

## **FUNERAL READINGS**

Selecting Scripture passages plays an important part in the planning of a Funeral Mass, for we know that God gives us the words to say when no words can be found. For this reason, the Word of God is at the heart of the funeral liturgy that we might view this experience of death in light of the resurrection of the body to come.

To make this easier for the family, the Catholic Church has pre-selected a number of Biblical passages which are appropriate for the occasion of a funeral. Please look over these passages as part of your funeral preparations, and select those readings which speak most to you in this time. You should select one Old Testament reading, and one New Testament reading.

# **Old Testament Readings**

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,  
took up a collection among all his soldiers,  
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,  
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.  
In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,  
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;  
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,  
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.  
But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward  
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,  
it was a holy and pious thought.  
Thus he made atonement for the dead  
that they might be freed from this sin.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,

and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

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

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

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.

Short Version: #3

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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and no torment shall touch them.  
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and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
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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.

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.

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.



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.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned  
and heard this word of the Lord:

At that time there shall arise  
Michael, the great prince,  
guardian of your people;

It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress  
since nations began until that time.

At that time your people shall escape,  
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;  
Some shall live forever,  
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly  
like the splendor of the firmament,

And those who lead the many to justice  
shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

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

The Word of the Lord.

# 9

Isaiah 43: 1-3a

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

But now, thus says the Lord,  
who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through waters, I will be with you;  
through rivers, you shall not be swept away.  
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned,  
nor will flames consume you.  
For I, the Lord, am your God.  
The Holy One of Israel, your savior.

The word of the Lord.

## # 10

Isaiah 40: 28-31

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.  
He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.  
Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

The word of the Lord

## A reading from the Book of Sirach

My son, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in time of adversity. Cling to him, forsake him not; thus will your future be great.

Accept whatever befalls you, in crushing misfortune be patient. For in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation. Trust God and he will help you; make straight your ways and hope in him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy, turn not away lest you fall. You who fear the Lord, trust Him, and your reward will not be lost. You who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.

Study the generations long past and understand; has anyone hoped in the Lord and been disappointed? Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken? Has anyone called upon Him and been rebuffed?

Compassionate and merciful is the Lord; he forgives sins, he saves in time of trouble.

The word of the Lord.

## #12

Sirach 3: 5-9a, 10-11a, 13-15

### A reading from the Book of Sirach

He who honors his father is gladdened by children,  
and when he prays he is heard.

He who reveres his father will live a long life;  
he obeys the Lord who brings comfort to his mother.

He who fears the Lord honors his father, and serves his parents.

In word and deed honor your father, that his blessing may come upon you.

For a father's blessing gives a family firm roots;

glory not in your father's shame, for his shame is no glory to you!

His father's honor is a man's glory;

my son, take care of your father when he is old;

grieve him not as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fail, be considerate with him;

revile him not in the fullness of your strength.

For kindness to a father will not be forgotten;

it will serve as a sin offering, it will take lasting root.

In time of tribulation it will be recalled to your advantage,

like warmth upon frost it will melt away your sins.

The word of the Lord.

## A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far 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 obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.  
Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar.  
She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household.  
She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.  
She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms.  
She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed.  
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.  
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 clad.  
She is clothed with strength and dignity; 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 fears the Lord 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



A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

You will seek me, and when you seek me with your whole heart,  
you will find me.

You will pray to me, and I will listen to you.

I know the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for  
misfortune,  
plans that will give you a future full of hope.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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.

**#16**

Sirach 18:9-12

A reading from the Book of Sirach

The sum of a person's days is great if it reaches a hundred years:

Like a drop of sea water, like a grain of sand,  
So are these few years among the days of eternity:

That is why the Lord is patient with us and showers upon us His mercy.

The Lord sees and understands that our death is precious, so He forgives us all the more.

The word of the Lord

# **New Testament Readings**

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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 were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his

Blood,

will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies,

we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,

how much more, once reconciled,

will we be saved by his life.

Not only that,

but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

The word of the Lord.

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.

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.

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,  
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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.



A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

but you received a spirit of adoption,

through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit

that we are children of God,

and if children, then heirs,

heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,

if only we suffer with him

so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing

compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation

the revelation of the children of God;

for creation was made subject to futility,

not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,

in hope that creation itself

would be set free from slavery to corruption

and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

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

and not only that, but we ourselves,

who have the first fruits of the Spirit,

we also groan within ourselves

as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

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.

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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

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

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,

the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,

the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die,

so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,

but each one in proper order:

Christ the firstfruits;

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

then comes the end,

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

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death,

for "he subjected everything under his feet."

But when it says that everything has been subjected,

it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.

When everything is subjected to him,

then the Son himself will also be subjected

to the one who subjected everything to him,

so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Short Version: # 7

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 firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,  
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die,  
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,  
but each one in proper order:  
Christ the first fruits;  
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

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 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.

The word of the Lord.

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

Brothers and sisters:

Knowing 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.

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.



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.

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.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

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.

The word of the Lord.

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.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, he who in his great mercy gave us new birth; a birth unto hope which draws its life from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; a birth to an imperishable inheritance incapable of fading or defilement, which is kept in heaven for you who are guarded with God's power through faith; a birth to a salvation which stands ready to be revealed in the last days.

There is cause for rejoicing here. You may for a time have to suffer the distress of many trials; but this is so that your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuineness lead to praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ appears.

Although you have never seen him, you love him, and without seeing you believe in him, and rejoice with the inexpressible joy touched with glory because you are achieving faith's goal, your salvation.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Dismiss anxiety from your minds. Rather, present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond our understanding will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus.

Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is deserving of respect, whatever is honest, whatever is pure, whatever is virtuous whatever is worthy of praise – think on these things.

Live according to what you have learned from me and accepted, what you have heard me say and seen me do.

Then will the God of peace be with you.

The word of the Lord.

**#18**

1 John 4: 7-12

A reading from the First Letter of John

My dear People, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world His only Son so that we could have life through Him;

This is the love I mean; not our love for God, but God's love for us when He sent His Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another.

No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and His love will be complete in us.

The word of the Lord.



A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

We do speak a wisdom to those who are mature,  
but not a wisdom of this age,  
nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away.

Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden,  
which God predetermined before the ages for our glory,  
and which none of the rulers of this age knew;  
for if they had know it,  
they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written:

“What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,  
and what has not entered the human heart,  
what God has prepared for those who love him,”  
this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

For the Spirit scrutinizes everything,  
even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury.

It does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

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

Love never fails.

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

The Word of the Lord.

# **Easter Season**

**(Easter Season) New Testament**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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,  
what has happened all over Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism  
that John preached,  
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the Holy Spirit and power.

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

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

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

(Easter Season)

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The word of the Lord.

(Easter Season)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this:

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," said the Spirit,

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

The word of the Lord.

(Easter Season)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence

and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne,

and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds,

by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead;

then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life

was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,

and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord.

(Easter Season)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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."

The word of the Lord.