

***MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE***



Our Lady of Pompeii

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Dear Friends,

Please accept the prayers and sympathy of our entire parish community during this time of your loss. Words alone cannot heal the pain experienced when a loved one passes from this world to the next.

Of course, the greatest gift we have is our faith, and our faith is key at a time such as this. We rest assured knowing that our departed loved ones share in the love, mercy, consolation and fullness of life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

It is at the altar in church, as we celebrate the Mass, that we are most directly connected to God Himself, to one another and to all who have gone before us. We believe, that in the Eucharist, the Church in Heaven and the Church on earth became joined together. This is, in part, why it is so important to celebrate the Mass for the repose of the soul of our beloved dead.

This book is designed to assist you in planning the Mass of Christian Burial. It is not meant to be another burden to you, but, rather an opportunity for you to express your faith, and to allow the scripture reading and other elements of the Mass to reflect the life and faith of your loved one.

Please know that our entire parish community shares your loss and supports you in prayer. Please call us if we may be of help to you now as well as in the weeks and months ahead as you enter the process of mourning and healing.

May God bless you and may His love be known to you.

The Faith Community at Our Lady of Pompeii

MUSIC SELECTIONS CON'T.

Hymns for the Preparation of Gifts:

Ava Maria – *Franz Schubert (Solo)*
Be Not Afraid
Prayer of St. Francis
Eye Has Not Seen
On Eagles Wings
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
You are near
Good Father

Communion Hymns:

Eat this Bread
Gift of the Finest Wheat
I Am the Bread of Life
Now We Remain
Take and Eat
We Remember
The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me)
One Bread, One Body
How He Loves

Sending Forth:

Crown Him with Many Crowns
For All the Saints (*not sung during Lent*)
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Jesus, Remember Me
Now Thank We All Our God
Serdeczna Matko (“Beloved Mother” - Polish Marian Hymn)
Sing with All the Saints in Glory
Hail Holy Queen



FUNERAL LITURGY MUSIC SELECTIONS

Hymns presented here are chosen for their appropriateness and familiarity. Care was also taken to present these selections at the most appropriate time and place in the liturgy (i.e. “Eat This Bread” is best sung during Communion). Please consult Music Director, Mary Palmer, 785-9973 for any guidance or assistance in planning your loved one’s funeral music.

Gathering Hymns:

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (*not sung during Lent*)
Amazing Grace
Here I Am, Lord
How Great Thou Art
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
Immaculate Mary
Lord of All Hopefulness
Sing a New Song (*not sung during Lent*)

Responsorial Psalms:

Psalms 23 – “Shepherd Me Oh God”
Psalm 25 – “To You, O Lord, I Lift up my Soul”
Psalm 27 – “The Lord is my Light and Salvation”
Psalm 91 – “Be With Me Lord”

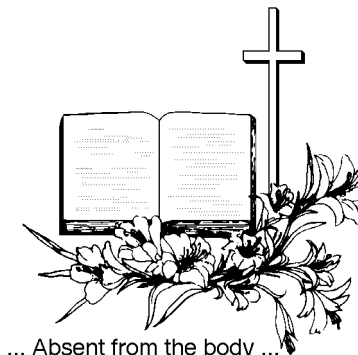


Our Lady of Pompeii Preservation Care

During the time of your loss many family members and friends may offer kind expressions of sympathy. Although all kindnesses are appropriate, may we suggest that you encourage your family and friends to make a donation to the “OLP Preservation Care” in the name and memory of your departed loved one. This be suggested in lieu of flowers or may be an appropriate way to use donations given to you at this time.

A beautiful way to remember your departed family member is to offer a donation for the perpetual preservation of their parish church. This fund was established in July, 2007.

Please know that our parish maintains a record of all donors to this fund and all donations will be acknowledged in writing to the donors themselves. A special Mass for all those who have been remembered in the OLP Preservation Care will be offered each November.



... Absent from the body ...
Present with the Lord

FIRST READINGS

1) "Prayer for the Dead" (2 Maccabees 12:43-46)

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.



2) "Longing For God" (Job 19:1, 23-27)

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 Redeemer lives and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust.

"Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him, and from my flesh I shall see God. My inmost being is consumed with longing."

The word of the Lord.

5) PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Our response is: **"Lord of life, hear our prayer."**

That all members of the church remember death not as an end but as a step to a better life.

We pray to the Lord.

That all people who mourn find consolation and peace in God through those around them.

We pray to the Lord.

