



Ministry of Consolation

Mass of Christian Burial  
Workbook

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the St. Ann Parish community, we sincerely express our deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one. This is certainly a difficult time for you and your family. We hope that it brings you some comfort to know we are praying for you and your family.

As we prepare to celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial we would like to invite you to suggest any personal wishes concerning the Mass, in order to make this time as meaningful for you as possible. If you wish, please fill out as much of the following form as you like. If you would rather have our ministry plan the Mass for you, simply let us know. We would be very happy to do this for you.

The following may be helpful to you in planning the liturgy.

Old and New Testament Readings - These may be read by family, friends, or by a member of our Ministry of Consolation. Please indicate on the form who will be reading. The reader should be able to read well in public and become familiar with the reading prior to the Mass. The Gospel is read by the priest. We've included scripture appropriate for the Mass for Christian Burial at the back of this booklet. You may make your selections from there.

Gift Presenters - Two or three people will be needed to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine. Please inform those you choose and list their names on the form. The gifts, which are placed on the table near the back of the Church, are brought to the Altar after the prayers of the faithful.

Hymns - Music - To assist you in selecting music for the liturgy, this booklet includes a list of hymns appropriate for the Mass of Christian Burial. You are certainly welcome to suggest other Church hymns that may hold a deeper meaning for you or your loved one. We will try to accommodate your suggestions.

Eulogies - Eulogies are not permitted during the Mass of Christian Burial. We suggest a few other options where it may be more appropriate: the vigil prayer service at the wake; at the cemetery; or at the family luncheon. The Ministry of Consolation is available to help you in this decision.

Homily - We ask that the family write (one page- legibly written or typed) about their loved one so that the priest may incorporate those personal sentiments into his homily. You may give this information to a member of the Ministry of Consolation or email it directly to our Pastor.

Church/Chapel - The Mass of Christian Burial is celebrated in the Church without exception. You may use our Day Chapel for a visitation prior to the Mass for an additional fee.

We hope this booklet helps you in planning the liturgy for your loved one. We understand this is a difficult time and know that God's care and love must see us through. Please know our prayers are with you and that we are here to help. If there is anything we can do, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Peace,

St. Ann Ministry of Consolation



## Liturgy Planning Worksheet

Funeral Mass for \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this worksheet by selecting the readings from this packet and selecting the music from the "Music Suggestions for Funerals" sheet included in this packet. We offer this packet to guide you and to allow you and your family greater participation in these rites as we commend our loved one to our Lord. A member of the St. Ann Ministry of Consolation will call to assist in the preparation of this liturgy.

Entrance Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Old Testament Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Read by \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Read by \_\_\_\_\_

Offertory Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Presenters \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Final Commendation \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional Hymn \_\_\_\_\_



# ***Music Suggestions for Funerals***

Please select music from the following approved list. You will need an Entrance, Presentation, Communion, and Recessional hymn. Below we categorize each hymn to the part of the Mass where the hymn fits most appropriately.

## **Entrance/Recessional**

Amazing Grace  
Be Not Afraid  
How Great Thou Art  
Here I Am Lord  
Just a Closer Walk with Thee  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
On Eagle's Wings  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
Serdeczna Matka  
Whatsoever You Do

## **Final Commendation**

Celtic Song of Farewell  
Jesus, Remember Me

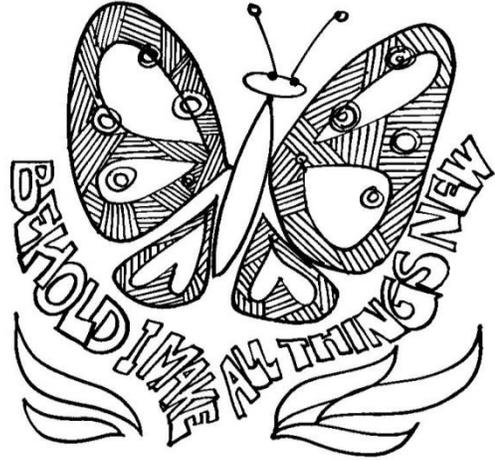
## **Presentation of Gifts/Communion**

Ave Maria  
Blest Are They  
Come to Me  
Draw Near  
Eat This Bread  
Eye Has Not Seen  
Gift of Finest Wheat  
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman  
Hosea  
I Am the Bread of Life  
I Have Loved You  
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say  
In the Garden  
Lord When You Came to the Seashore  
One Bread, One Body  
Prayer of St. Francis  
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling  
We Remember  
You Are Mine  
You Are Near

