



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
124 NORTH SPRING AVENUE
LAGRANGE, ILLINOIS 60525-1857
(708) 352-0168

Funeral Guide to Masses of Resurrection

Dear Friends,

When someone we love has died, whether it was after a long illness or a sudden accident, we recognize our need for family, friends, and faith to embrace us and sustain us. Now, more than ever we seek the Lord's presence. The Staff and parish family of St. Francis Xavier join in expressing our deepest sympathy to you at the loss of your loved one. May you feel our concern and our prayers as you seek the Lord's consolation and begin the celebration of a life that has touched you so much.

Among the many things that you will have to attend to during these next few days, will be the various elements of the Funeral Rite of Christian Burial, Knowing that you will want to do what is right for your loved one, the staff of St. Francis Xavier stand ready to assist you as you make your plans.

The Funeral Rite usually begins during the wake. A Prayer Service will set the spiritual tone that will resonate through the other elements of the Rite. While no decisions need to be made about that prayer service, you might consider adding to the wake any eulogies that friends and family might wish to express. This could be added to other symbols that you might want to place at the wake that would represent the life and times of the person we are mourning.

The funeral service or the Mass of Resurrection is a time of hope and of taking comfort in the fact that while your loved one's journey in this world has come to an end, he/she is now being embraced by the Lord of life. How have we been blessed by this person during their life should be expressed as well as our belief that through the Mercy of God, the promise of their Baptism is now being fulfilled.

The Funeral Rite usually concludes with a service at the cemetery. Prayers will be said committing the soul of your loved one to the eternal Father. Because the body is sacred, we will bless it and the grave. Finally, we will end by praying for the consolation of the Lord and seek His blessing for our own journeys of faith.

This booklet provides scripture readings, hymns and intercessions that would be most appropriate during the Mass of Resurrection. Please look them over, and a member of our staff will assist you in making selections. Included with this booklet is a page for you to indicate your choices which will be given to the priest celebrant or to our Music Director.

Funeral Planning Worksheet page 4
Music pages 5-6
Words of Remembrance page 7
Reflection Questions page 8

Prayers of the Faithful pages 9-11
Old Testament Readings pages 12-15
New Testament Readings pages 16-26
Gospel Readings pages 27-36

MASS OF RESURRECTION

- **Music** — Our Director of Music will try to accommodate special requests as much as possible. Music suitable for church, that is, music pastorally and liturgically appropriate, is recommended. Our Resurrection Choir and/or cantor will be leading the singing at the Mass. Guest soloists and instrumentalists are expected to work in conjunction with the Director of Music. The family is asked to select: 1) a Processional Hymn, 2) a hymn for the Preparation of the Gifts, 3) a Communion Hymn, 4) an optional Post-Communion Hymn, and a 5) Recessional Hymn.
- **Entrance**— The Pall, a white cloth which is a reminder of one's baptism, is placed on the casket when you enter the Church and begin the liturgy. Family members or Pall Bearers may place the pall, or the Funeral Director will do this for you. The Book of the Gospels or a Cross can be used as a symbol to be placed on the casket. If one is to be used the celebrant will pass it back to the family and one person should be designated to carry it forward and then place it on the casket after you have arrived at the front of the church.
- **Readings** — in this booklet, we have provided many of the Scripture options that the Church recommends for the Funeral Rite. You may choose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. (If you wish, you may pick two from the New Testament.) Check with your priest celebrant if you would also like to choose a Gospel. A deacon or priest will read the Gospel, but the first two readings are usually read by a family member or friend.
- **The Homily** — A priest or deacon is responsible for the homily. During this time we break open God's word and seek understanding about its revelation. Scripture is an important part of what is considered, so too the revelation of God's presence in the life of your loved one. The more the homilist can appreciate how many have been touched and blessed by his/her life, the more he will be able to point to God's love. Challenges that were overcome, successes that were realized, relationships that were important, sacrifices that were made are all examples of moments of grace. This grace points to resurrection and new life. To assist the homilist a question sheet has been provided. We encourage your input.
- **Words of Remembrance** or Eulogy – Is usually done after Communion is received. Your priest celebrant might have some suggestions. Please consult the advice that is given in this booklet.
- **Intercessions** — a family member or friend may read the petitions that will be expressed during the service. Normally about six are needed. Samples for your use are in this booklet.
- **Gift Table** — there is a table that is in our right transept. A Bereavement Minister will help direct those who will be bringing up the gifts. Two or three people are needed to present the gifts of bread and wine to the celebrant.
- **Paschal Candle** — also called the Easter Candle, it will be lit and also prominent in the sanctuary. Blessed and first lit at the Easter Vigil, it reminds us of the dying and rising of Jesus. The Paschal Mystery offers promise and hope for resurrection and new life for those who have died in the embrace of the Lord.

