



ST. SEBASTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

9408 Wilson Ave SW | Byron Center, MI 49315

Parish Office: 616.878.1619

Parish Website: stsebastianmi.org

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Pastor: Msgr. Rev William H. Duncan

A Prayer for a Happy Death

O God, great and omnipotent judge of the living and the dead, we are to appear before you after this short life to render an account of our works. Give us the grace to prepare for our last hour by a devout and holy life, and protect us against a sudden and unprovided death. Let us remember our frailty and mortality, that we may always live in the ways of your commandments. Teach us to "watch and pray" (Lk 21:36), that when your summons comes for our departure from this world, we may go forth to meet you, experience a merciful judgment, and rejoice in everlasting happiness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Business Manager

Sue Rose

Sue@stsebastianmi.org

616-878-1619, ext 101

Please call if you are interested in a cemetery plot

Funeral Coordinator:

Dianna Rottiers

Dianna@stsebastianmi.org

616-450-4478

Music Director:

Craig Swatt

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502-592-1114

Help for Pre-Planning a Funeral Liturgy



Dear Friend,

Pre-Planning your funeral liturgy is a gift to your family and friends.

We all know that in the wake of death, there are so many arrangements to be organized, details to be considered, decisions to be made. You are being proactive in helping with some of those daunting tasks by getting your preferences down on paper ahead of time. Not only are you conveying your wishes but you are also relieving your family of that burden. Your family will thank you posthumously!

Another benefit of pre-planning is that your funeral liturgy becomes a true reflection of you! Your life and message will shine forth in your choices for the Scripture readings and songs. When it comes to your funeral liturgy, there will be no doubt as to what you would want; you've made the choices already. You can personalize it further by choosing who will read and lead the Prayer of the Faithful.

Pre-planning your funeral liturgy gives your family time and space to focus on supporting each other in their grief in your absence. Please let us know if we can help!

In Christ,

St. Sebastian Parish Staff

How to use this document

There are resources provided for choosing Scriptures and Music for the funeral Mass. Pages 3 & 4 are provided for you to fill in your selections. Popular Old Testament options for the 1st Reading begin on page 6, New Testament options for the 2nd Reading begin on page 10. You can also provide a suggestion for the Gospel Reading for the priest's consideration and you will find those suggestions beginning on page 16. Music selections are explained on page 25. Feel free to use the note pages to jot down personal information, memories, requests. We'd be happy to keep a copy of your funeral liturgy plan on file in the parish office.

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St. Sebastian Catholic Church

RITE OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS: PRE-PLANNING GUIDE

Personal Information

Planning for:			
Nick Name:			
Birthdate:			
Maiden Name:			
Spouse:		Phone:	
Children:			
Siblings:			

Notes about your faith life:

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Sacramental Information

Parish of Baptism:		Church/City	
Father:			
Mother (Maiden Name):			
1st Communion:			
Confirmation:			
Marriage Date:			
To Whom:			

Funeral Home

Funeral Home:		Location:	
Director		Phone:	
Cremation?			
Visitation?			
Vigil?			
Cemetery?			

The Funeral Liturgy			
Reading I OT			
Reader:			
Responsorial Psalm			
Reading II NT			
Reader:			
Gospel			
Prayer of the Faithful:			
Remembrance/Remarks After Communion (Who?):			
RITE OF COMMITTAL			
Cemetery:			
Notes for Committal:			
Music Selections			
Pianist:		Cantor:	
Prelude:			
Processional Hymn:			
Responsorial Psalm:			
Offertory Hymn:			
Communion Hymn:			
Communion Meditation:			
Recessional Hymn:			
Music Notes:			

St. Sebastian Church Funeral Music Suggestions

Please choose 1 of the following Psalms:

Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God - G3 #35 (Psalm, Communion)

Psalm 25: To You, O Lord - G3 #39 (Psalm)

Psalm 91: Be With Me - G3 #65 (Psalm)

Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful - G3 #75 (Psalm)

Psalm 63: My Soul is Thirsting - G3 #55 (Psalm)

Please choose 4 songs,

please note appropriate place in the Funeral Liturgy in ().