---

*The Music Director reserves the right to place the selected hymns where they are most liturgically appropriate in the Mass.*

# Reading Suggestions for Funeral Liturgy



## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

OT-1 *1 Kings 3:5-12*

### **A reading from the First Book of Kings**

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night and said, "Ask what I should give you!" Solomon answered: "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David.

O Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen. Therefore, give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil."

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

God said to him:

"Because you have asked this, and not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for your elf understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. I give you a wise and discerning mind."

The Word of the Lord.

OT-2 *2 Maccabees 12:43-46*

### **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 an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. 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 this sin.

The Word of the Lord.

OT-3 *Job 19: 1, 23-27*

**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 being consumed  
with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

OT-4 *Psalms 23*

**A reading from the book of Psalms**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me  
repose;

By the restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side

With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes; You

anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for  
years to come.

The Word of the Lord

OT-5 *Psalms 100:2-5*

**A Reading from the Book of Psalms**

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;  
    worship the Lord with cries of gladness;  
    come before him with joyful song.

Know that the Lord is God,  
    our maker to whom we belong,  
    whose people we are,  
    God's well-tended flock.

Enter the temple gates with praise,  
    its courts with thanksgiving.

Give thanks to God, bless his name;  
    good indeed is the Lord,

Whose love endures forever,  
    whose faithfulness lasts through every  
    age.

    The Word of the Lord

OT-6 *Proverbs 31:10-12, 20-22, 25-31*

**A reading from the Book of Proverbs**

When one finds a valiant woman,  
    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 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.  
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 of the women of proven worth,  
    but you have excelled them all."  
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;  
    the women 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.

OT-7 *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes**

For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under the  
heavens:  
A time to be born and a time to die;  
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is  
planted.  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
A time to break down, and a time to build up.  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to throw away stones,  
and a time to gather stones together  
A time to embrace,  
and a time to refrain from embracing.  
A time to seek, and a time to lose  
A time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
A time to tear, and a time to sew;  
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak,  
A time for war, and a time for peace.  
The Word of the Lord.

OT-8 *Ecclesiastes 3:9-13*

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes**

"What does the worker gain from his toil?  
I have seen the burden God has laid on men.  
He has made everything beautiful in its time.  
He has also set eternity in the hearts of men,  
yet they cannot fathom what God has done  
from beginning to end.  
I know that there is nothing better for men than to  
be happy and do good while they live.  
That everyone may eat and drink, and find  
satisfaction in all his toil. - this is the gift of God."  
The Word of the Lord

OT-9 *Wisdom 3:1-6, 9*

**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.  
The Word of the Lord

OT-10 *Wisdom 4:7-10, 13-15*

**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.  
The Word of the Lord.

OT-11 *Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9*

**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!"  
The Word of the Lord.

OT-12 *Isaiah 43: 1b-2, 4a*

**A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah**

Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you; I  
have called you by your name, you are mine.  
Should you pass through the sea, I will be there  
with you; or through rivers, they will not swallow  
you up. Should you walk through fire, you will not  
be scorched, and the flames will not burn you.  
Because you are precious in my eyes and I love  
you, do not be afraid, for I am with you.  
The Word of the Lord.

OT-13 *Isaiah 60:19-20*

**A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah**

The sun will no more be your light by day,  
nor will the brightness of the moon  
shine on you at night;  
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.

Your sun will never set again,  
and your moon will wane no more;

The Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of sorrow will end.

