

Preparing a Funeral ~ St. John the Evangelist Parish



NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

NT-#1

[Romans 6:3-9]

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized in 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.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

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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.

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

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

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

He, who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all,
how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

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

If 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 letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

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 himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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 human being,
the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life
but each one in proper order:

Christ the first fruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

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.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life
but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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

"Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

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

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 but eternal in heaven.

So, we are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.
Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body
and go home to the Lord.

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

The Word of the Lord.

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

Brothers and sisters:

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.

A reading from the first letter of John.

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.

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved:

We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love our brothers and sisters.
Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates another 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 and sisters.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

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

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 heard a loud voice from the throne cry out:
"This is God's dwelling among the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and he will be their God who is always with them.
He will wipe 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, "See, I make all things new!
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

To anyone who thirsts I will give to drink without cost
from the spring of life.
Those who win the victory shall inherit these gifts;
I will be their God and they shall be my child."

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved:

Let us love one another because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God.
The person without love has known nothing of God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed in our midst in this way:
he sent his only Son to the world that we might have life through him.

Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God,
but that he has loved us and has sent his Son as an offering for our sins.

Beloved, if God has loved us so,
we must have the same love for one another.
No one has ever seen God.
Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to Timothy.

As for me, the hour has come for me to be sacrificed;
the time is here for me to leave this life.

I have done my best in the race,
I have run the full distance,
and I have kept the faith.

And now there is waiting for me the prize of victory awarded for a
righteous life,
the prize which the Lord, the righteous Judge,
will give me on that Day – and not only to me,
but to all those who wait with love for him to appear.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If I have all the eloquence of men or angels,
but speak without love,
I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are,
and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness,
to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all.

If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece,
and if I even let them take my body to burn it,
but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind;
it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited;
it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense and is not resentful.
Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins
but delights in the truth;
it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope,
and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

The Word of the Lord.