CREMATION

- Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, the Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites. However, we know that circumstances may prevent that and cremation may precede the Funeral Mass. In these cases, the cremated remains may be brought to church for the Mass of Resurrection. Someone may carry the remains in procession with the family, or they may be placed on a table in the sanctuary before Mass begins. The table is large enough to hold the remains as well as a photo of the deceased if one wishes.
- According to Catholic teaching, the cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. Like a body in a casket, the cremated remains are to be buried in sacred ground; in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium.

MEMORIAL MASS

- Sometimes circumstances prevent family and friends from attending a Funeral Mass that is done in another place. Sometimes even burial has already taken place. Various forms of a Memorial Mass can still be held here at St. Francis Xavier. A staff member will help you with the planning. Readings and music for the liturgy are found in this booklet.

We hope your preparation of and participation in the Funeral Rites of the church will be of comfort to you and your family in this time, Please know that our prayers and support are with you. If there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to call.

The Staff of St. Francis Xavier

Rectory Office: 708-352-0168 sfxinlg@sfxlg.org Fax: 708-352-4904

Fr. Bill Tkachuk, Pastor: e-mail: wtkachuk@sfxlg.org

Fr. Bill Killeen, Assoc. Pastor: bkilleen@sfxlg.org

Mr. Allen J. Sterwalt, Direct of Music: asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Dr. Kate DeVries: Pastoral Associate: kdevries@sfxlg.org

Funeral Music Suggestions
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, La Grange
Allen J. Sterwalt, Director of Music Ministries
asterwalt@sfxlg.org / 708 352-0168

Processional / Hymns of Gathering

- #586 Amazing Grace
- #596 Be Not Afraid
- #633 Come to Me
- #798 Covenant Hymn
- #743 Gather Us In
- #671 Here I Am, Lord
- #587 How Firm a Foundation
- #496 How Great Thou Art
- #622 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- #764 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
- #631 King of Love My Shepherd Is, (*The*)
- #560 Lord of All Hopefulness
- #668 Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service
- #847 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- #661 Servant Song, (*The*)
- #617 There Is a Balm in Gilead
- #614 What Wondrous Love Is This

Preparation of the Gifts

- #616 Eye Has Not Seen
- #608 God Is Love
- #405 Hosea
- #504 I Have Loved You
- #846 Jesus, Heal Us
- #721 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
(Prayer of St. Francis)
- Pie Jesu – Maurice Fauré
- Pie Jesu – Andrew Lloyd Webber
- #847 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- #634 Shelter Me, O God
- #766 Steal Away to Jesus
- #617 There Is a Balm In Gilead
- #627 You Are Mine
- #590 You Are Near
- #578 We Remember

Psalms

- #20 Ps. 19: Lord, You Have the Words
- #23 Ps. 23: Shepherd Me, O God
- #24 Ps. 23: My Shepherd Is the Lord
- #26 Ps. 25: To You, O Lord
- #29 Ps. 27: The Lord Is My Light
- #44 Ps. 63: My Soul Is Thirsting
- #50 Ps. 91: Be With Me
- #58 Ps. 103: Lord Is Kind and Merciful
- #62 Ps. 116: The Name of God (refrain III)

