

St. Joseph the Worker
Planning Guide
for the Mass of the Resurrection



"Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen..."

"I am the resurrection and the life;
he who believes in me, though he die,
yet shall he live, and whoever lives
and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?"

(John 11:25-26)

St. Joseph the Worker Parish

901 Hopkins Rd., Ste. A, Haddon Twp. NJ 08033

Phone: (856) 858-1313

Website: www.stjosephtheworker.net

Office Hours: Mon—Fri, 9AM - 4:00PM

(office closes at 2PM on Fridays during the summer)

	Information about the Deceased:
Name of deceased:	
Age:	
Date of death:	
Name of spouse:	
Is the spouse living or deceased?	
Name of Parents: <i>(Please indicate if they are living or deceased)</i>	
Work profession:	
Were they active in a particular charity or community organization? If so, which?	
Were they in the military? If so, which branch and for how long?	
How active were they in their Catholic Faith? Did they attend Mass daily, weekly, on occasion?	
Were they involved in any Church ministries? <i>(i.e., Lector, Extraordinary Minister, Knight of Columbus, regular volunteer?)</i>	
Place of burial:	

Please indicate your choices for the following:

Date and time of Mass:

Place of Mass:

MUSIC requests

Entrance Hymn: <i>(from pg. 24)</i>	
Responsorial Psalm: <i>(from pg. 24)</i>	
Presentation of Gifts: <i>(from pg. 24)</i>	
Communion Hymn: <i>(from pg. 25)</i>	
Meditation music: <i>(from pg. 25)</i>	
Recessional Hymn: <i>(from pg. 25)</i>	

SCRIPTURE requests

1 st Reading (OT): <i>(from pgs. 9-12)</i>		1 st Reader's name:
2 nd Reading (NT): <i>(from pgs. 13-19)</i>		2 nd Reader's name:
Gospel Reading: <i>(the Priest will choose)</i>		<i>The Priest will read...</i>
Prayers of the Faithful: <i>(a.k.a., "Intentions")</i>	"A" or "B" <i>(Please choose one. If you would like a family member or friend to recite the prayers, please provide their name:</i>	
Names of Gift-bearers: <i>(usually 2 people)</i>		
Name of the Eulogist: <i>(3-5 mins.)</i>		

“Blessed are those who mourn
for they shall be comforted...”

(Matthew 5:4)



“Our deepest sympathies...”

Dear friend in Christ,

Please accept our deepest sympathies for the loss of your loved-one... Please also know that your church family at St. Joseph the Worker is here to help you through this difficult time.

Many families find it beneficial to be involved with the preparation of their loved-one’s Funeral Mass. We invite you to participate in selecting the readings, prayers and music in any capacity you wish to do so.

Please read the *General Information* section beginning on the next page. Then, please fill out the information requested on **pages 2** and **27**. If you have questions, please call the Parish Office at (856) 858-1313 and someone will assist you.

When you have completed filling out the information, please call the Parish Office to set up an appointment to meet with me to discuss the funeral liturgy. If I am not available to meet with you, one of our staff members will meet with you instead.

Please also know that your family and friends are invited to our annual All Soul’s Day Mass on Nov. 2nd at St. Vincent Pallotti Church. On this day we encourage you to bring a photo of your loved-one to place in the sanctuary as we prayer for our dearly departed.

Again, please accept our condolences for the loss of your loved-one. May the Spirit of Consolation descend upon you and comfort you in this time of sorrow...

Warmly in Christ,

Fr. Mark Matthias, Administrator, SJW

General information...

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE— THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Many family members find it comforting to assist in the burial process of their loved one. This is why we invite you to help us in the *Liturgy of the Mass*. If you would like to participate, we invite you to select one reading from the *Old Testament* and one reading from the *New Testament* to be part of the *Liturgy of the Word*. Please see **pages 9-19** in this booklet for the different readings the Church recommends. Please also indicate your selections on the back inside cover of this booklet. *Please note*, the Priest who is giving the homily will select, and read, the *Gospel reading*. [However, we encourage family members or friends who are accustomed to public speaking to do the *First* and *Second readings*. It will also help if they are familiar with the procedures of the Catholic Mass. If there is no one from your family who wishes to do the readings, a parish lector will be assigned to do them. Please note the *Responsorial Psalm* will be sung by the Cantor.

MUSIC

As we all know, music can have a powerful influence on our emotions. The right song can help us to *grieve* while another can help us to *hope*. The Director of Music assigned to your Mass will arrange for an organist and cantor to sing at the Mass. However, we invite you to choose the songs for the different parts of the Mass. Please see **pages 24-26** in this booklet for the different songs the Church permits to be sung at the Funeral Mass. Please indicate your choices of music on the back inside-cover of this booklet. If you have any questions about this process, please contact our parish office at (856) 858-1313. *Please note*, only music from the Catholic hymnal—*performed live*—is appropriate for the Mass. Other favorite songs can be used at the wake, cemetery, or funeral luncheon.

