have received from my Father.’

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **A FAITHFUL SERVANT**

### ***First reading***

*A reading from the book of Sirach 2:1-9*

If you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be hasty in time of calamity. Cleave to him and do not depart, that you may be honoured at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you, and in changes that humble you be patient.

For gold is tested in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust in him, and he will help you; make your ways straight, and hope in him.

You, who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; and turn not aside, lest you fall. You, who fear the Lord, trust in him and your reward will not fail; you, who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for everlasting joy and mercy.

***The Word of the Lord.***

<b><i>A FAITHFUL SERVANT</i></b>
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***Second Reading***

*A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy 4:6-8*

I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up 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 loved his appearing.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **A FAITHFUL SERVANT**

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke  
12:35-40, 42-44*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will gird himself and have them sit at his table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those servants!

‘But know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have been awake and would not have let his house to be broken into. You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

‘Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. Truly, I tell you, he will set him over all his possessions.’

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***

## **A TIME OF RIPENING - DEATH OF AN ELDERLY PERSON**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8.11*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven;

a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill and a time to heal;  
a time break 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 cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
a time to rend, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**A TIME OF RIPENING - DEATH OF AN ELDERLY PERSON**

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the second letter of St. Paul  
to the Corinthians 4:14-5:1*

He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen, but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***A TIME OF RIPENING - DEATH OF AN ELDERLY PERSON***

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 12:22-31*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat, not about your body, what you shall put on. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing.

‘Consider the ravens; they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!

‘And which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his life span? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?

‘Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass which is alive in the field today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O men of little faith!

‘And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be anxious of mind. For all the nations of the world seek these things; and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom and these things shall be yours as well.’

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***

***First Reading***

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

Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were in a book! Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were graven in the rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Peter 1:3-4.6-9*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading kept in heaven for you. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may resound to praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Without having seen him you have loved him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

***The Word of the Lord.***

<b>A WITNESS TO CHRIST</b>
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## ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:26-32*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops. ‘And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?

And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father’s will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are more value than many sparrows. ‘So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.’

## ***The Gospel of the Lord***

## **A WITNESS TO LOVE**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 58:6-9.11*

'Is not this the fast that I choose; to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say. Here I am. And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your desire with good things, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.'

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. John 4:7-12.17*

Let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the Day of Judgment.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:31-40*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

‘Then the King will say to those at his right hand, “Come, O blessed of 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, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

‘Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?”

‘And the King will answer them, “Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **BEARING ONE'S OWN PARTICULAR FRUIT**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the Book of Sirach 2:1-9*

If you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be hasty in time of calamity. Cleave to him and do not depart, that you may be honoured at the end of your life. Accept whatever is brought upon you, and in changes that humble you be patient. For gold is tested in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust in him, and he will help you make your ways straight, and hope in him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; and turn not aside, lest you fall. You who fear the Lord trust in him, and your reward will not fail; you who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for everlasting joy and mercy.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **BEARING ONE'S OWN PARTICULAR FRUIT**

### ***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
12:31-13:1-7*

Earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have no love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **BEARING ONE'S OWN PARTICULAR FRUIT**

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:14-15.19-23*

Jesus spoke the following parable to his disciples:

'The Kingdom of heaven will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

'Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered me five talents; here I have made five talents more. "His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master."

'And he who also had the two talents came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more. "His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master."

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **First Reading**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:3-6.10*

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then will the lame men leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 2:1-6.9*

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words of wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom of men but in the power of God, wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. It is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him. 'God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

***The word of the Lord.***

## **BUILDING ON HIS WORDS**

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 7:24-27*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

‘And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it.’

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

**COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOUR**

***First Reading***

*A reading from the book of Genesis 1:27-31*

God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them. And God blessed them and said to them, 'be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over everything that moves upon the earth.' And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree will seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.'

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOUR**

**Second Reading**

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians  
3:14-15.17.23-24*

Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOUR**

***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:28-30*

Jesus said:

‘Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **DEATH OF AN INFANT**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 48:8.14-16*

Thus says the Lord: 'In a time of favour I have answered you, in a day of salvation I have helped you.' But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken men.'

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have graven on the palms of my hands.'