Communion

- #817 All Who Hunger
- #824 Behold the Lamb
- #636 Blest Are They
- #798 Covenant Hymn
- #806 Eat This Bread
- #822 I Am the Bread of Life
- #835 I Myself Am the Bread of Life
- #696 Now We Remain
- #593 On Eagle's Wings
Panis Angelicus – C. Franck
- #819 In Remembrance of You
- #578 We Remember

Post-Communion (*optional*)

- Ave Maria – J.S. Bach / C. Gounod
#772 Ave Maria - Dan Kantor
Ave Maria – Luciano Reficé
Ave Maria – Franz Schubert
#779 Hail Mary; Gentle Women
#83 Holy Is Your Name – The Magnificat
(*Irish Traditional*)

***Incensing / Song of Farewell**

**(When body/remains is present.)*

- #862 Hand of God Shall Hold You, (*The*)
#865 In Paradisum - *in Latin*
#422 Jesus, Remember Me
#122 May the Angels Lead You Into
Paradise
How Bright Is The day

Recessional / Closing Hymn

- #586 Amazing Grace
#596 Be Not Afraid
#663 City of God
#798 Covenant Hymn
#489 Crown Him With Many Crowns
#791 For All the Saints
#520 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
(*tune: Ode to Joy*)
#519 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
#496 How Great Thou Art
#513 Want to Walk As a Child of the Light
#764 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
#632 Jesus, Lead the Way
#613 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
#847 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
#761 Shall We Gather At the River
#442 Sing With All the Saints In Glory
(*tune: Ode to Joy*)
#758 Soon and Very Soon
#760 Take Me Home
#762 We Shall Rise Again
#583 We Walk By Faith

Sacred Memories: Writing the Words of Remembrance for the Funeral Liturgy

To recall your memories of a loved one is a sacred task. Within the context of the funeral liturgy, the Words of Remembrance are meant to honor and reverence your loved ones lived journey of faith. It is a faith-based reflection—an opportunity to express how this person lived their baptismal call to love, serve justly, and walk humbly with God (Micah 8:8).

The Words of Remembrance you speak will allow those present at the funeral liturgy to understand how this person was a distinctive articulation of God's life in the world. It is an awesome responsibility to tell others about the unique creation of this individual.

As you begin the process of reflecting on and writing down these sacred memories, ask yourself the following questions:

- Who was this person... to me... to the family... to the Church... to the community...to the world?
- What did I most appreciate about my loved one? What did I learn/receive from him/her?
- What were the gifts and talents of my loved one? How were these used in the service of others?
- As you re/visit your memories of the person you loved., call to mind, if you can, an experience when your interaction with this person was particularly meaningful. What do you remember about this exchange?
- Where and how is the one you have lost still present in your life? In your friends and family? In the community? In the parish? In the world?
- Name the blessing of this person.

In preparing your Words of Remembrance, please keep in mind the prayerful attitude and the context of the Funeral Liturgy. You will, of course, have many memories of your loved one which you may wish to share with others, but which may be more appropriate to the time and the setting of a reception following the funeral, or a gathering of friends and family at a later time. Because the Words of Remembrance are shared in the context of extended prayer, several reminders will help you to tailor your writing in a manner befitting liturgy:

- The Words of Remembrance should not exceed a length of 2-3 double-spaced typed pages. This will ensure that your reflections will be spoken in approximately 3 or 4 minutes.
- Please type or write out your reflection.
- It will be very helpful for the presider to have a copy of the Words of Remembrance prior to the day of the funeral. This will help to prevent duplication between the Words of Remembrance and the homily. A copy can be delivered to the St. Francis Xavier Rectory by way of your funeral director, by dropping a copy off at the Rectory (124 N. Spring, LaGrange), or via the parish email sfxinlg@sfxlg.org. Please mark the subject line as Words Of Remembrance — Funeral of _____
- You may ask someone to stand with you as you read your reflection on your loved one's life. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to read because of your emotions, this individual could be able to continue reading the Words of Remembrance for you.