That _____ and all who have died enjoy the vision of God with those in heaven.

We pray to the Lord.

That all family members and friends of _____ experience the strength of our faith in the resurrection of Christ.

We pray to the Lord.

That all of us here present, may one day enjoy eternal life in the company of our brother/sister _____, and all the saints.

We pray to the Lord.

4) PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Our response is: **“Lord of Life, hear our prayer.”**

For all our deceased loved ones, especially those who we remember at this Eucharist.

We pray to the Lord.

For those of us left with the pain and loss of the death of a loved one, may we always look to Jesus for comfort and consolation.

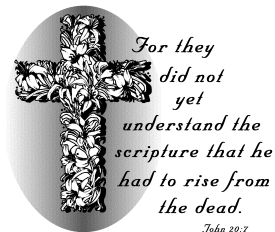
We pray to the Lord.

That peace will reign throughout the world and within our families, and that love will guide our way.

We pray to the Lord.

For all of us assembled here in faith to pray for, _____, may we live always in the expectation of Jesus’ coming.

We pray to the Lord.



(Con.) FIRST READINGS

3) “A Time for Everything” (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter

under heaven:

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.

There is 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.

There is a time to rend, and a time to sew,

a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate,

a time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

The word of the Lord.



(Con.) FIRST READINGS

4) "Purification of Suffering" (Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead, and their passing away was thought an affliction, and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace! For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality. Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in a 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.

5) "Goodness Can Come in Youth" (Wisdom 4:7-14)

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 white 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. 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

3) PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Our response is **"Lord, Hear Our Prayer."**

For _____ who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

We pray to the Lord.

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.

We pray to the Lord.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, especially _____, that they may see God face to face.

We pray to the Lord.



2) PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

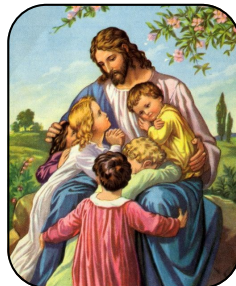
Our response is **“Lord, Hear Our Prayer.”**

In baptism _____ received the light of Christ.
May he/she now be welcomed into the fullness of God’s life
We pray to the Lord.

That all our deceased relatives and friends may find rest and
peace in God’s love.
We pray to the Lord.

For consolation for the family and friends of _____,
that they might be consoled by the Lord in their grief.
We pray to the Lord.

For all assembled here in faith to pray for _____.
May we live in the expectation of Jesus’ coming.
We pray to the Lord.



(Con.) FIRST READINGS

6) “The Lord is With Us in Trials” (Sirach 2: 1-9)

A reading from the book of Sirach

When you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in time of adversity. Cling to him, forsake him not. Thus will your future be great. Accept whatever befalls you. In crushing misfortune be patient. For in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation. Trust God and he will help you. Make straight your ways and hope in him. You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy. Turn not away lest you fall. You who fear the Lord, trust him and your reward will not be lost. You who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.

The word of the Lord.

7) “God Will Destroy Death” (Isaiah 25: 6, 7-9)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. 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.

(Con.) **FIRST READINGS**

8) "The Lord Will Bring New Life" (Isaiah 35:3-6, 10)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Give strength to hands that are tired and to knees that tremble with weakness. Tell everyone who is discouraged: "Be strong, don't be afraid God is coming to your rescue."

The blind will be able to see, and the deaf will hear. The lame will leap and dance, and those who cannot speak will shout for joy. They will reach Jerusalem with gladness, singing and shouting for joy.

They will be happy forever, forever free from sorrow, forever free from grief.

The word of the Lord.



9) "I Will Never Forget You" (Isaiah 49: 8a, 13-16a)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you." Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth! Break forth into song, you mountains. For the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted.

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me. The Lord has forgotten me."

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?

Even should she forget, I will never forget you. I have carved you on the palm of my hand.

The word of the Lord.

1) PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Our response is "**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**"

We pray for our brother (sister) N., who was given the pledge of eternal life in Baptism, that he (she) many now be admitted into the company of the saints, we pray to the Lord.

For our brother (sister) N., who was nourished by the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, that he (she) might enjoy the banquet of life eternal, we pray to the Lord.

For all who bear the cross of pain, in mind or body, that they might never feel forsaken by God, we pray to the Lord.

For the family and friends of our departed loved one, that they may know the comfort and consolation of God, we pray to the Lord.

For all of us assembled here today in faith, that we might be one day reunited with all the faithful departed in the kingdom of God, we pray to the Lord.

