



*The Lord will open to them
the gate of paradise,
where there is no death,
only lasting joy.*

SAINT AGNES CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

DALTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” [Isaiah 40:31]

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” [Joshua 1:9]

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD himself is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.” [Isaiah 12:2]

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PREPARING A FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL MASS

This book is designed to assist you in planning a Funeral Mass.

The Order of Christian Funerals is composed of three movements:

- I. A Vigil Prayer Service at the Funeral Home
- II. A Funeral Mass at the Church
- III. A Committal at the final resting place

This booklet concentrates on the Funeral or Memorial Mass itself.

You have the possibility – in fact, you are encouraged – to help plan the Funeral Mass. You have options concerning the entrance procession, the readings, and the music. These are explained in this booklet. Please take a few moments to read these pages and complete the attached form indicating your selections. **A member of our Pastoral Team will meet with you and help you make these choices.**

There are five parts to the liturgy at the church.

- I. **Introductory Rites**
 - Greeting
 - Sprinkling with Holy Water
 - Placing the Pall
 - Placing the Christian Symbol
 - Opening Prayer
- II. **Liturgy of the Word**
 - Reading from Scripture
 - Homily
 - General Intercessions
- III. **Liturgy of the Eucharist**
- IV. **Final Commendation**
- V. **Procession to the place of committal**

Memorial Mass

When the body or the cremated remains of the deceased are not present for the Liturgy, the funeral is called a "Memorial Mass". Except for the absence of the remains and the entrance procession, all other aspects of the Memorial Mass are the same as a Funeral.

Introductory Rites

It is custom to have the family arrive at the church and be seated. The priest, deacon and altar servers then greet the body and pall bearers at the door. After the greeting and blessing of the body with holy water, the casket is covered with the pall and the entrance hymn is sung. The family may choose to place a Christian symbol on the casket (i.e. a crucifix, bible, rosary, etc.) The opening prayer then takes place.

Liturgy of the Word

The Church offers us the opportunity to hear three readings from Sacred Scripture. One reading is customarily from the Hebrew Scriptures (The Old Testament), one reading from the New Testament (The Epistles) and Gospel selection.

G 17.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him,

"Master, we do not know where you are going;

how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Christ
is
Risen!

In this booklet, we have printed the commonly used selections for Funerals for Adults. If you prefer different scripture readings, please feel free to discuss this with the member of our parish staff who visits you. It is strongly suggested that members of the family or friends read the first two Scripture selections. It is preferable to have a different reader for each reading. The priest or deacon will proclaim the Gospel. A Song or reading of a psalm occurs between the readings.

The homily follows the readings and is given by the priest or deacon. It would be helpful for the family to provide personal information about the deceased so that the homily can be made more meaningful. This is especially helpful when the priest or deacon did not know the deceased well. The homily focuses on God's compassionate love and on the Easter mystery of death leading to resurrection. While it is personalized for the deceased, a family member or friend may offer some brief remarks of a more personal nature toward the end of the Funeral Mass.

After the homily, we have the General Intercessions or Payer of the Faithful.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Family members can bring the gifts of bread and wine to the altar. The gifts will be on a small table near the center isle of the Church. The Funeral Director will assist the family members at the appropriate time.

The usual order of the Mass is followed. After the Eucharistic Payer, we recite the Lord's Prayer and exchange a sign of peace. Communion is received by coming to the minister at the center aisle and returning by the side aisle.

Eulogy

Sometimes a family member may wish to say a few brief words about the deceased before the Final commendation. This is not required.

Final Commendation

After a brief invitation to prayer, the body is incensed while the "Song of Farewell" is sung and prayer of commendation is offered. If a symbol of Christian life has been placed on the casket, it is removed and the procession begins. The priest and assisting ministers precede the casket; the family and friends follow. The pall is removed by the Funeral Director at the front door of the church.

Music

The parish provides an organist and soloist to lead music and singing. If you have a particular song you wish to have sung or played please check with us.