Please do not hesitate to call the Rectory at 708-352-0168 if you have any further questions or concerns.

St. Francis Xavier
Questions to reflect on the life of the Deceased

Who were the significant people in her/his life?

Was she/he involved in the life of the Church or Community in any way?

Were there any challenges that she/he overcame in life?

How important was work or hobbies or particular talents?

Was there any organizations or groups she/he was involved in?

What would she/he say would be a graced moment in their life?

Is there a particular story that would capture the personality of the deceased?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL or GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- 1.) For _____, whose endearing strengths as (husband/wife), (father/mother), (grandfather/grandmother) and friend may continue to be an example for all of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2.) For _____, that (he/she) enjoys the peace of the Lord and the happiness of joining (his/her) parents who have gone before (him/her), let us pray to the Lord.
- 3.) For _____, who always gave so generously of (himself/herself) with (his/her) courage, bravery, strength, and (his/her) love, that (he/she) will live forever in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4.) For _____, that (his/her) gifts of love and kindness, generosity, and humor may be instilled as values in our lives as well, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5.) For allowing us to have _____ in our lives that (he/she) is now at peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6.) For having walked with _____ on (his/her) journey, that we may hold close (his/her) love for life as we carry on, let us pray to the Lord.
- 7.) For _____, that (he/she) will be received into the kingdom of God with great joy and celebration, let us pray to the Lord.
- 8.) For _____, who has completed (his/her) mission on earth. May (he/she) now enjoy the peace of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.

FOR THE SPOUSE

- 9.) For _____'s (husband/wife), that the memories of their life together will be cherished, and take comfort in the fact that (he/she) was the light of (his/her) life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 10.) For _____'s (husband/wife) , that (he/she) may always hold _____ in (his/her) heart the memory of their life together, and take comfort in the fact that (he/she) was loved and cherished by (him/her), let us pray to the Lord.

FOR THE CHILDREN

- 11.) For _____'s children, that a strong devotion to God and family may always be present in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 12.) For _____'s children, that they may realize the joy they brought into _____'s life and take comfort in knowing (he/she) is at peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 13.) For _____'s children, that (his/her) gifts of love and kindness, generosity and integrity, may be instilled as values in their own lives, and that they will always be comforted by these gift, let us pray to the Lord.
- 14.) For _____'s children, that the traditions (he/she) handed down to them will always keep them close, let us pray to the Lord.

FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

15.) For _____'s grandchildren (and great grandchildren), that the stories and good times (he/she) shared with them will always be their happiest memories, let us pray to the Lord.

16.) For _____'s most treasured and precious family, that the Lord will give them strength and courage during this time of sorrow, let us pray to the Lord.

17.) For the loving family of _____. That they may be comforted by Jesus as they mourn their beloved, let us pray to the Lord.

18.) For _____'s (father/mother, (brother/sister), that they will find consolation in knowing that _____ has found relief from (his/her) pain and is at peace in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.

19.) For all of _____'s family and friends who gave their enduring love, support and care to (him/her) during (his/her) illness, let us pray to the Lord.

FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

20.) That all (fathers/mothers) share the commitment to their family as _____did to (his/her), let us pray to the Lord.

21.) For all of you here, family and friends. We ask God to bless each one of you and keep you close to Him always, let us pray to the Lord.

22.) For all our friends at St. Francis Xavier who have been a support to _____and our family during these past months, let us pray to the Lord.

23.) For the church, that we its members always proclaim eternal life in the face of death, let us pray to the Lord.

