

## TWENTY THIRD PSALM

*The Lord is my shepherd,  
I shall not want; he makes me  
lie down in green pastures.*

*He leads me beside still  
waters; he restores my soul.*

*Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of  
my life; and I shall dwell in the  
house of the Lord forever.*

## **IN YOUR GRIEF...**

It is our hope that this booklet will help you create a funeral liturgy that is a reflection of your loved one and a comfort to you in your sorrow.

The funeral liturgy reflects our Christian belief that death is not an end but a beginning. The prayers, blessings, readings and songs offer comfort and hope in the midst of our tears because during the liturgy we recall Jesus' victory over death and our share in that resurrection.

*Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single grain;  
but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

*John 12:24*

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***Saint Anselm Church  
Bereavement Ministry***

*12969 Chillicothe Road  
Chesterland, Ohio 44026  
(440) 729-9575*



*Please feel free to keep this brochure for future reference. Do not  
hesitate to call the office if you have any questions at 729-9575.*

Revised 3/12

## **YOUR FUNERAL QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

### ***WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM THE CHURCH?***

All the baptized are entitled to the full Rite of Christian Burial. You and the members of your family will experience the Rite of Christian Burial in three distinct and important gatherings.

1. The Wake or Vigil. This will take place during the visiting hours at the funeral home. A Parish Priest will lead a prayer service at the funeral home.

2. The Funeral Liturgy is the centerpiece of these Rites. This will take place at the church and is usually, but not necessarily, celebrated in the context of the Mass. The bodily remains of the Christian are honored by being brought to the parish church. The memory of the deceased is joined to the greater mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

3. The Committal takes place at the cemetery of your choosing and concludes the prayerful respect given to the body of all Christian people. This graveside service brings closure to the Rite of Christian Burial.

### ***SAINT ANSELM MEMORIAL BUFFET***

A memorial buffet held at the parish office building is offered to families of deceased parishioners after the burial. You will be contacted by a representative of the parish to ask if you wish to have a memorial buffet. They will ask for the approximate number of people who will be attending the buffet and will handle all details including setting up and cleaning up. The buffet consists of a cold meat tray, hot or cold side dishes, pastry and dessert, coffee, tea, pop (No alcoholic beverages are allowed). Parish volunteers prepare the food and serve it. There is no charge for this buffet. Some people wish to make an offering, however, and this can be done at your discretion to the parish office.

## **LITURGY PLANNING SHEET**

Please fill out the form with the person who is helping you to plan the liturgy. They will make sure that the proper persons are notified so that your plans can be carried out.

This information must be presented to the priest, musicians, etc. the day before the funeral in order for them to prepare. Therefore, it is essential that this sheet be given as soon as possible to the person helping you to plan the liturgy.

If you anticipate less than 25 people after the funeral, volunteers will simply bring food to your house for you to serve. The volunteers will not bring coffee or other beverages or plates, cups, napkins, or condiments.

### **HOW CAN THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS BE INVOLVED AT THE FUNERAL?**

Choosing the scripture to be read at church, reading the scripture, placing the white pall and other religious symbols on the casket, serving as casket-bearers, and presenting the gifts of bread and wine are the most appropriate ways of involving loved ones. Our bereavement minister will be contacting you to help assist you in all these areas.

The practice of offering a “eulogy” is normally not part of the Funeral Liturgy. Such meaningful tributes are best incorporated into the vigil or wake service at the funeral home.

### ***WHEN AND WHERE CAN WE HAVE A FUNERAL LITURGY?***

A funeral, according to the teaching of the Church in our diocese, may be celebrated on any day of the Church year except for Sundays or a Holy Day. In the past funerals were often celebrated in the funeral home (especially if the deceased was not particularly active in the Church). Today, however, it is preferred that the funeral liturgy of all Christians take place in the parish church even if Mass is not celebrated. If cremation is to take place, it should follow the liturgy at church.