Communion hymn:

Eye Has Not Seen
You Are Mine
Supper of the Lord
I Am The Bread Of Life
One Bread, One Body
Blest Are They
Taste and See
We Remember
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Panis Angelicus (from the old St. Gregory hymnal)
Ave Verum Corpus (from the old St. Gregory hymnal)
Going Home
Christ Before Us
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
Behold the Lamb
Shelter Me, O God

Meditation music:

Ave Maria (Schubert)
Ave Maria (Bach-Gounod)
Gentle Woman
Panis Angelicus (Cesar Franck)

Recessional hymn:

We Will Rise Again
How Great Thou Art
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Be Not Afraid
On Eagles' Wings
Going Home
Fly Like a Bird

Hymns to choose from...

Please choose the Hymns for each part of the Mass and record your choices on **page 27** of this booklet. Thank you.

Entrance hymn:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Be Not Afraid
Here I Am Lord
Hosea
Lord of all Hopefulness
O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Responsorial Psalm:

(Please note: This selection must be an actual psalm, not a paraphrase or substitution. Thank you!)

Psalm 23 - The Lord Is My Shepherd (Any setting)
Psalm 42 - My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord My God
Psalm 103 - The Lord is kind and merciful
Psalm 27 - The Lord is my light and my salvation
Psalm 34 - Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

Presentation of the Gifts:

Prayer of St. Francis
Amazing Grace
We Remember
All I Ask Of You
I Have Loved You
Eye Has Not Seen
Shepherd Me O God
You Are Mine
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
Going Home (usually for an older person who died peacefully)
O Loving God (very similar to the secular song, "Danny Boy")
Christ Before Us (a Welsh melody, with lovely lyrics)
Great is Thy Faithfulness

EULOGY

A family member or friend may give a eulogy following the "Prayer after Communion." We respectfully remind the eulogist of the following:

1. The eulogist must be sure of his or her ability to speak at this emotional time. Also, we also suggest the eulogy not be longer than 3 to 5 minutes.
2. What to say... Many people find it difficult to come up with "just the right words" for their eulogy. We suggest that you simply share some of the happy memories you had with your loved one and what you admired most about them. Please keep in mind that "off the cuff remarks" and inappropriate language are *not permitted* in the church. Our loved one's deserve a dignified reflection on their life...
3. Due to various time constraints among the clergy, musicians and even our family and guests, we recommend only one eulogist at the Mass. If others wish to speak, there is an opportunity to do so at the wake or committal service.

WAKE SERVICE

If there is a wake service on the evening before the Mass, a Priest or Deacon will do their best to visit you at the funeral parlor at your request to offer their condolences and to say prayers that are part of the Catholic Funeral Rite. Please let him know if there is anyone who would like to say a few words about the deceased at the end of the wake service. You can also ask him any questions you may have about the Mass or your liturgy selections.

General information...

BURIAL

If you wish a Priest or Deacon to do the final committal of your loved one at the cemetery, please let the Funeral Director know and they will try to arrange to have one present. Please know, the Priest who celebrates the Funeral Mass is not always available to perform the final Committal if they have a previous or pressing commitment. In these instances, the Funeral Director will arrange for someone else to do the Committal.

FUNERAL LITURGY OUTSIDE MASS

A Funeral Mass is not permitted on solemnities of obligation, or Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. On other occasions, the Pastor or family may decide that a Mass is not optimal at this time. A Priest or Deacon may celebrate a Funeral service outside of Mass, or at the time of burial.

MEMORIALS

There are times when family or friends would like to honor their deceased loved one by purchasing a religious item for the Church and inscribing their loved one's name on it. While the intention is good, the Church can rarely use these types of gifts because many Priest donate their possessions (i.e., chalices and vestments) to the Church after they are deceased. If you would like to help the Church, a monetary donation will always be put to good use for repairs and other needs in the Church.

CONFESSION TIMES

For those parishioners who wish to be in a State of Grace so they can receive Holy Communion at Mass, the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is offered at **St. Aloysius** (Oaklyn, NJ) at 3PM every Saturday, and at **St. Vincent Pallotti** every Saturday at 4PM.

Guidelines for Receiving Communion

FOR CATHOLICS

Catholics fully participate in the celebration of the Mass when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to "eat his flesh and drink his blood" or we will have "no life in us" (John 6:26-59). In order to be properly disposed to receive Holy Communion, two conditions must apply:

- 1) a person should be in a *State of Grace* and not in a state of mortal sin (CCC 1415 & 1861); and
- 2) a person should have fasted for one hour before receiving Holy Communion.

Persons who have grave sin on their soul must reconcile their relationship with God by receiving the *Sacrament of Penance* before receiving Holy Communion.