Memorial Donations

In Lieu of Flowers . . . We invite you to remember the Saint Agnes Memorial Fund. All donations to the fund will be acknowledged and you will receive a list of donors. Envelopes for this purpose can be made available to be placed at the entrance to the Funeral Home at the wake.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is any other way we can help you and your family in this time of grief.

G 15.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:32-45

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him;

she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So, the Jews said, "See how he loved him."

But some of them said "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So, Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him,

"Lord, by now there will be a stench;

he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me;

but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me."

And when he had said this,

he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.

So Jesus said to the crowd,

"Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

PLEASE SELECT ONE OLD TESTAMENT READING (OT)

G 14.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:17-27 (short form, 11:21-27 [omit brackets])

[When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.]
Martha said to Jesus,
"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."
Jesus said to her,
"Your brother will rise."
Martha said to him,
"I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."
Jesus told her,
"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

OT 1.

A reading from the Book of Job 19:1, 23-27a

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.

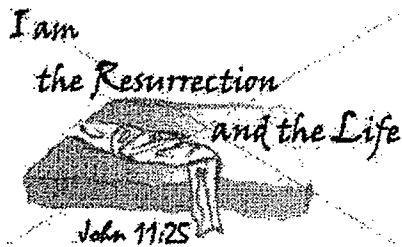
the
RESURRECTION
and
the
LIFE

OT 1A.

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

There is an appointed time for everything,
And a time for everything under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
A time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.

The Word of the Lord.



G 13.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowds:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give is my Flesh
for the life of the world."

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

Jesus said to them,

"Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his
Blood,

you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood
has eternal life,

and I will raise him on the last day.

For my Flesh is true food,

and my Blood is true drink.

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

Just as the living Father sent me

and I have life because of the Father,

so also the one who feeds on me

will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven.

Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,
whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 12.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowds:

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

And this is the will of the one who sent me,
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,
but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

OT 2.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom 3:1-9 (sf, 3:1-6, 9)

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

OT 3.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom 4:7-15

The just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not
with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported—
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.
Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord.

G 11.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 5:24-29

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:
"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word
and believes in the one who sent me
has eternal life and will not come to condemnation,
but has passed from death to life.
Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and those who hear will live.
For just as the Father has life in himself,
so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself.
And he gave him power to exercise judgment,
because he is the Son of Man.
Do not be amazed at this,
because the hour is coming in which all who are in the
tombs
will hear his voice and will come out,
those who have done good deeds
to the resurrection of life,
but those who have done wicked deeds
to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G 10.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of the disciples of Jesus were going
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. As they
approached the village to which they were going,
Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, "Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."
So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.
Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to
us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,
"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"
Then the two recounted
what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the
bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

OT 4.

A reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

On this mountain, the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day, it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The word of the Lord.

OT 5.

A reading from the Book of Lamentations 3:17-26

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.

G 9.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a (short form, 23:44-46, 50, 52-53 [omit brackets])

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land
until 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.

G 8.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 23:33,
39-43**

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 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

OT 6.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel 12:1-3

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 7.

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees 12:43-46

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory
sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in
death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead
that they might be freed from this sin.

The word of the Lord.

G 7.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

Blessed are those servants

whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.

Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,
have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.

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

Be sure of this:

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

PICK ONE PSALM TO READ OR MUSIC OPTION

G 6.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 7:11-17

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

P 1.

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or:

**R/. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for
you are with me.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
in verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name sake. **R/.**

Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage. **R/.**

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **R/.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come. **R/.**

P 2.

Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21

R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

or:

R/. No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever be put to shame.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD. **R/.**

Relieve the troubles of my heart;
And bring me out of my distress.
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins. **R/.**

Preserve my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
Because I wait for you, O LORD. **R/.**

G 5.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 (short form, 15:33-39 [omit brackets])

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 bought 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.

G 4.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
25:31-46**

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

And he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

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

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you
gave me drink,

a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed
me,

ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'
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.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

P 3.

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14

R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

or:

**R/. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in
the land of the living.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid? **R/.**

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life.
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple. **R/.**

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Your presence, O LORD, I seek.
Hide not your face from me. **R/.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **R/.**

P 4.

Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5

R/. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

As the hind longs for the running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God. **R/.**

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God? **R/.**

I went with the throng and led them in procession
to the house of God.
Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival. **R/.**

Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
And bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling-place. **R/.**

Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
O God, my God! **R/.**

Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why do you sigh within me?
Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking him,
in the presence of my savior and my God. **R/.**

G 3.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
25:1-13**

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

PICK ONE NEW TESTAMENT READING (NT)

G 2.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
11:25-30**

At that time Jesus answered:

"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to the childlike.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

NT 1.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words: "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 Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

PICK ONE GOSPEL (G)

NT 2.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 5:5-11

Brothers and sisters:
Hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.
Indeed, if, while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.
Not only that,
but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

G 1.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:
"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of
righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because
of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

NT 16.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John (1 John 3:14-16)

Beloved:

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

Whoever does not love remains in death.

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

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

The word of the Lord.

NT 3.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of the one,
death came to reign through that one,
how much more will those who receive the abundance
of grace

and of the gift of justification

come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

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

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

The law entered in so that transgression might increase
but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the
more, so that,

as sin reigned in death,
grace also might reign through justification for eternal
life

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

NT 4.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 6:3-9 (short form, 6:3-4, 8-9 [omit brackets])

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 15.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John (1 John 3:1-2)

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

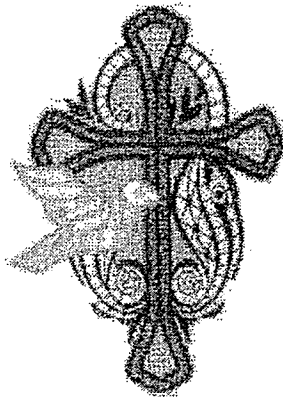
The word of the Lord.

NT 14A.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy
4:6-8

Beloved: I am already being poured out like a libation,
And the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well;
I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.
From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,
Which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day,
and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his
appearance.

The Word of the Lord.



NT 5.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
8:14-23

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

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

The word of the Lord.

NT 6.

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
8:31b-35, 37-39**

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

NT 14.

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy
(2 Tim 2:8-13)**

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant
of David:

such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering,
even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are
chosen,

so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ

Jesus,

together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him

we shall also live with him;

if we persevere

we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him

he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful

he remains faithful,

for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

NT 13.

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the
Thessalonians 4:13-18**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.
For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.
Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

NT 7.

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
14:7-9, 10c-12**

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

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee
shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.*

So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

NT 8.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-28 (short form, 15:20-23 [omit brackets])

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the first fruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
[then comes the end,
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
for "he subjected everything under his feet."
But when it says that everything has been subjected,
it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.
When everything is subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected
to the one who subjected everything to him,
so that God may be all in all.]

The word of the Lord.

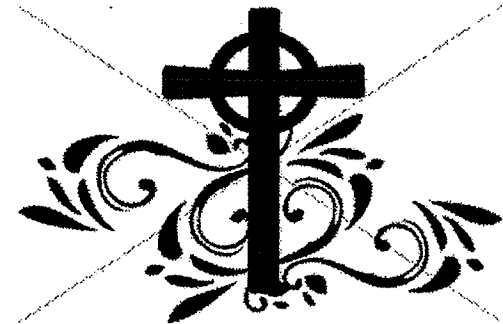
NT 12.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 3:20-21

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified Body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.



NT 11.

**A reading from the 2nd Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

Brothers and sisters:

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

We are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the
Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

NT 9.

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians 15:51-57**

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with
incorruptibility,

and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.
And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with
incorruptibility

and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

*Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?*

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

NT 9A.

**A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians 12:31-13:8a**

Brothers and Sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries

And all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but

Do not have love, I am nothing.

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

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it

Is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is

Not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all

Things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 10.

**A reading from the 2nd Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians 4:14—5:1**

Brothers and sisters:

Knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you,

so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people

may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged;

rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction

is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen;
for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,

should be destroyed,

we have a building from God,

a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.