### **LOCAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS**

St. Anselm  
12969 Chillicothe Road  
Chesterland, Ohio 44026  
When: Spring and Fall  
Contact: Saint Anselm (440)729-9575  
Saint Francis (440)461-1494

St. Francis of Assisi  
6850 Mayfield Road  
Gates Mills, Ohio 44040  
When: Spring and Fall (six week sessions with themes)  
Contact: Suzanne Harff Phone: (440)338-8707

St. Joan of Arc Church,  
496 East Washington St.  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio  
When: Spring and Fall (six sessions with themes)  
Contact: Nancy Kerwin Phone: (440)946-0887

St. Noel Church, 35200 Chardon Road  
Willoughby Hills, Ohio  
When: Spring and Fall (13 week sessions)  
Contact: Betsy Phone: 729-4006

Hospice of Western Reserve, 5786 Heisley Road  
Mentor, Ohio  
When: 6 week sessions and monthly meetings  
Contact: The Bereavement Center Phone: (440)486-6838

All Souls Cemetery, 10366 Chardon Road, Chardon, Ohio  
When: Every Third Sunday 3:00-4:00PM  
Contact: Steven Malec Phone: (216)429-2159 Ext. 16

St. Helen Church, 12060 Kinsman Road, Newbury, Ohio  
When: November and May (six week sessions)  
Phone: (440)564-5805

## *Appropriate Hymns*

Song	Number in Breaking Bread
Amazing Grace	BB424
Be Not Afraid	BB426
Eye Has Not Seen	BB492
For All The Saints	BB739
Gift of Finest Wheat	BB327
How Great Thou Art	BB418
I Am the Bread of Life	BB343
Let There Be Peace On Earth	BB510
On Eagle's Wings	BB433
One Bread, One Body	BB357
Only In God	BB440
Prayer of St. Francis	BB508
The Strife is O'er	BB603

*You should not feel compelled to pick music. If you wish, the musicians who have a wealth of knowledge regarding appropriate funeral hymns will be happy to choose the hymns for you.*

## *Responsorial Psalms*

Psalm	Psalm No.	Number in Breaking Bread
Shepherd Me, O God	23	BB497
The Lord is My Light and My Salvation	27	
The Lord is Kind and Merciful	103	BB486

## ***HOW MUCH DOES A FUNERAL COST?***

All parishioners of St. Anselm Church are entitled to the full range of ministries and services of our parish without charge. The funeral ministry of our parish is offered to all those requesting it.

Some people, nonetheless, do wish to make an offering to the Church or to reimburse the parish for the cost of the organist. The amount of any offering would be at your discretion and can be made through the funeral director or given directly to the priest.

## ***WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE MASS OFFERINGS?***

Mass intention money for the deceased can be presented to our parish or any parish church. We would be happy to assist you in making arrangements for these masses.

Other moneys and offerings are also welcomed as contributions to our parish and enable us to purchase sacred vessels, vestments, flowers, and other altar items needed. We discourage the individual purchase of memorial vessels and vestments. Much of what is purchased by individual families cannot be appropriately used within our parish due to sheer duplication of items. The parish office can provide you with information about the ST. ANSELM MEMORIAL FUND.

## ***WHAT ABOUT AFTER THE FUNERAL?***

Weeks, and perhaps months after the funeral, many people who are grieving often find that it is helpful to talk. A member of the St. Anselm Bereavement Committee will remain in contact with you to offer support. In addition, a list of local grief support groups is inserted at the conclusion of this booklet. Finally, you and your family will be invited to our annual Memorial Liturgy on All Souls' Day. At this time, your loved one and all of our deceased parishioners will be remembered in a special way.

## **WHAT ABOUT CREMATION?**

The preferred church practice is celebration of the Funeral Liturgy with the body, and then the burial in the ground or entombment. Cremation, however, is permitted when requested, if the reasons are consistent with Catholic teaching (economic, geographic). Reason contrary to Catholic teaching would be “no belief in the Resurrection”. Celebration of the liturgy may take place with the body and cremation afterward. This is the desired practice. Celebration of the liturgy may also take place without the body with cremation taking place before the liturgy. Celebration may take place with the ashes which are placed in a worthy vessel. The vessel containing the cremains is placed on a table or stand in the church, in the place normally reserved for the coffin.

