

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Select **one** reading from 1A-1N
*During the Easter season 1O or 1P
may be used as the first Reading*

Second Reading Select **one** reading from 2A-2N

Gospel Fr. Paul will select the Gospel

A careful selection and use of readings from Scripture for the funeral rites will provide you with an opportunity to hear God speak to your needs, sorrows, fears, and hopes. The readings at a funeral Mass proclaim the Paschal Mystery (the dying and rising with Christ), teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God's designs for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own.

-adapted from *Order of Christian Funerals*, General Introduction, nos. 22-23

1A Wisdom 3:1-9 (long version)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

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

As gold in the furnace, he proved them.

and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord shall be their King forever.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord

1B Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (short version)

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;
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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

1C Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not
with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported –
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

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

The Word of the Lord

1D Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the Lord for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord

1E Isaiah 40:28-31

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

God does not faint or grow weary,
and God's knowledge is beyond scrutiny,
giving strength to the fainting
and making vigor abound for the weak.

Though the young faint and grow weary,
and they stagger and fall,
they who hope in God will renew their strength.

They will soar as with eagles' wings.
They will run and not grow weary,
walk and not grow faint.

The Word of the Lord

1F Isaiah 43:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

But now, thus says the Lord,

Who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel:

Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name:

You are mine.

When you pass through the water

I will be with you;

in the rivers you will not drown.

When you walk through fire

you shall not be burned

the flames shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord, your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior,

because you are precious in my eyes and glorious,

and because I love you.

Do not be afraid – I am with you!

The Word of the Lord

1G Isaiah 60:19-20

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

No longer will you need the sun or moon to give you light,
for the Lord your God will be your everlasting light,
and he will be your glory.

Your sun shall never set,
the moon shall not go down,
for the Lord will be your everlasting light.

The Word of the Lord

1H Proverbs 31:10-13, 20-22, 24-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good and not evil, all the days of her life.

She reaches out her hands to the poor
and extends her arms to the needy.
She fears not the snow for her household;
all her charges are doubly clothed.
She makes her own coverlets;
fine linen and purple are her clothing.
She makes garments and sells them.

She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom
and on her tongue is kindly counsel.
She watches the conduct of her household,
and eats not her food in idleness.
Her children rise up and praise her;
her husband, too, extols her:
"Many are the women of proven worth,
but you have excelled them all."

Charm is deceptive, and beauty fleeting;
The woman who reveres God is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord

1I Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the book of Sirach

For the Lord honored the father above the children, and
confirmed the right of the mother over her children.

Honoring one's father atones for sins,
and glorifying one's mother is like laying up treasure.

Those who honor their father will be gladdened by their own
children, and when they pray, they will be heard.

Those who glorify their father will have long life, and those
who obey the Lord will refresh their mother.

O child, help your father in his old age,
and do not grieve him as long as he lives;
even if he is lacking in understanding
show forbearance;
in all your strength, support him.

For kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
and against your sins it will be credited to you.

The Word of the Lord

1J Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (short version)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

A time to be born

and a time to die;

A time to plant,

and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to weep,

and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn.

and a time to dance;

A time to get,

and a time to lose;

A time to keep,

and a time to cast away;

A time to love,

and a time to hate;

A time of war,

and a time of peace.

The Word of the Lord

1K Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (long version)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

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

A time to be born, a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to uproot from the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
A time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.

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

I recognize that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life. For everyone, moreover, to eat and drink and enjoy the fruit of our labor is a gift of God. I recognize that whatever God does will endure forever; there is no adding to it or taking from it. Thus may God be revered.

The Word of the Lord

1L Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,
 I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
 all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
 is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
 leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
 as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
 his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
 so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
 therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
 to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
 for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

1M Psalm 23

A reading from the Book of Psalms

The Lord is my shepherd

there is nothing I shall want.

In green pastures he gives me rest.

Beside restful water he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

Even though I walk in the valley of darkness,

I fear no evil; for God is at my side
with the rod and the staff that give me courage.

God spreads a table before me
in the sight of my foes.

God anoints my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

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.

The Word of the Lord

1N Micah 6:8

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah

This is what God asks of you, only this:

“To act justly,
to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly with your God.”

The Word of the Lord

10 Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, the 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 eye,
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

1P Revelation 14:13

A reading from the book of Revelation

I 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

2A Romans 5:5-11

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

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we 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

2B Romans 6:3-9 (long version)

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

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

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

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

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died 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

2C Romans 6, 3-4, 8-9 (short version)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ
Jesus were baptized into his death?

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

If, then, we have died with Christ,

we believe that we shall also live with him.

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

The Word of the Lord

2D Romans 8: 14-23

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 await 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

2E Romans 8:31b, 37-39

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 did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all;
will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones.
It is God who acquits us.
Who will condemn?
It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,
who also is at the right hand of God,
who 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

2F Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself,
and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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 himself to God.

The Word of the Lord

2G 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

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

Brothers and sisters:

We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance
on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged;
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction
is producing for us an eternal weight of glory
beyond all comparison,
as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen;
for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord

2H 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

The Word of the Lord

2I 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

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

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.
We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of any 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 this which is corruptible
clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

*Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?*

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

2J 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second Letter of Saint 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.

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 may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

2K Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified Body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord

2L 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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

2M 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know 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

2N 2Timothy 4:6-8

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation,
and the time of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.

From now on there is reserved for me
the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will give 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