The Word of the Lord

OT-14 *Isaiah 61:1-3*

**A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me.  
He has Sent me to bring good news to the  
oppressed, to bind up the  
brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives and  
release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's  
favor,  
and to comfort all who mourn;  
to give them the oil of gladness  
instead of mourning,  
a mantle of praise instead of a faint  
spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his  
glory.

The Word of the Lord.

OT-15 *Isaiah 65:17-21*

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be  
remembered  
or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am  
creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people.

No more shall the sound of weeping be  
heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.

One who dies at a hundred years  
will be considered a mere youth.

My people shall not labor in vain.

Before they call, I will answer;  
while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and  
the lion shall eat straw like an ox.

The Word of The Lord.

OT-16 *Lamentations 3:17-26*

**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 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.

OT-17 *Daniel 12:1-3*

**A reading from the book of the Prophet Daniel**

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

"At that 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. "  
The Word of the Lord.

OT-18 *Micah 6:6-8*

**A reading from the Book of Micah**

The prophet Micah said:  
"With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow before God on high?"  
The Lord God said:  
"You have been told, O mortal, what is  
good and what the Lord requires of you:  
to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God."  
The Word of the Lord.

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

NT-1 *Acts 10:34-36, 42-43*

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Then Peter began to speak to the people:  
"I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead .

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

NT-3 *Romans 5:17-21*

### **A reading from the letter of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-2 *Romans 5:5-11*

### **A reading from the letter of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-4 *Romans 6:3-9*

### **A reading from the letter of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-5 *Romans 8:14-23*

**A reading from the letter of 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!" (that is, "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.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-7 *Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12*

**A reading from the letter of 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 in death we are the Lord's. That is why Christ died and came to life again, that he might be 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-6 *Romans 31b-35, 37-39*

**A reading from the letter of 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 the 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-8 *1 Corinthians 13:1-8*

**A reading from the First letter of Paul  
to the Corinthians**

If I speak in tongues of mortals and of angels,  
but do not have love,  
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.  
And if I have prophetic powers,  
and understand all mysteries  
and all knowledge,  
and if I have all faith so as to  
remove mountains,  
but do not have love, I am nothing.  
If I give away all my possession,  
and if I hand over my body so that I  
may boast,  
but do not have love, I gain nothing.  
Love is patient, love is kind;  
love is not envious or boastful or  
arrogant or rude.  
It does not insist on its own way;  
it is not irritable or resentful;  
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but  
rejoices in the truth.  
It bears all things, hopes all things,  
endures all things.  
Love never ends.  
The Word of the Lord.

NT-9 *1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 24b-28*

**A reading from the First letter of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-10 *1 Corinthians 15:51-57*

**A reading from the First letter of 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.

The Word of the Lord

NT-11 *2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1*

**A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

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-13 *Philippians 3:20-21*

**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.

NT-12 *2 Corinthians 5:1-6:10*

**A reading from the Second letter of 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 receive his recompense, good according to his life in the body.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-14 *Philippians 4:4-5a, 8-9*

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians**

Farewell;

I wish you all joy in the Lord.  
I will say it again,  
all joy be yours.  
Let your generosity be clear to all  
And now, my family, all that is true,  
all that is noble,  
all that is just and pure,  
all that is lovable and gracious,  
whatever is excellent and admirable--  
fill all your thoughts with these things.  
The lessons I taught you ,  
the tradition I have passed on,  
all that you heard me say or saw me do,  
put these into practice;  
and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-15 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 [and sisters] 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-17 2 *Timothy* 4:6-8

**A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the Timothy**

As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord

NT-16 2 *Timothy* 2:8-13

**A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-18 1 *John* 3:1-2

**A reading from the First letter of John**

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.

NT-19 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.'

The Word of the Lord.

NT-21 Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-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 heard 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 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 the 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."

The Word of the Lord.

NT-20 Revelation 20:11-21

**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.

The Word of the Lord