It is recommended that cremation take place following the funeral liturgy. In such a case, a priest will accompany the cremains to the cemetery for a proper committal after cremation.

All Christians, including those who are cremated, are to be buried immediately after the funeral service in consecrated or blessed ground/tomb. The practice of dividing, scattering, or keeping ashes at home is not in keeping with the Church’s teaching.

## **ARE PRE-ARRANGEMENTS BINDING UPON THE CHURCH?**

You may be dealing with some special requests of your deceased loved one concerning the wake and funeral. The parish together with the funeral director will do its best to comply with such requests.

It is important to keep in mind, however, that any requests made by the deceased that do not respect the Rites and traditions of the Church may have to be compromised.

## **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

### *At the End of a Long Life*

- K.** For \_\_\_\_\_ who lived life to the full and now stands in your presence.
- L.** For \_\_\_\_\_ and all the family members that their pain be eased, and that all of the family be joined once again in your kingdom.
- M.** For caregivers, nurses and all who give of their time and energy to minister to the elderly.
- N.** For all who grow old in loneliness, that your loving presence be a comfort.

### *At the End of a Long Illness*

- O.** For \_\_\_\_\_ whose pain has now ended, may he/she be renewed in everlasting life.
- P.** For the family who took care and kept vigil throughout his/her illness.
- Q.** For the nurses and physicians whose efforts made \_\_\_\_\_ comfortable.
- R.** For ourselves as we struggle with the mystery of suffering, that we may come to understanding through faith.

### *At the Death of a Young Person*

- S.** For \_\_\_\_\_, child of God, that he/she be held securely in God’s loving embrace now and for all eternity, we pray to the Lord. R: Lord, hear our prayer.
- T.** For \_\_\_\_\_’s family, especially his/her mother and father, [his/her brother(s) and sister(s)], that they feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief.
- U.** For all parents who grieve over the death of their children, that they be comforted in the knowledge that their children dwell with God.
- V.** For children who have died of hunger and disease, that these little ones be seated close to the Lord at his heavenly table.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- A.** In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.
- B.** For N. who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.
- C.** N. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.
- D.** For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life. That he/she may be raised up on the last day.
- E.** Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.
- F.** For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.
- G.** We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister N. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.
- H.** For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again that they may see God face to face.
- I.** For the family and friends of our brother/sister N., that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.
- J.** For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

## OPTIONS FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The funeral liturgy reflects our Christian belief that death is not an end but a beginning. The prayers, blessings, readings and songs offer comfort and hope in the midst of our tears because during the liturgy we recall Jesus' victory over death and our share in that resurrection.

1. **READINGS.** You may select one or two readings from the Scriptures. If you choose to have two readings, one should be from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If you choose to have one reading, it may be from either the Old or New Testament. The Gospel may also be chosen. Scriptural options are included in this booklet; however, if you have scriptural text which is not included but which seems particularly appropriate, please feel free to choose it.
2. **RESPONSORIAL PSALM.** The psalm follows the first reading.
3. **READERS.** You may ask family members or friends to proclaim the readings. If you prefer, there are readers available from the parish community. Please check with the person who is helping you to plan the liturgy.  
\* **Please Note:** When reading at the liturgy, do not read material that is framed. This is for your information only.
4. **MUSIC.** You may select appropriate hymns for the liturgy. Included in this booklet is a list of hymns available. You may also wish to have the parish musician make appropriate choices of hymns.