(Con.) GOSPEL READINGS

10) John 12: 23-28 “Unless A Grain Of Wheat Falls”

Jesus told his disciples, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life 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."



11) John 14: 1-6 “Many Rooms In My Father’s House”

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."

(Con.) FIRST READINGS

10) “Hope In God Will Be Fulfilled” (Lamentations 3:17-26)

A reading from the book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace. I have forgotten what happiness is. I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord.

The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall. Remembering it over and over leaves my soul down-cast 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 I will hope in him.

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

The word of the Lord.

11) “Jesus, “Shepherd” Tends His Flock” (Ezekiel 34: 11-16)

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God, "I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.

"I myself will pasture my sheep. I myself will give them rest," says the Lord God. "The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal, shepherding them rightly."

The word of the Lord.

(Con.) FIRST READINGS

12) "Justice Will Prevail" (Daniel 12:1-3)

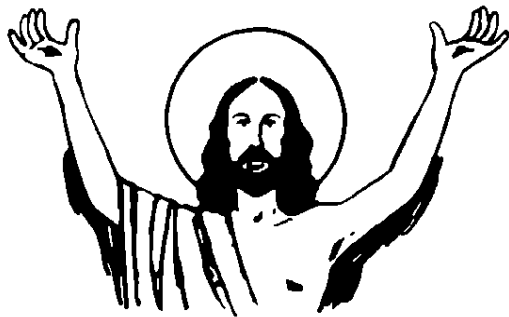
A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

I, Daniel, mourned and I 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. 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.



(Con.) GOSPEL READINGS

8) John 6: 51-58 "Anyone Who Eats This Bread Will Live"

Jesus said to the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. 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."

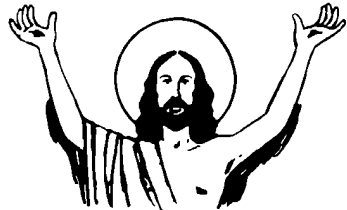
9) John 11:17-27 "I Am The Resurrection And The Life"

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. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

(Con.) GOSPEL READINGS

6) John 5: 24-29 "Those Who Hear His Voice Will Live"

Jesus said to the Jews: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his 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."



7) John 6: 37-40 "If We Believe In Jesus We Shall Live"

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."

SECOND READINGS

1) "God Judges Justly" (Acts 10:34-36, 42-43)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address the people 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 act uprightly is acceptable to him. This is the message he has 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.

2) "Jesus Saves All Who Trust In Him" (Romans 5:5-11)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Hope will not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless men. It is rare that anyone should lay down his life for a just man, though it is barely possible that for a good man someone may have the courage to die. It is precisely in this that God proves his love for us: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Now that we have been justified by his blood, it is all the more certain that we shall be saved by him from God's wrath. For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him by the death of his Son, it is all the more certain that we who have been reconciled will be saved by his life. Not only that. We go so far as to make God our boast through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

(Con.) SECOND READINGS

3) "Eternal Life Comes Through Jesus" (Romans 5:17-21)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

If death began its reign through one man because of his offense, much more shall those who receive the overflowing grace and gift of justice live and reign through the one man,

Jesus Christ.

To sum up then, just as a single offense brought condemnation to all men, a single righteous act brought all men acquittal and life. Just as through one man's disobedience all became sinners, so through one man's obedience all shall become just.

The law came in order to increase offenses. But despite the increase of sin, grace has far surpassed it, so that as sin reigned through death, grace may reign by way of justice leading to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

4) "Let Us Walk In the Newness of Life" (Romans 6:3-4, 8-9)

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

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.

(Con.) GOSPEL READINGS

4) Luke 7:11-17 "Resurrection To The Young"

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin. At this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.



5) Luke 23: 33, 39-43 "You Will Be With Me In Paradise"

When they 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 Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, 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 corresponds 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."

(Con.) GOSPEL READINGS

2) Matthew 11: 25-30 "Come To Me And I Will Give Rest"

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

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

3) Matthew 25: 31-40 "Come, You Who Are Blessed"

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' "

(Con.) SECOND READINGS

5) "We Wait For Our Bodies to Be Set Free"
(Romans 8:14-18)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if we are children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

The word of the Lord.



6) "The Sufferings of this Present Time" (Romans 8:18-21)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

The word of the Lord.

