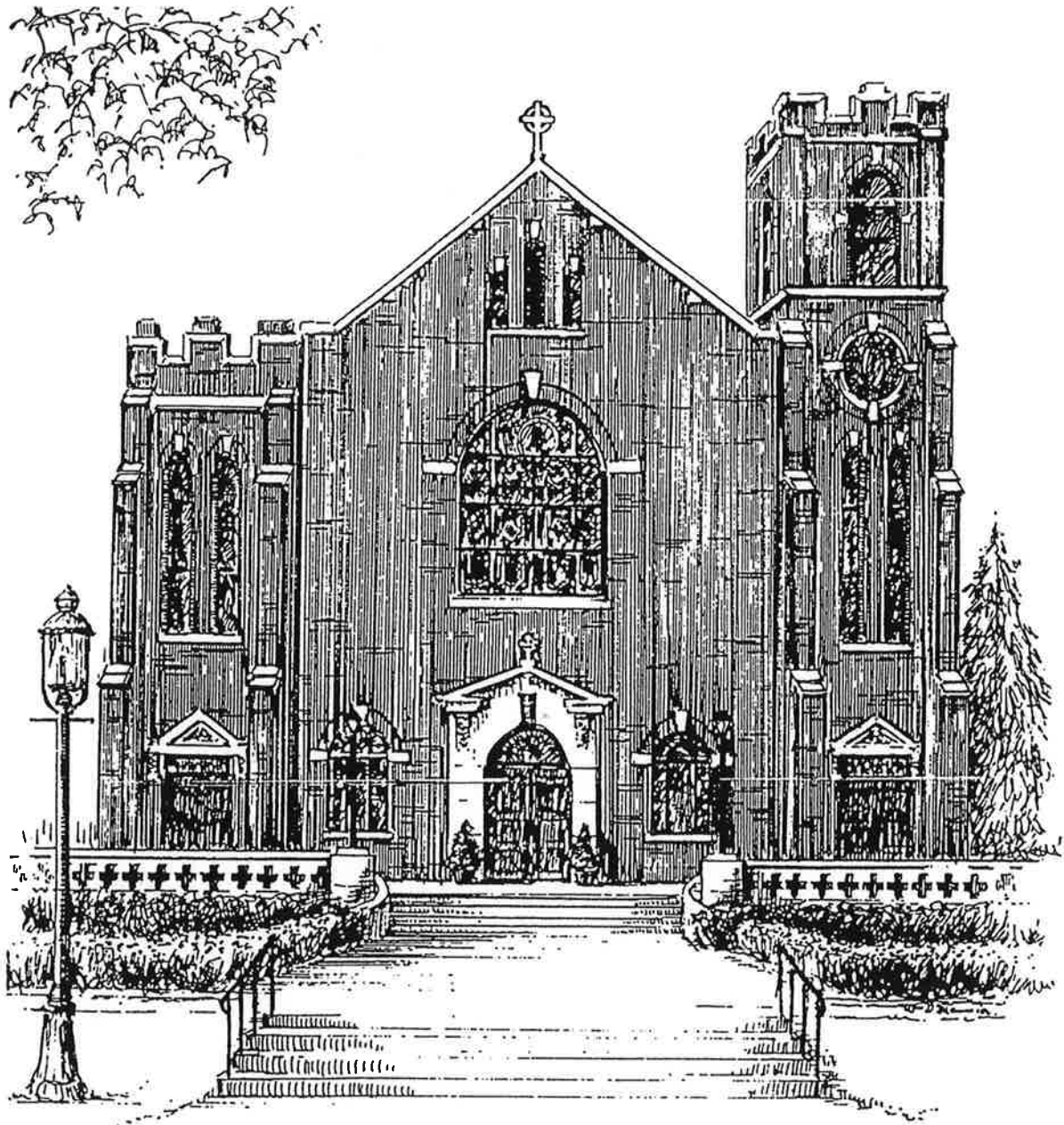


# Church of St. Mary

## Funeral Liturgy Planning Book



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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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the Lord shall be their King forever.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

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

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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and no torment shall touch them.

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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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early,  
shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable  
comes not with the passing of time,  
nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,  
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;  
he who lived among sinners was transported –  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind  
or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right  
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while,  
he reached the fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,  
nor did they take this into account.  
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts  
will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;  
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth;  
for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the Lord for whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

The 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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.