5. **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS.** (Prayers of the Faithful). You may wish to personally compose these prayers. If not, the priest will use the standard intercessions available in the missalette for the funeral liturgy. You may wish to have family or friends read them at the liturgy. Please refer to the samples on pages 28 and 29 to help you compose or choose specific intercessions.
6. **PRESENTATION OF GIFTS.** Family members or friends may bring the bread and wine to the altar during the liturgy.
7. **PLACING OF THE FUNERAL PALL ON CASKET.** The white funeral pall is a sign of our baptismal garment. Family members or individuals designated by the family are encouraged to place the funeral pall on the casket before Mass.



The Parish Priest, the Funeral Director, or a member from the Bereavement Ministry would be most willing to assist you in planning the liturgy. If you wish to use any or all of the options listed, it is necessary to notify one of these persons as soon as possible so that your plans can be carried out.

The information will be presented to the priest, musicians, etc., the day before the funeral in order for them to prepare. Therefore, it is essential for the liturgy planning sheet to be given as soon as possible to the person helping you to plan the liturgy.

*There are many rooms in my Father's house.*

*Scriptural Reference: John 14, 1-6*

4. A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

**The Gospel of the Lord**

*Lazarus, come out.*

*Scriptural Reference: John 11, 32-45*

3. A reading from the holy gospel according to John

When Mary the sister of Lazarus came to the place where Jesus was, seeing him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would never have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jewish folk who had accompanied her also weeping, he was troubled in spirit, moved by the deepest emotions. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Lord, come and see," they said. Jesus began to weep, which caused the Jews to remark, "See how much he loved him!" But some said, "He opened the eyes of that blind man. Why could he not have done something to stop this man from dying?" Once again troubled in spirit, Jesus approached the tomb.

It was a cave with a stone laid across it. "Take away the stone," Jesus directed. Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, it has been four days now; surely there will be a stench!" Jesus replied, "Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" They then took away the stone and Jesus looked upward and said:

"Father, I thank you for having heard me.  
I know that you always hear me  
but I have said this for the sake of the crowd,  
that they may believe that you sent me."

Having said this, he called loudly, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, bound hand and foot with linen strips, his face wrapped in a cloth. "Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go free."

This caused many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, to put their faith in him.

### The Gospel of the Lord

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

*Job's prayer of hope and confidence in God. By God's power, death will be overcome and human life fulfilled in him.*

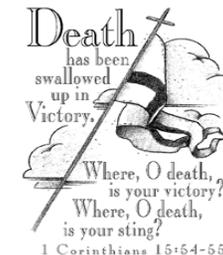
*Scriptural Reference: Job 19:1, 23-27a*

1. A reading from the book of Job

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!  
Would that they were inscribed in a record:  
That with an iron chisel and with lead  
they were cut in the rock forever!  
But as for me, I know that my 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.



*Hope that those who have died are with God, and that this presence will someday be manifest.*

*Scriptural References: Wisdom 3:1-6 (Short Version)  
Wisdom 3:1-9 (Long Version)*

2. A reading from the Book of Wisdom

(Verses 1- 6)

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.

(Verses 7 - 9)

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.

*Come, you whom my Father has blessed.*

*Scriptural Reference: Matthew 25, 31-46*

2. A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the son of man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will separate them into two groups, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The sheep he will place on his right hand, the goats on his left. The king will say to those on his right: ‘Come. You have my Father’s blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the just will ask him: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we welcome you away from home or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?’ The king will answer them: ‘I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left: ‘Out of my sight, you condemned, into that everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels! I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink. I was away from home and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to comfort me.’ Then they in turn will ask: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or away from home or naked or ill or in prison and not attend you in your needs?’ He will answer them: ‘I assure you, as often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to me.’ These will go off to eternal punishment and the just to eternal life.”

**The Gospel of the Lord**

## GOSPEL READINGS

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

*Scriptural Reference: Matthew 5, 1-12*

1. A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountain-side. After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them:

“How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.

Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are the single-hearted, for they shall see God.

Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God.

Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.

Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great.”

**The Gospel of the Lord**

*Confidence that one who dies young or suddenly, but has lived well, is with God - despite the confusion this event causes those who mourn.*

*Scriptural Reference Wisdom 4:7-15*

3. 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.