FOR OTHER CHRISTIANS

The Church invites all those of the Catholic Faith who are in a "State of Grace" to come forward to receive Holy Communion. For those who are not of the Catholic Faith, we welcome them to our parish and are glad they have joined us for the Mass of the Resurrection. However, we ask that they respect our Traditions and Beliefs about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and refrain from receiving Holy Communion. Instead, we invite them to come forward to the Table of the Lord to receive a blessing by folding their arms across their chest. They are also welcome to remain in their seats and be in Communion with the rest of the Congregation through prayer.

FOR NON-CHRISTIANS

The Catholic Church also welcomes those who do not share our Christian faith. While we cannot extend an invitation to receive Holy Communion to them, we do invite them to be united with us in prayer during Holy Communion. Thank you...

Prayers of the Faithful (cont'd)

1. For _____, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints. *We pray to the Lord:*
2. 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:*
3. For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. *We pray to the Lord:*
4. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. *We pray to the Lord:*
5. For the family and friends of our brother/sister _____, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. *We pray to the Lord:*
6. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. *We pray to the Lord:*

Celebrant:

God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHURCH OFFERING

The operational costs of St. Joseph the Worker are not supported by Sunday collections alone, as such, we suggest a minimal offering of **\$350.00** for the expenses of the church in addition to payment of the musicians. If you would like to have a viewing (casket) or visitation (urn) in the church before the funeral mass, there is an additional offering of **\$100.00**.

MUSICIAN OFFERING

Our musicians are accomplished professionals. They receive the following offerings: Organists, **\$175.00**; Cantors, **\$175.00**.

Please note: The offerings for the church and the musicians are already included in the fees you pay to the funeral home. Also, in the case of dire financial need, the Pastor is willing to reduce, or even waive the funeral offering for the church. It is important to us that all of our parishioners are buried with the same dignity and honor they deserve as members of the Body of Christ. Please speak with “**Fr. Mark**” at SJW if a special need arises. Thank you.

CREMATION

While the Church permits cremation, it prefers the burial or entombment of the body since it imitates the example of Christ being laid in the tomb. The burial of the body intact, also emphasizes the uniqueness and dignity of human beings.

However, when cremation is chosen, ideally the un-cremated body should be present for the Funeral Mass Rites and then cremated afterwards. If this is not feasible, the cremated remains enclosed in a fitting container or worthy vessel should be present for the rites and then buried or entombed in a cemetery with a permanent marker recording their name. The scattering of cremated remains or the keeping of them in a home is contrary to the Church's view of a reverent disposition of the body.

The Liturgy of the Word...

From the following pages, please choose *one reading* from the Old Testament and *one reading* from the New Testament.

Please record your choices on **page 27** of this booklet.

Thank you!

3. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. We pray to the Lord:
4. Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. *We pray to the Lord:*
5. Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. *We pray to the Lord:*
6. The family and friends of _____ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. *We pray to the Lord:*

Celebrant:

Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Version "B"

Celebrant:

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ His Son from the dead; with confidence, we ask Him to save all His people, living and dead:

Reader: Our response is: "*Lord, hear our prayer.*"

(Continued on the next page...)

**The Priest will choose the Gospel Reading
from one of the following selections:**

Matthew 5:1-12a	Luke 23:33, 39-43	John 11:32-45
Matthew 11:25-30	Luke 24:13-35	John 14:1-6
Matthew 25:1-13	John 5:24-29	John 17:24-26
Matthew 25:31-46	John 6:37-40	John 19:17-18, 25-30
Mark 15:16:1-6	John 6:51-58	
Luke 7:11-17	John 11:17-27	
Luke 12:35-40	John 11:21-27	

Prayers of the Faithful

*Please choose “Version A” or “Version B” for the intentions
of the Mass. You are also welcome to compose your own.*

*Please record your choice on **page 27**. Thank you...*

Version “A”

Celebrant:

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

Reader: Our response is: *“Lord, hear our prayer.”*

1. 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:*
2. Our brother/sister _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. *We pray to the Lord:*

**Please choose one Reading
from the *OLD Testament...***

OT 1:

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs (31:10-31)

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. The Word of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord...

OT 2:**A Reading from the Book of Job (19:1,23-27)**

Then 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.

The Word of the Lord.**OT 3:****A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-11)**

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. What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 12:**A Reading from the Book of Revelation (21:1-5a; 6b-7)**

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." 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.**NT 13:****A reading from the Book of Revelations (14:13)**

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."

The Word of the Lord.

NT 10:**A Reading from the 1st Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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 11:**A Reading from the First Letter of John (3:1-2)**

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.

OT 4:**A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-9)**

...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 others, 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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

(Continued on the next page...)

OT 5:**A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (25:6a,7-9)**

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples. A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. 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 6:****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.

NT 8:**A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:13-5:1)**

We know 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.**NT 9:****A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (5:1, 6-10)**

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 6:

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57)

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 7:

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (3:20)

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 1:

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps a good person one might even find for 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.

NT 2:

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-4;8-9)

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.

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 3:

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8:14-23)

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children 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 first-fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 4:

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8:31b-35; 37-39)

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? 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 5:

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:20:23)

But now 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.

The Word of the Lord.