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **DEATH OF AN INFANT**

### ***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. John 3:1-2*

See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

### ***The Word of the Lord***

## **DEATH OF AN INFANT**

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:28-31*

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

‘Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father’s will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

‘Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.’ “

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain the Lord of Hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, 'Lo this is our God, we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 13:8-12*

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child, when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 7:11-17*

Soon afterward Jesus went to a city called Naim, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her.

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you arise.' And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has arisen among us!' and 'God has visited his people!'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

**GOD REWARDS THE EFFORTS OF ALL –  
ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND LONELY**

***First Reading***

*A reading from the book of Sirach 35:6-11*

The offering of a righteous man anoints the altar, and its pleasing odour rises before the Most High. The sacrifice of a righteous man is acceptable, and the memory of it will not be forgotten. Glorify the Lord generously, and do not stint the first fruits of your hands. With every gift show a cheerful face, and dedicate your tithe with gladness. Give to the Most High as he has given, and as generously as your hand has found. For the Lord is one who repays, and he will repay you sevenfold.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**GOD REWARDS THE EFFORTS OF ALL –  
ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND LONELY**

***Second Reading.***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 2:1-6.9*

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. It is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, not the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him,' God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

***The word of the Lord.***

**GOD REWARDS THE EFFORTS OF ALL ,  
ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND LONELY**

***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 12:41-44*

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## GOING HOME

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 49:8.13-16*

Thus says the Lord: 'In a time of favour I have answered you, in a day of salvation I have helped you.' Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his afflicted.

But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.' 'Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands.'

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **GOING HOME**

### ***Second Reading***

*A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
5:1.6-10*

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. So we are always of good courage; we know that while we are home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. We are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## GOING HOME

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6*

‘Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord we do not know where we 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 but by me.’

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **HARVEST TIME OF THE SPIRIT**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.11*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven;

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

a time to plant, and time to pluck up what is planted

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break 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 cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

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

a time to rend, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

***The Word of the Lord.***

<b>HARVEST TIME OF THE SPIRIT</b>
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***Second Reading***

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians 6:7-10*

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **HARVEST TIME OF THE SPIRIT**

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:4-9*

Jesus spoke this parable to the people:

‘A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.

‘Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away.

‘Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

‘Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

He who has ears, let him hear.’

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **HEALING THE WOUNDS OF GRIEF**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 61:1-3*

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our Lord; to comfort all who mourn, to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the Apocalypse of St. John 21:1-4*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.'

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:36-48*

As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, 'Peace to you!' But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do questions rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.' and when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses, and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, 'Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## ***JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND***

### ***First Reading***

A reading from the Book of Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.'

### ***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***Second Reading***

*A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 11:1-2.8-10.13-16*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him to the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

These all died in faith, not having received what was promised but having seen it and greeted it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND***

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 6:44-51*

Jesus said: "No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that any one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. 'Very truly, I tell you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***

**LET THE LITTLE ONES COME TO ME (1)**  
**DEATH OF A CHILD OR YOUTH THROUGH ILLNESS**

***First Reading***

*A reading from the book of Wisdom 4:7-15*

But the righteous, though they die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honoured for length of time, nor measured by number of years; but understanding is grey for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and they did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**LET THE LITTLE ONES COME TO ME (1)  
DEATH OF A CHILD OR YOUTH THROUGH ILLNESS**

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:14-18*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if we are children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if, in fact we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**LET THE LITTLE ONES COME TO ME (1)  
DEATH OF A CHILD OR YOUTH THROUGH ILLNESS**

***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:25-30*

At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will.

'All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

**LET THE LITTLE ONES COME TO ME (2)**  
**DEATH OF A CHILD OR YOUTH THROUGH TRAGEDY**

***First Reading***

*A Reading from the prophet Isaiah 49:8.14-16*

Thus says the Lord: 'In a time of favour I have answered you, in day of salvation I have helped you.' But Zion said 'The Lord has forsaken me.'

'Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hand.'

***The Word of the Lord.***

**LET THE LITTLE ONES COME TO ME (2)  
DEATH OF A CHILD OR YOUTH THROUGH TRAGEDY**

***Second Reading***

*A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:14-18*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is the spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if we are children, then heirs, heirs of God, and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**LET THE LITTLE ONES COME TO ME (2)  
DEATH OF A CHILD OR YOUTH THROUGH TRAGEDY**

***Gospel***

*A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
18:1-4; 19:13-15*

At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying. 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.'