(Con.) SECOND READINGS

7) "Jesus Overcame Suffering & Death"
(Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who can be against us? Is it possible that he who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for the sake of us all will not grant us all things besides? Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones? God, who justifies? Who shall condemn them? Christ Jesus, who died or rather was raised up, who is at the right hand of God and who intercedes for us?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Trial, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or the sword? Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of him who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor powers, neither height nor depth nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

8) "We Belong To The Lord" (Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12)

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master. While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die we die as his servants. Both in life and in death we are the Lord's. That is why Christ died and came to life again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. We shall all have to appear before the judgment seat of God. It is written, "As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me and every tongue shall give praise to God." Every one of us will have to give an account of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL READINGS

1) Matthew 5:1-12 "Blessed Are Those Who Do Good"

When he saw the crowds, Jesus 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 will inherit the land.**

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

**Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.**

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

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.**

**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of
righteousness,**

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed are you when they insult and persecute you and
utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in
heaven."**



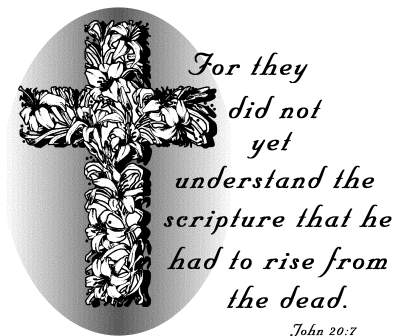
(Con.) **SECOND READINGS**

22) "There Will Be No More Death"
(Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7)

A reading from the book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, 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 away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, no more 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.



(Con.) **SECOND READINGS**

9) "God's Wisdom Is The Greatest" (1Corinthians 2:1-10)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to you I did not come proclaiming God's testimony with any particular eloquence or wisdom. No, I determined that while I was with you I would speak of nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified. When I came among you it was in weakness and fear, and with much trepidation. My message and my preaching had none of the persuasive force of wise argumentation, but the convincing power of the Spirit. As a consequence, your faith rests not on the wisdom of men but on the power of God. There is, to be sure, a certain wisdom, which we express among the spiritually mature. It is not a wisdom of this age, however, nor of the rulers of this age, who are men headed for destruction. Of this wisdom it is written, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him." Yet God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

10) "Christ Will Triumph" (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

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.

The word of the Lord.

(Con.) **SECOND READINGS**

11) “Resurrection Will Overcome Death” (1 Corinthians 15:51-57)

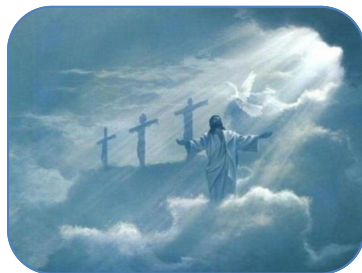
A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. That which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility. That which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that 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.



(Con.) **SECOND READINGS**

21) “God Will Judge Justly” (Revelation 20:11 – 21:1)

A reading from the book of Revelation

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead. Then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. This pool of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord.



(Con.) **SECOND READINGS**

18) "We Are God's Children" (1 John 3:1-2)

A reading from the first letter of John

See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God! Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized the Son.

Dearly beloved, we are God's children now. What we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

19) "If We Love We Will Have Eternal Life"

(1 John 3:14-16)

A reading from the first letter of John

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.

20) "Good Works Are Rewarded" (Revelation 14:13)

A reading from the book of Revelation

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

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

The word of the Lord.



(Con.) **SECOND READINGS**

12) "We Will Ultimately Live Forever"

(2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged. Rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen. For what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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

The word of the Lord.



13) "We Will Come Back To Life" (2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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.

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

The word of the Lord.

(Con.) **SECOND READINGS**

14) “Our Resurrected Bodies Live Forever”
(Philippians 3:20-21)

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.



15) “Resurrection Follows Death” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death, brothers. Otherwise you might yield to grief like those who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in him.

We say to you, as if the Lord himself had said it, that we who live, who survive until his coming, will in no way have an advantage over those who have fallen asleep. No, the Lord himself will come down from heaven at the word of command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet. Those who have died in Christ will rise first. Then we, the living, the survivors, will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we shall always be with the Lord unceasingly. Console one another with this message.

The word of the Lord.

(Con.) **SECOND READINGS**

16) “We Shall Live With Him” (2 Timothy 2:8-13)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him we shall also live with him.

If we persevere we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him, he will deny us.

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

The word of the Lord.



17) “Reward For Fidelity” (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

I am already on the point of being sacrificed. The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The word of the Lord.