Amazing Grace - G3 #645 (Gathering, Preparation, Communion, Closing)

Be Not Afraid - G3 #683 (Gathering, Communion, Closing)

It is Well with My Soul - Sheet Music (Gathering, Closing)

I Am the Bread of Life - G3# 945 (Gathering, Communion, Closing)

How Great Thou Art - #G3 578 (Communion, Closing)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say - G3 #724 (Gathering)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand - G3 #955 (Preparation)

On Eagle's Wings - G3 #691 (Gathering, Communion, Closing)

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace - G3 #828 (Preparation)

Sing With All the Saints in Glory - G3 #539 Gathering, Closing)

Soon and Very Soon - G3 #865 (Closing)

There is a Balm in Gilead - G3 #640 (Preparation)

You are Near - G3 #695 (Gathering, Communion)

Eye Has Not Seen - G3 #728 (Preparation)

Here I Am, Lord - G3 #777 (Gathering, Communion, Closing)

Take and Eat - G3 # 950 (Communion)

Eat This Bread - G3 #941 (Communion)

Softly and Tenderly - G3 #963 (Preparation, Communion, Closing)

Taste and See - G3 #930 (Communion)

The Strife is O'er - G3 #525 (Closing)

How Can I Keep from Singing #685 (Closing)

City of God - G3 #766 (Closing)

The Summons - G3 #790 (Preparation, Communion, Closing)

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory - G3 #985 (Closing)

In the Garden - Sheet Music (Gathering, Preparation)

Optional Marian Devotional:(Post Communion)

Ave Maria - Sheet Music - Schubert or Bach/Gounod

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman - G3 #889

Hail Holy Queen - G3 #879

Gospel Readings

G 19 – John 19:17-18, 25-39

And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine.

So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the Spirit.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately Blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:

Not a bone of it will be broken.

And again another passage says:

Gospel Readings

They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the Body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it.

So he came and took his Body.

Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.

The Gospel of the Lord.

NOTES

Old Testament Readings

OT 1 – 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

He acted in an excellent and noble way
as he had the resurrection of the dead in
view.

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 a 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 their sin.

The word of the Lord.

OT 2 - Job 19:1, 23-27

I know that my Vindicator lives.

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.

Old Testament Readings

OT 3 [Longer Form] - Wisdom 3:1-9

As sacrificial offerings he took them to
himself.

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 from
us, utter destruction.
But they are at 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 the 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.

OT 3 [Shorter Form] - Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

As sacrificial offerings he took them to
himself.

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 from
us, utter destruction.
But they are at 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.

Gospel Readings

mains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it
produces much fruit.
Whoever loves his life loses 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.
I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?
'Father, save me from this hour?'
But it was for this purpose that I came to
this hour.
Father, glorify your name."
Then a voice came from heaven, "I have
glorified it and will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 16 [Shorter Form] – John 12:23-26

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and
dies, it yields a rich harvest

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

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 re-
mains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it
produces much fruit.
Whoever loves his life loses 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.

G 17 – John 14:1-6

In my Father's house there are many dwell-
ings

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Gospel Readings

You have faith in God; have faith also in
me.
In my Father's house there are many dwell-
ing 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 my-
self, 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.

G 18 – John 17:24-26

I wish that where I am they also may be
with me

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

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.

Gospel Readings

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.

G 14 [Shorter Form] – John 11:21-27

I am the resurrection and the life

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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

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

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if 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.

G 15 – John 11:32-45

Lazarus, come out!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother

Gospel Readings

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 the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 16 [Longer Form] – John 12:23-28

If it dies, it produces much fruit

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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 re-

Old Testament Readings

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.

OT 4 – Wisdom 4:7-15

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

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 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.

OT 5 - Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

He will destroy death forever.

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;

Old Testament Readings

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.

OT 6 - Lamentations 3:17-26

It is good to wait in silence for the saving help 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.

Old Testament Readings

OT 7 - Daniel 12:1-3

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

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.

OT 8 - Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised

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.

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.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Old Testament Readings

Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

OT 9 - Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

There is an appointed time for everything

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 sow; 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 of which God has appointed men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

G 11 - John 5:24-29

Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to 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 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.

G 12 - John 6:37-40

Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowd: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

G 13 - John 6:51-58

Whoever eats this bread will live forever, And I will raise them up on the last day

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowd: "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 eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 14 [Longer Form] - John 11:17-27

I am the resurrection and the life

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away, 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.

Gospel Readings

They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

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

Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

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

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

But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

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

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

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

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

G 10 [Shorter Form] – Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

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

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

So he went in to stay with them.

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

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

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

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

OT 10 – Song of Songs 2:8-14

My lover speaks; he bids me to rise and come

A reading from the Song of Solomon.

Hark! My lover – here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices.