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people; but Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'

And he laid his hands on them and went away.

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

***First Reading***

*A Reading from the book of Lamentations 3:17-26*

My soul is bereft of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, 'Gone is my glory and my expectation from the Lord.' Remember my affliction and my bitterness, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A Reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy 4:6-8*

I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up 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 loved his appearing.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***Gospel***

*A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 17:1-5*

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted his eyes to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come, glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, since thou has given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

'I glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do; and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **TRAGIC DEATH (2)**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is our Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **TRAGIC DEATH (2)**

### **Second Reading**

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:31-35.37-39*

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Jesus Christ, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, or things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-17.19-31*

That very day (Easter Day) two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking about these things that had happened. While they were talking, Jesus himself drew near. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What is this conversation which you are holding as you walk?' And they stood still, looking sad. Then they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. It is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.' And he said to them, 'O foolish men and slow of heart to believe all the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they said, 'Stay with us, for the day is far spent.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight.

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **First Reading**

*A reading from the Book of Wisdom 3:1-6.9*

The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction, but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians  
4:13-18*

But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***PARTING TIME***

## ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 16:16-22*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘A little while, and you will see me no more; again a little while, and you will see me.’ Some of his disciples said to one another. ‘What is this that he says to us, “A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me”; and, “because I go to the Father”? They said, ‘what does he mean by “a little while”? We do not know what he means.’ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him; so he said to them, ‘Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying “A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me”?’

‘Truly, Truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of her child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world. So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.’

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **RE-BUILDING OUR LIVES**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
15:51-57*

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy 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.***

## ***Gospel***

*A reading from Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-17, 19-31*

That very day (Easter Day) two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking about these things that had happened. While they were talking, Jesus himself drew near. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What is this conversation which you are holding as you walk?' And they stood still, looking sad. Then they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. It is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.'

And he said to them. 'O foolish me, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning him.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they said, 'Stay with us, for the day is far spent.' So he went into stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he vanished out of their sight.

And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. Then they told the others what had happened on the road and how he was known to them in the breaking of bread.

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

**SHARING HIS SUFFERINGS  
FOR ONE WHO BORE A LOT OF SUFFERING AND / OR ILLNESS**

***First Reading***

*A reading from the Book of Wisdom 3:1-6.9*

The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**SHARING HIS SUFFERINGS  
FOR ONE WHO BORE A LOT OF SUFFERING AND/OR ILLNESS**

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:14-18*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if we are children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**SHARING HIS SUFFERINGS  
FOR ONE WHO BORE A LOT OF SUFFERING AND/OR ILLNESS**

***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 12:23-27*

Jesus said:

'The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified.

'Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

'He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honour him.

'Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour?" No, for this purpose I have come to this hour.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## ***THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT - CONSOLATION IN DEATH***

### ***First Reading***

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

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, 'Gone is my glory, and my expectation from thee Lord.' Remember my affliction and my bitterness, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

'The Lord is my portion' says my soul 'therefore I will hope in him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT - CONSOLATION IN DEATH***

### ***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians  
4:13-18*

But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT - CONSOLATION IN DEATH***

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 16:1-7*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues; indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you of them.

I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

<b>THE DEAD ARE ALIVE – VICTORY OVER DEATH</b>
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***First Reading***

*A reading from the second book of the Maccabees 12:43-45*

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for the sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honourably, taking account of the resurrection.

For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead that they might be delivered from their sin.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***THE DEAD ARE ALIVE – VICTORY OVER DEATH***

### ***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
15:12-20*

Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If for this life only we have hoped for Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***THE DEAD ARE ALIVE – VICTORY OVER DEATH***

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:1-8*

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified and on the third day rise.' And they remembered his words.

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

<b>THE GREAT LOSS – GRIEF LEADS TO HEALING</b>
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### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-16*

Thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

‘I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the cripples, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over. I will feed them in justice.’

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **Second Reading**

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4:  
13-18*

But we would have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**THE GREAT LOSS – GRIEF LEADS TO HEALING**

***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 10:14-15.27-30*

Jesus said:

‘I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for my sheep.