FOR THE MILITARY AND THOSE WHO SERVE

24.) For world peace and the safety of our men and women serving in our military and for their families, let us pray to the Lord.

25.) For all those who are dedicated to protecting us and securing our safety, let us pray to the Lord.

FOR THE SICK

26.) For all the sick and suffering, that they may find support, friendship and safety in knowing that God loves them, let us pray to the Lord.

27.) For all those who suffer from _____, that they well be able to cope and that their families will find the strength to unite with them in their struggle, let us pray to the Lord.

28.) For all the sick and the lonely, that they know the healing touch of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

29.) For all the sick and the dying, that God may grant them patience and strength in all of their trials, let us pray to the Lord.

**FOR THOSE WHO ASSISTED DURING
ILLNESS/CAREGIVERS**

30.) For all who gave care and comfort to ____during (his/her) long illness, that God may reward them for their wonderful dedication, let us pray to the Lord.

31.) For caretakers of the sick who are blessed with compassion, let us pray to the Lord.

FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

32.) For all the deceased members of our families, that they will be rewarded with the fullness of eternal life and live forever with the angels and saints in the house of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

33.) For all the departed, that they are cherished in the eternal embrace of God, who is all gentleness and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.

34.) For all the deceased members of our families, especially _____ that they too may be celebrating with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

Old Testament

1

A reading from the Book of Job

19:1, 23-27a

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead
they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him;

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

{Pause, then say:}

The Word of the Lord.

2

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

3:1-6,9

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.

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.

{Pause, then say:}

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

4:7-8

The just, though they 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.

Those who pleased God are indeed loved:
 those who lived among sinners are transported—
 Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert their mind
 or deceit beguile their soul;

Having become perfect in a short while,
 they reached the fullness of a long career;
 for their soul was pleasing to the Lord,
 therefore God took them to Himself.

But the people saw and did not understand.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

25:6a, 7-9

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!”

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

3:1-14

There is an appointed time for everything,
 and a time for every thing under the heavens.
 A time to be born, and a time to die;
 a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
 A time to kill, and a time to heal;
 a time to tear down, and a time to build.
 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 his toil?
 I have considered the task that God has appointed
 for the daughters and sons of men to be busied about.
 He has made everything appropriate to its time,
 and has put the timeless into their hearts,
 without our ever discovering,
 from beginning to end, the work which God has done.
 I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do
 well during life. For every person, moreover, to eat and drink and enjoy the fruit of
 all his labor is a gift of God.
 I recognized that whatever God does will endure forever.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

31: 10-31

Valiant woman! Who shall find her?
 More precious than every treasure Is she who fears the Lord.
 She brings forth good, not evil
 Throughout her fruitful life. Her hands go out in service
 To needy and to poor. She is clothed with strength and dignity,
 She can smile at days to come.

When she speaks it is with wisdom,
 On her tongue is kindly truth.
 Her loved ones stand to praise her,
 This woman of the Lord.

"Many are the women of proven worth,
 But you have excelled them all."
 Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
 Give her a reward of her labors,
 And let her works praise her at the city gates.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

6:5, 14-17

A kindly turn of speech multiplies friends,
 and a courteous way of speaking invited many a friendly reply.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter, whoever finds one has found a rare treasure.

A faithful friend is beyond price, there is no measuring their worth.

A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, and those who fear the Lord will find one.

Those who fear the Lord make true friends, for their friends will be like themselves.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

New Testament

8

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-36, 42-43

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

5:5-11

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we 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 were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

5:17-21

Brothers and sisters: If, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification

come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

6:3-5, 8-9

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

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.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

8:14-23

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,

but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, *Abba*, “Father!”