My lover speaks; he says to me:

"Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!"

For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth, the time of pruning the vines has come, and the song of the dove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines in bloom, give forth fragrance.

Arise my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!"

"O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff, let me see you, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and you are lovely."

The Word of the Lord.

OT 11 – Song of Songs 8:6-7

Love is blazing as fire

A reading from the Song of Solomon.

Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; for stern as death is love, relentless as the nether world is devotion; its flames are blazing fire.

Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.

Were one to offer all he owns to purchase love, he would be roundly mocked.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings

OT 12 – Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

A father

A Reading from the Book of Sirach (3:2-6, 12-14)

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.

Whoever honors his father atones for sins,

and preserves himself from them.

When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother.

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

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

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 of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you.

The Word of the Lord.

In the Season of Easter

Act of the Apostles 10:34-43

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

Revelation 14:13

Revelation 20:11-21:1

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

New Testament Readings

NT 1 [Longer Form] - Acts 10:34-43
(Easter)

**God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone,
alive and dead**

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 Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of all; what has happened all, 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 to all he did both in the land 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.

NT 1 [Shorter Form] - Acts 10:34-36, 42-43
(During Easter Time)

**God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone,
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New Testament Readings

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The Word of the Lord.

NT 2 – Revelation 14:13 (Easter)

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John, heard a voice from heaven saying, *"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.

NT 3 – Revelation 20:11-21:1 (Easter)

The dead were judged according to their deeds

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.

(The pool of fire is the second death.)

{read this line}

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into this pool of fire.

Gospel Readings

sponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said, "Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 9 [Longer Form] – Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until about three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus.

After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

At daybreak on the first day of the week the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.

They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

G 9 [Shorter Form] – Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53

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After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 10 [Longer Form] – Luke 24:13-35

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?"

They stopped, looking downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

Gospel Readings

G 5 [Shorter Form] – Mark 15:33-39

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah."

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 6 – Luke 7:11-17

Young man, I tell you, arise!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

Gospel Readings

whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 7 – Luke 12:35-40

You must also be prepared

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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 at 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.

G 8 – Luke 23:33, 39-43

Today you will be with me in paradise

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When the soldiers came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us."

The other man, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, For you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corre-

New Testament Readings

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.

NT 4 – Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 (During Easter Time)

There shall be no more death

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 a 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 shall be his people and God himself will always 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 victors will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son."

The Word of the Lord.

NT 5 – Romans 5:5-11

Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath

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

Brothers and sisters:

Hope will not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, died

New Testament Readings

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 God's 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 boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 6 – Romans 5:17-21

Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more

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 one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of 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.

New Testament Readings

NT 7 [Longer Form] – Romans 6:3-9
We too might live in newness of life

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.

NT 7 [Shorter Form] – Romans 6:3-4, 8-9
We too might live in newness of life

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NT 8 – Romans 8:14-23
We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies

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 the present 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.

NT 9 – Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39
What will separate us from the love of Christ?

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 any charge against God's

Gospel Readings

G 4 – Matthew 25:31-46
Come, you who are blessed by my father

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.

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

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

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a 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 come to 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.

Gospel Readings

G 5 [Longer Form] – Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6
Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah."

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome brought spices so that they might go and anoint him.

Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large.

On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

G 1 – Matthew 5:1-12a

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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 shall be comforted.

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

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

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

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

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall 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 slander against you because of me.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 2 – Matthew 11:25-30

Come to me and I will give you rest

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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 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 but the Son and anyone to whom the Son

Gospel Readings

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 is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 3 – Matthew 25:1-13

Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

New Testament Readings

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.

NT 10 – Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's

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 to the Lord, and when 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.

New Testament Readings

NT 11 [Longer Form] – 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life

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 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 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 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.

NT 11 [Shorter Form] – 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life

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

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The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

NT 12 – 1 Corinthians 15:51-57
Death is swallowed up in victory

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 will 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.

NT 13 – 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1
What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal

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 to 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

New Testament Readings

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.

NT 14 – 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10
We have a building from God, eternal in heaven

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.

NT 15 – Philippians 3:20-21
He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory

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.

New Testament Readings

NT 16 – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Thus we shall always be with 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 live, 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 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.

NT 17 – 2 Timothy 2:8-13
If we have died with him, we shall also live with him

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT 18 – 1 John 3:1-2
We shall see him as he is

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.

NT 19 – 1 John 3:14-16
We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers

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 Jesus laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The Word of the Lord.