‘My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.’

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **THE HUNGER FOR ETERNAL LIFE**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the first book of Kings 19:4-8*

Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree; and he asked that he might die, saying, 'It is enough now; now O Lord take away my life for I am no better than my fathers.'

And he lay down and slept under a broom tree; and behold, an angel touched him, and said to him, 'Arise and eat' And he looked, and behold there was at his head a cake baked on stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank, and he lay down again.

And the angel of the Lord came a second time, and touched him, and said, 'Arise and eat, else the journey will be too great for you.' And he arose, and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **Second Reading**

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 2:1-6.9*

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except, Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. It is written, 'What no eye has seen, or ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him,' God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 6:44-51*

Jesus said:

‘No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, “And they shall all be taught by God.” Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that any one has seen the Father expect him who is God; he has seen the Father.

‘Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever.’

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

### **First Reading**

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 9:2-6*

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'*

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Second Reading**

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 13:8-12*

*Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues they will cease, as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away.*

*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.*

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **Gospel**

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 10:46-51*

*And they came to Jericho; and he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude. Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'*

*And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent, but he cried out all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' And Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him'. And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; rise, he is calling you.' And throwing off his mantle he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' And the blind man said to him, 'Master, let me receive my sight.' And Jesus said to him, 'Go away, your faith has made you well.'*

*And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.*

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

## ***THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE***

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the Book of Wisdom 7:7-11*

Therefore I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called upon God and the spirit of wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepters and thrones, and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her. Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem, because all gold is but little sand in her sight, and silver will be accounted as clay before her.

I loved her more than health and beauty, and I chose to have her rather than light, because her radiance never ceases. All good things came to me along with her, and in her hands uncounted wealth.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
2:1-6.9*

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. It is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him,' God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE***

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
13:44-46*

Jesus spoke these parables to the people:

‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.’

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

***First Reading***

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

My soul is bereft of peace. I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, 'Gone is my glory, and my expectation from the Lord.' Remember my affliction and my bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!

My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
15:51-57*

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy 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.***

***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 11:17-27*

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house.

Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again. Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes Lord, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## ***THE SEED MUST DIE***

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the book of Sirach 2:1-9*

If you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be hasty in time of calamity. Cleave to him and do not depart, that you may be honoured at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you, and in changes that humble you be patient. For gold is tested in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust in him, and he will help you, make your ways straight and hope in him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; and turn not aside, lest you fail. You who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not fail; you who fear the Lord, hope for good things for everlasting joy and mercy.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***THE SEED MUST DIE***

### ***Second Reading***

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 6:3-4.8-11*

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## ***THE SEED MUST DIE***

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 12:23-27*

Jesus said:

'The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies it bears much fruit.

'He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also, if any one serves me, the Father will honour him.

'Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour?" No, for this purpose I have come to this hour.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

***First Reading***

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 35:3-6.10*

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then will the lame men leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
15:51-57*

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death where is thy 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.***

## ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-17.19-31*

That very day (Easter Day) two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking about these things that had happened. While they were talking, Jesus himself drew near. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What is this conversation which you are holding as you walk?' And they stood still looking sad.

Then they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. It is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early this morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.'

And he said to them, 'O foolish men and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ, should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they said, 'Stay with us, for the day is far spent. 'So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## **TRAGIC DEATH (2)**

### ***First Reading***

*A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is our Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'

***The word of the Lord.***

## **TRAGIC DEATH (2)**

### ***Second Reading***

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-35.37-39*

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Jesus Christ, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?

Who shall separate us from the love Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***The Word of the Lord.***

## **TRAGIC DEATH (2)**

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 23:35-37.44-48*

And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying. 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen one!'

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying. 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!'

It was now about the sixth hour, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!' And having said this he breathed his last.

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place he praised God, and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent!' And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **WALKING ON WATER**

### ***First Reading***

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 35:3-6.10*

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart. 'Be strong, fear not! Behold your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Second Reading***

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
15:51-57*

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written. 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy 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.***

## **WALKING ON WATER**

### ***Gospel***

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:22-23*

Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' and they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, 'Take heart, it is I, have no fear.'

And Peter answered him, 'Lord if it is you, bid me come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came to Jesus, but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'O man of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the son of God.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***