A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

[I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:]

“At the 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.”

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

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 a sin offering.

In doing this, he acted in a very excellent and noble way,

inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in mind;

For if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,

it would have been useless and foolish to pray for the dead.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward

that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,

it was a holy and pious thought.

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

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

long version Proverbs 31:10-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

The valiant woman – who can find her?

She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,  
she does her work with eager hands.

She is like a merchant vessel  
bringing her food from far away.

She gets up while it is still dark giving her household their food,  
giving orders to her servants.

She sets her mind on a field, then she buys it;  
with what her hands have earned, she plants a vineyard.

She puts her back into her work and shows how strong her arms can be.

She finds her labor well worth while; her lamp does not go out a night.

She holds her hand out to the poor,  
she opens her arms to the needy.

She is clothed in strength and dignity,  
she can laugh at the days to come.

When she opens her mouth, she does so wisely;  
on her tongue is kindly instruction.

She keeps good watch on the conduct of her household,  
no bread of idleness for her.

Her children stand up and proclaim her blessed,  
her husband, too, sings her praises.

Many women have done admirable things,  
but you surpass them all.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,  
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,  
her value is far beyond pearls.  
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,  
has an unfailing prize.  
She brings him good, and not evil,  
all the days of her life.  
She obtains wool and flax  
and makes cloth with skillful hands.

Like merchant ships,  
she secures her provisions from afar.  
She rises while it is still night,  
and distributes food to her household.  
She picks out a field to purchase;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.  
She is girt about with strength,  
and sturdy are her arms.

She enjoys the success of her dealings;  
at night her lamp is undimmed.  
She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her fingers ply the spindle.  
She reaches out her hands to the poor,  
and extends her arms to the needy.  
She fears not the snow for her household;  
all her charges are doubly clothed.

She makes her own coverlets;  
fine linen and purple are her clothing.  
Her husband is prominent at the city gates  
as he sits with the elders of the land.  
She makes garments and sells them,  
and stocks the merchants with belts.  
She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
and she laughs at the days to come.

She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
and on her tongue is kindly counsel.  
She watches the conduct of her household,  
and eats not her food in idleness.

Her children rise up and praise her;  
her husband, too, extols her:  
“Many are the women of proven worth,  
but you have excelled them all.”

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;  
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
Give her a reward of her labors,  
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,  
her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,  
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She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
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but you have excelled them all.”

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the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

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

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Sirach 44:1, 10-15

A reading from the Book of Sirach

I will now praise the godly,  
our ancestors, in their own time:

Yet these also were godly;  
their virtues have not been forgotten.  
Their wealth remains in their families,  
their heritage with their descendants.  
Through God's covenant their family endures,  
and their offspring for their sake.  
And for all time their progeny will endure,  
their glory will never be blotted out;  
Their bodies are buried in peace,  
but their name lives on and on.  
At gatherings their wisdom is retold,  
and the assembly proclaims their praises.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Jeremiah 17:7-10

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose hope is the LORD.

He is like a tree planted beside the waters  
that stretches out its roots to the stream:

It fears not the heat when it comes,  
its leaves stay green;

In the year of drought it shows no distress,  
but still bears fruit.

More tortuous than all else is the human heart,  
beyond remedy; who can understand it?

I, the LORD, alone probe the mind and test the heart,

To reward everyone according to his ways,  
according to the merit of his deeds.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.



A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

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

A time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;  
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;  
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time of war, and a time of peace.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:6-9

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
The calf and the young lion shall browse together,  
with a little child to guide them.

The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,  
together their young shall rest;  
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.

The baby shall play by the cobra's den,  
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.

There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD,  
as water covers the sea.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Isaiah 40:28-31

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Do you not know or have you not heard?  
The LORD is the eternal God,  
creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint nor grow weary,  
and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.

He gives strength to the fainting;  
for the weak he makes vigor abound.

Though young men faint and grow weary,  
and youths stagger and fall,

They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength,  
they will soar as with eagles' wings;  
They will run and not grow weary,  
walk and not grow faint.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

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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 acts 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.