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

The Word of the Lord.

*A prophecy of the coming kingdom of God and its conquest over grief.*

*Scriptural Reference: Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9*

4. 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.

*Those who die in the Lord are happy.*

*Scriptural Reference: Revelation 14:13*

9. A reading from the book of Revelation

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

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

*No more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for God makes all things new.*

*Scriptural Reference: Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7*

10. A reading from the book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, 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**

*We await the coming again of Jesus when he will make us like himself in glory.*

*Scriptural Reference: Philippians 3:20-21*

7. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

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**

*We grieve at death, but not as the world does; our grief is colored by hope.*

*Scriptural Reference: Thessalonians 4:13-18*

8. A reading from the first letter of 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**

*Jeremiah's prayer in the face of Israel's destruction: He still waits on the Lord for his help.*

*Scriptural Reference: Lamentations 3: 17, 18, 21-26*

5. 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.  
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.

*The hope for a future resurrection.*

*Scriptural Reference: 2 Maccabees 12: 43-46*

6. A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas [the ruler of Israel] then 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.



*Scriptural Reference: I Corinthians 15:20-27 (Short version)*

*\* adapted to include verses 24-27*

6. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. 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; 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."

**The Word of the Lord**



*Jesus is our Lord and our Ruler: we belong to him in life and in death.*

*Scriptural Reference: Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12*

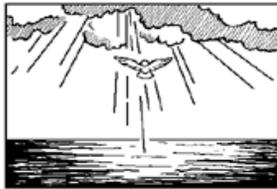
5. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

None of us 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. 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 account of himself to God.

**The Word of the Lord**



Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

-John 4:14

**RESPONSORIAL PSALMS**

*Shepherd Me, O God*

*Psalm 23*

1. Response: *Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.*

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

RESPONSE . . . .

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name.

RESPONSE . . . .

Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff,  
my comfort and my hope.

RESPONSE . . . .

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

RESPONSE . . . .

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God for evermore.

RESPONSE . . . .

*The Lord is my light and my salvation*

*Psalm 27*

2. **Response:** *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom should I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom should I shrink?

RESPONSE . . . .

There is one thing I ask of the Lord; for this I long:  
To live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
To savor the sweetness of the Lord  
to behold his temple.

RESPONSE . . . .

O Lord, hear my voice when I call:  
have mercy and answer.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.  
Hide not your face.

RESPONSE . . . .

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord.

RESPONSE . . . .

*The unshakable basis of Christian hope: God's love for us in his gift of Jesus Christ.*

*Scriptural Reference: 8:31b-35, 37-39*

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

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how 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**

*We have hope because we are the children of God; yet we experience suffering until the final victory on the last day.*

*Scriptural Reference: Romans 8: 14-23*

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

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

**The Word of the Lord**

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

*Psalm 103*

3. **Response:** *The Lord is kind and merciful*

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

RESPONSE . . . .

As a father has compassion on his children,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him,  
For he knows of what we are made,  
he remembers that we are dust.

RESPONSE . . . .

As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flowers like the flower of the field;  
The wind blows and he is gone,  
and his place never sees him again.

RESPONSE . . . .

But the love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold  
him in fear;  
his justice reaches out to children's children  
when they keep his covenant in truth.

RESPONSE . . . .

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

*The central position of the risen Christ: forgiveness for those who believe in him.*

*Scriptural References: Acts 10:34-36, 42-43*

1. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address them in these words:

"I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality. Rather, the man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. This is the message he sent to the sons of Israel, the good news of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all."

"He commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that he is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets testify, saying that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

*The baptized are united to Jesus: even death cannot break that unity.*

*Scriptural Reference: Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 (Short version)  
Romans 6:3-9 (Long version)*

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

(verses 3-4)

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.

(verses 5-7)

If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection. This we know: our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A man who is dead has been freed from sin.

(verses 8-9)

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over him.

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