

FUNERAL PLANNING: READINGS

Old Testament, Wis 3:1-6 [789-2]

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* to be an affliction!
And their going forth from us -- utter destruction!

But, *they are* in peace.
For if, in human estimation 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.

Just like gold in the furnace
 he proved them.
And, just like sacrificial offerings,
 he took them to himself.

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

**On that day, it will be said...
"Behold our God, to whom we have 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.

A reading from the book of Lamentations

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

**But, I will call this to mind as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.**

**My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.**

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

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

[eh – KLEE' - see – AH' - stees]

**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 destroy, 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 distance.**

**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. (Thanks be to God.)

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans:

**Are you not aware that we,
who were baptized into Christ Jesus,
were baptized into his death?**

**Through baptism into his death
we were buried with him, so that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,
we too might live a new life.**

**If we have died with Christ,
we believe that we are also to live with him.**

**We know that Christ, once raised from the dead,
will never die again;
death has no more power over him.**

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans:

**None of us lives for oneself,
and no one dies for oneself.**

**For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord.**

So then, whether we live or die... we are the Lord's.

**For this is why Christ died and came to life:
that he might be Lord
of both the dead and the living.**

**For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
for it is written:**

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

So, then, each of us shall give an account of themselves to God.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of 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.**

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

**Brothers and sisters,
we would have you be clear
about those who sleep in death,
otherwise, you might yield to grief,
like those who have no hope.**

**For if we believe that Jesus died,
and then, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of John:

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

Yet that, in fact, is what we are.

**The reason the world does not recognize us
is that it never recognized the Son.**

**Dearly beloved,
we are God's children now;
what we shall later be has not yet come to light.**

**We know that when it comes to light
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.**

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

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

**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.”**

**Then he said,
“Write these words down,
for they are trustworthy and true.”**

**He said to me,
“They are accomplished.
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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

[The Prayers of the Faithful follow the priest's homily. You will be invited up to the Lectern by the priest or comfort ministers. The priest will pray an introductory prayer and then turn to you. You then read the following intercessions and the people will respond.]

[Reader:]

In baptism _____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead *him/her* over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our *brother/sister*, _____, who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that *he/she* may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For _____
(write in the names of immediate relatives, or simply 'the family of _____')

that they may be consoled in their sorrow by the care and love of relatives and friends. We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the relatives and friends of _____, that their faith and hope may be strengthened as they grieve the loss of someone they love. We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again; that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in the fullness of God's Kingdom, We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

[Please remain at the lectern while the priest concludes the Prayers of the Faithful, then rejoin your family and friends.]