I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea  
about Jesus of Nazareth,  
beginning in Galilee with the baptism John preached;  
of the way God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good works and healing all  
who were in the grip of the devil, and God was with him.  
We are witnesses to all that he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They killed him finally, ‘hanging him on a tree,’  
only to have God raise him up on the third day and grant that he be seen,  
not by all,  
but only by such witnesses as had been chosen beforehand by God –  
by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

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.”

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

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.  
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To him all the prophets testify,  
saying that everyone who believes in him  
has forgiveness of sins through his name.”

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Saint 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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.



A reading from the letter of Saint 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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

(long version) Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the letter of Saint 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 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.

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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

(short version) **Romans 6:3-4, 8-9**

A reading from the letter of Saint 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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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

You did not receive a spirit of slavery leading you back into fear,  
but a spirit of adoption through which we cry out, "Abba!", "Father".

The Spirit himself gives witness with our spirit that we are children of God.  
But if we are children, we are heirs as well:  
heirs of God, heirs with Christ,  
if only we suffer with him so as to be glorified with him.

I consider the sufferings of the present  
to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us.

Indeed, the whole created world eagerly awaits  
the revelation of the sons of God.

Creation was made subject to futility,  
not of its own accord but by him who once subjected it;  
yet not without hope,  
because the world itself will be freed from its slavery to corruption  
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Yes, we know that all creation groans and is in agony even until now.

Not only that, but we ourselves,  
although we have the Spirit as first fruits,  
groan inwardly while we await the redemption of our bodies.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Saint 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 that 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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Romans 14:7-9, 10-12

A reading from the letter of Saint 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 death we are the Lord's.

That is why Christ died and came to life again,  
that he might be the 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 before God.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24, 25-28

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

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Death came through a man;  
hence the resurrection of the dead comes through a man also.

Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again,  
but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits and then,  
at his coming, all those who belong to him.

After that will come the end, when, after having destroyed every sovereignty,  
authority, and power, he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under his feet,  
and the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Scripture reads that God "has placed all things under his feet."

But when it says that everything has been made subject,  
it is clear that he who has made everything subject to Christ is excluded.

When, finally, all has been subjected to the Son,  
he will then subject himself to the One,  
who made all things subject to him,  
so that God may be all in all.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

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

I am going to tell you a mystery.

Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed – in an instant,  
in the twinkling of an eye,  
at the sound of the last trumpet.

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

This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility,  
this mortal body with immortality.

When the corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility and the mortal immortality,  
then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law.

But thanks be to God who has given us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.



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

We know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed  
we have a dwelling provided for us by God,  
a dwelling in the heavens,  
not made by hands but to last forever.

Therefore we continue to be confident.

We know that while we dwell in the body we are away from the Lord.

We walk by faith, not by sight.

I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather be away from the  
body and at home with the Lord.

This being so, we make it our aim to please him whether we are with him  
or away from him.

The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ  
so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad,  
according to his life in the body.

*[pause momentarily then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

We have our citizenship in heaven;  
it is from there that we eagerly await the coming of our savior,  
the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and  
remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body,  
by his power to subject everything to himself.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

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;  
and 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.  
Thenceforth we shall be with the Lord unceasingly.

Console one another with this message.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, was raised from the dead.

This is the Gospel I preach;  
in preaching it I suffer as a criminal,  
even to the point of being thrown into chains –  
but there is no chaining the word of God!

Therefore I bear with all of this for the sake of those whom God has chosen,  
in order that they may obtain the salvation to be found in Christ Jesus  
and with it eternal glory.

You can depend on this:  
If we have died with him,  
we shall also live with him:  
If we hold out to the end,  
we shall also reign with him.  
But if we deny him  
he will deny us.  
If we are unfaithful  
he will still remain faithful;  
for he cannot deny himself.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

See what love the Father has bestowed on us  
in letting us be called children of God!

Yes 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 had 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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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

A man who does not love is among the living dead.

Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer,  
and you know that eternal life abides in no murderer's heart.

The way we came to understand love was that he laid down his life for us;  
we too must lay down our lives for our brothers.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Revelation 14:13

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me:

“Write this down: Happy now are the dead who die in the Lord!”

The Spirit added,

“Yes, they shall find rest from their labors,  
for their good works accompany them.”

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Revelation 20:11-21:1

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the One who sat on it.  
The earth and the sky fled from his presence until they could no longer be seen.