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit

that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation

the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;

and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

{Pause, then say:}

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

8:31b-35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us?
 He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all,
 will he not also give us everything else along with him?
 Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
 It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn?
 It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God,
 who 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.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

14:7-9, 10c-12

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself,
 and no one dies for oneself.
 For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord;
 so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
 For this is why Christ died and came to life,
 that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
 Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother?
 For we shall all stand before the 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.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

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

15:20-23

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 a 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.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

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

15:51-57

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 an eye, at the last trumpet.
 For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible,
 and we shall be changed.
 For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
 and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.
 And when 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.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

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

4:14—5:1

Brothers and sisters: We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus
 will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence.
 Everything indeed is for you,
 so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the
 thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.
 Therefore, we are not discouraged;
 rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
 our inner self is being renewed day by day.
 For this momentary light affliction
 is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
 as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen;
 for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

5:1, 6:10

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

We are always courageous,
 although we know that while we are at home in the body
 we 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.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

3:20-21

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,

and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body

to conform with his glorified Body

by the power that enables him also

to bring all things into subjection to himself.

{Pause, then say:}

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

4:4-9

Farewell: I wish all of you joy in the Lord. I will say it again: May all joy be yours! Let your generosity be clear to everyone.

And now, my family, all that is true, all that is noble, all that is just and pure, all that is lovable and gracious, whatever is excellent and admirable -- fill all your thoughts with these things. The lessons I taught you, the traditions I have passed on, all that you heard me say or saw me do put into practice; and the God of peace will be with you.

{Pause, then say:}

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, 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.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

2:8-13

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him;

if we persevere we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

3:1-2

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.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

3:14-16

Beloved:

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

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life
remaining in him.

The way we came to know love
was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

21:1-5a. 6b-7

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
 The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
 and the sea was no more.
 I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
 coming down out of heaven from God,
 prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
 I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
 “Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
 He will dwell with them and they will be his people
 and God himself will always be with them as their God.
 He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
 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.”

{Pause, then say:}

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this:
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”

“Yes,” said the Spirit, “let them find rest from their labors,
for their works accompany them.”

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

4:6-8

I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.
From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will
award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his
appearance.

{Pause, then say:} The Word of the Lord.

Gospels

28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

11:25-30

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’ While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep
from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my
Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation
of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you drink?’

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?
When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

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

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed,
into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty
and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and
you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’

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

He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these
least ones, you did not do for me.’

And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

7:11-17

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her,

“Do not weep.” He stepped forward and touched the coffin;

at this the bearers halted, and he said, “Young man, I tell you, arise!”

The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, “A great prophet has arisen in our midst,” and “God has visited his people.”

This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples: “Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.

Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,

have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.

And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants.

Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

24:13-16, 28-35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

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

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

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

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

5:24-29

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

For just as the Father has life in himself,

so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself.

And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out,

those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life,

but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowds:

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

And this is the will of the one who sent me,

that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,

that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:51-59

Jesus said to the crowds:
“I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give is my Flesh
for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,
“How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them,
“Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood,
you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood
has eternal life,
and I will raise him on the last day.

For my Flesh is true food,
and my Blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood
remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me
and I have life because of the Father,
so also the one who feeds on me
will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven.
Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,
whoever who eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

11:17-27

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

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

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

11:32-45

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.’ ”But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?” So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her,

“Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.

So Jesus said to the crowd, “Untie him and let him go. ”Now many of Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

12:23-26

Jesus said to his disciples: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life will lose it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples:
 “Do not let your hearts be troubled.
 You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
 If there were not,
 would I have told you
 that I am going to prepare a place for you?
 And if I go and prepare a place for you,
 I will come back again and take you to myself,
 so that where I am you also may be.
 Where I am going you know the way.”
 Thomas said to him,
 “Master, we do not know where you are going;
 how can we know the way?”
 Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.
 No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

17:24-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
 “Father, those whom you gave me are your gift to me.
 I wish that where I am they also may be with me,
 that they may see my glory that you gave me,
 because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
 Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,
 but I know you, and they know that you sent me.
 I made known to them your name and I will make it known,
 that the love with which you loved me
 may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.