

SCRIPTURE READINGS

REQUIEM MASS



First Readings (choose one)

A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1–9

**The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them.**

**In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation;
but they are in peace.**

**If they experienced punishment as men see it,
their hope was rich with immortality;
slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.**

**God has put them to the test
and proved them worthy to be with him;
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,
and accepted them as a holocaust.**

**When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out;
as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.**

**They shall judge nations, rule over peoples,
and the Lord will be their king for ever.**

**They who trust in him will understand the truth,
those who are faithful will live with him in love;
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.**

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. 25:6–9

**On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.**

**On this mountain
he will remove the mourning veil
covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.**

**The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.**

**That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.**

**We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us**

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the book of Wisdom 4:7–15

The virtuous One, though they die before their time, will find rest.

**Length of days is not what makes age honourable,
nor number of years the true measure of life;
understanding, this is One's grey hairs,
untarnished life, this is ripe old age.**

**They have sought to please God, so God has loved them;
as they were living among sinners, they have been taken up.**

**They have been carried off
so that evil may not warp their understanding
or treachery seduce their souls;
for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade,
and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.**

**Coming to perfection in so short a while, they achieved long life;
their souls being pleasing to the Lord,
he has taken them quickly from the wickedness around them.**

**Yet people look on, uncomprehending;
it does not enter their heads
that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,
and protection, his holy ones.**

The Word of the Lord

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.

A reading from the Book of Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

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

**I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

**I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.**

**He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away.”**

**The One who sat on the throne said,
“Behold, I make all things new.”**

**I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.**

**To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.**

**The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son.”**

The Word of the Lord

Second Readings (Choose One)

A reading from the book of Revelation 14:13

**I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me,
‘Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord!
Happy indeed, the Spirit says;
now they can rest for ever after their work,
since their good deeds go with them.’**

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3–4.8–9

**When we were baptised in Christ Jesus
we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised
we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory,
we too might live a new life.**

**But we believe that having died with Christ
we shall return to life with him:
Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead
will never die again.
Death has no power over him any more.**

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 14:7–12

**The life and death of each of us has its influence on others;
if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord,
so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.**

**This explains why Christ both died and came to life,
it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.**

**We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God;
as scripture says: By my life —it is the Lord who speaks —
every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God.
It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.**

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

4:14–5:1

**We know that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life
will raise us with Jesus in our turn,
and put us by his side and you with us.
You see, all this is for your benefit,
so that the more grace is multiplied among people,
the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.**

**That is why there is no weakening on our part,
and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay,
the inner man is renewed day by day.**

**Yes the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little,
train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory
which is out of all proportion to them.**

**And so we have no eyes for things that are visible,
but only for things that are invisible;
for visible things last only for a time,
and the invisible things are eternal.**

**For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up,
there is a house built by God for us,
an everlasting home
not made by human hands,
in the heavens.**

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1–2

**Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.**

**Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.**

**My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.**

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Letter of St. 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.

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 fought the good fight to the end,

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.

**A reading from the Second Letter of St. 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 we did in the body, whether good or evil.**

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the First Letter of St. 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.



Prayers of the Faithful

1. Let us pray for N. In baptism s/he died with Christ. May s/he now share in the fullness of his resurrection. Lord, hear us.
2. For the sorrowing family, relatives and friends of N; that they may find strength and consolation in their Christian faith and in the love and support of this community. Lord, hear us.
3. God of all consolation, help us to comfort one another in our grief, finding light in time of darkness, and faith in time of doubt. Lord, hear us.
4. We pray for all those we have loved who have died. Lord give them the reward of their goodness. Lord, hear us.
5. We pray for those who care for the sick and dying, especially those who cared for N. Lord, hear us.
6. We pray for those here today, that our memory of N. whom we loved inspire us with a renewed love for all our sisters and brothers. Lord, hear us.
7. We pray for all of us here today; that we may be prepared for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name, to pass from this world to the next. Lord, hear us.