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

Lastly, among the scrolls, the book of the living was opened.  
The dead were judged according to their conduct as recorded on the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead; then death and the nether world gave up their dead.  
Each person was judged according to his conduct.

Then death and the nether world were hurled into the pool of fire  
which is the second death;  
anyone whose name was not found inscribed in the book of the living  
was hurled into this pool of fire.

Then I saw new heavens and a new earth.  
The former heavens and the former earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no longer there.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.



Revelation 21:1-5, 6-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw new heavens and a new earth.  
The former heavens and the former earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no longer.

I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
beautiful as a bride prepared to meet her husband.

I hear a loud voice from the throne cry out:  
"This is God's dwelling among men.  
He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people,  
and he shall be their God who is always with them.

He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes,  
and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain,  
for the former world has passed away.

"The One who sat on the throne said to me, 'See, I make all things new!'  
I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.

To anyone who thirsts I will give to drink without cost from  
the spring of life-giving water.  
He who wins the victory shall inherit these gifts;  
I will be his God and he shall be my son."

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

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

Finally, brothers, rejoice.

Mend your ways,  
encourage one another,  
agree with one another,  
live in peace,  
and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with all of you.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Philippians 1:9-11

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

This is my prayer:

that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge  
and every kind of perception,  
to discern what is of value,  
so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,  
filled with the fruit of righteousness  
that comes through Jesus Christ  
for the glory and praise of God.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

Philippians 4:4-9

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.  
The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all,  
but in everything, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding  
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, family, whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely,  
whatever is gracious,  
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned  
and received and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

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.

*[pause momentarily, then say:]*

The word of the Lord.

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**Matthew 5:1-12a**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up the mountain,  
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,

for they 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 shall 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.



+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

“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 little ones.

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.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins  
who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,  
brought no oil with them,  
but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.

Since the bridegroom was long delayed,  
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry,

‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise,

‘Give us some of your oil,  
for our lamps are going out.’

But the wise ones replied,

‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you.

Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’

While they went off to buy it,

the bridegroom came  
and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.

Then the door was locked.

Afterwards the other virgins came and said,

‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’

But he said in reply,

‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’

Therefore, stay awake,

for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

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

Then the king will say to those on his right,

‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father.

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,

I was thirsty and you gave me drink,

a stranger and you welcomed me,

naked and you clothed me,

ill and you cared for me,

in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say,

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,

or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,

or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

And the king will say to them in reply,

‘Amen, I say to you,

whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Then he will say to those on his left,

‘Depart from me, you accursed,

into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
a stranger and you gave me no welcome,  
naked and you gave me no clothing,  
ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say,  
'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty  
or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison,  
and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you,  
what you did not do for one of these least ones,  
you did not do for me.'

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

(long version) **Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

*"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"*

which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

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

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed,  
and gave it to him to drink, saying,

"Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

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

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James,  
and Salome 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.

## GOSPEL READING

#5a

(short version) **Mark 15:33-39**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

*"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"*

which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

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

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Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said,

"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus journeyed to a city called Naim, 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.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen,  
I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table,  
and proceed to wait on them.

And should he come 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.



+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place called the Skull,  
they crucified him 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(long version) **Luke 23:44-49, 24:1-6**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was now 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.

The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt."

When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

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

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

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

They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead?"

He is not here, but he has been raised.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## GOSPEL READING

#9a

(short version) **Luke 23:44-49**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was now 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.

The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt."

When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(long version) **Luke 24:13-35**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

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

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.

But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

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

Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

(short version) **Luke 24:13-16, 28-35**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

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

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them,

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.

For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



(long version) **John 11:17-27**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived,  
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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## GOSPEL READING

#13a

(short version) **John 11:21-27**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

[But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her,

“I am the resurrection and the life;

whoever believes in me,

even if he dies, will live,

and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?”

She said to him,

“Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God,  
the one who is coming into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,  
she fell at his feet and said to him,  
“Lord, if you had been here, my brother 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 them, “Untie him and let him go.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(long version) **John 12:23-28**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## GOSPEL READING

#15a

(short version) **John 12:23-26**

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

+ 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.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Father, they are your gift to me.  
I wish that where I am they also may be with me,  
that they may see my glory that you gave me,  
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you,  
and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known,  
that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.