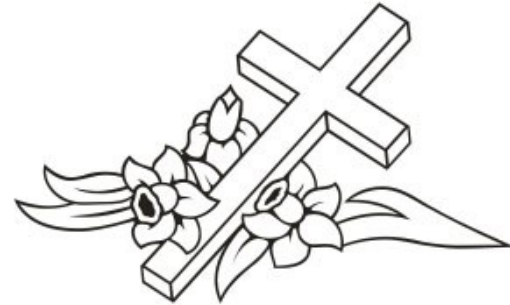


A Planning Guide for Your Loved One's Funeral



"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. Thomas Aquinas R.C. Church Park Slope
249 9th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215
Office: 718-768-9471 Fax: 718-788-3390
Email: hfstabrooklyn@gmail.com

Information about the Deceased:

Name of Deceased: _____ Age: _____

If Married, how many years? _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Spouse living, or deceased? _____

Work profession: _____

Any community or volunteer activity? Were they in the military?

Any hobbies or special interests?

How active were they in their Christian Faith? Did they attend Mass daily, weekly, on occasion? _____

Were they involved in any Church ministries or civil organizations? (i.e., Lector, Extraordinary Minister, Volunteer?)

Will there be a eulogy? (Please see pg. 7): ____ (Yes) ____ (No)

Please indicate your choices for the following:

MUSIC requests
(please see page 24):

Entrance Hymn:	
Presentation of Gifts (Offertory hymn):	
Communion Hymn:	
Recessional Hymn:	

SCRIPTURE requests
(please see pages 9-19):

1 st Reading (OT):		1 st Reader's name:
Responsorial Psalm:		(Church Cantor will sing...)
2 nd Reading (NT):		2 nd Reader's name:
Gospel Reading:		Intentions "A" or "B"?
Gift-bearers for offertory (2 people):		
Name of Eulogist at the end of Mass? (3-5 mins.):		
Any additional info the Celebrant needs to know:		

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

(Matthew 5:4)



“Our deepest sympathies...”

Dear friends in Christ,

*Please accept our deepest sympathies for the loss of
your Loved One...*

*Please also know that your parish family at St. Thomas
Aquinas is here to help you through this difficult time.*

*Many families find it meaningful to be involved in
the preparation of the funeral Mass. We invite you to
participate in the liturgy in any capacity you are com-
fortable doing.*

*Please read through this booklet and fill-out the infor-
mation requested on the inside covers. If you prefer to
leave the funeral liturgy arrangements to us, simply in-
form us of your decision.*

*Again, please accept our deepest sympathies for the
loss of your Loved One. May the Spirit of Consolation
descend upon you and comfort you in your time of sor-
row...*

in Christ,

*Fr. Willy Kingsley Ndi
Administrator*

General information...

MUSIC

(Please see Pages 24-26 for Hymn suggestions. Thank you...)

More than words, music can affect our feelings and help us to worship. Our Director of Music, **Cesar Reyes** will provide an organist and cantor for the funeral mass and choose appropriate settings for the sung parts. Please let him know if any family or friends wish to participate by singing or playing a musical instrument. If you have some hymn preferences, please indicate them on the form. Only religious music, performed live, is appropriate for the mass. Other favorite songs can be used at the wake, cemetery, or funeral luncheon.

WAKE SERVICE

A Priest or Deacon will visit the funeral parlor, in the afternoon or the evening before the Funeral Mass. He will lead a prayer service if you wish. Let him know if anyone is going to speak or read during the service. He can also answer any questions you may have about the Mass, or your liturgy selections.

BURIAL

Since most of the cemeteries are located at some distance from the parish, it is the custom for the Funeral Directors to arrange for a Priest or Deacon to offer prayers at the graveside, or chapel.

Presentation of the Gifts (Offertory Hymn)

(Please choose one...)

Ave Maria
Amazing Grace
Mary's Song, The Magnificat
Precious Lord Take My Hand
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Blest Are They
The Lord Is My Hope
Abide With Me
Peace Prayer Of St. Francis
To You O Lord
The King of Love My Shepherd is
Hosea
I have Loved You in Christ
Psalm 42: As the Deer Longs
Where My Father Lives

Communion Hymn

(Please choose one...)

I Am the Bread Of Life
Behold the Lamb
Eat This Bread
We Remember
Gift Of Finest Wheat
Center of My Life
Jesu Joy Of Man's Desiring
Panis Angelicus
I Received The Living God
Unless A Grain Of Wheat
Like A Shepherd

Hymns to choose from...

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

Entrance and Recessional Hymns

(Please choose one for Entrance and Recessional...)

You Are Mine

For All The Saints

The Strife is O'er

Jerusalem My Happy Home

Sing With All the Saints In Glory

O God Our Help In Ages Past

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Be Not Afraid

How Great Thou Art

We Will Rise Again

On Eagle's Wings

Sing a New Song

Lord Of All Hopefulness

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

Grant Them Eternal Rest

Requiem Introit: English, Latin/English (Please specify.)

Responsorial Psalm

(Please choose one...)

Psalm 23 The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 25 To You O Lord I Lift Up My Soul

Psalm 27 The Lord Is My Light And My Salvation

Psalm 34 Taste And See The Goodness Of God

Psalm 42 My Soul Is Thirsting

Psalm 62 Rest In God Alone

Psalm 91 Be With Me Lord When I Am In Trouble

Psalm 103 The Lord Is Kind and Merciful

Psalm 122 Let Us Go Rejoicing To The House Of The Lord

Psalm 139 You are Near

FUNERAL LITURGY OUTSIDE MASS

A Funeral Mass is not permitted on solemnities of obligation, or Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. At other times, the Pastor and family may judge that a Mass is not optimal at this time. A priest or deacon may celebrate a Funeral outside Mass, normally in church, but also possible in the home or funeral parlor.

MEMORIALS

Often family or friends would like to remember a deceased loved by purchasing a religious item with the name engraved or attached. While the intention is good, the Church can rarely use what is purchased and can only send it to the foreign missions. We can accept monetary donations for memorials and the church will acknowledge the donor and family as to what it was used for. Smaller donations may be pooled for a more costly vestment, sacred vessel or liturgical item.

CONFESSION TIMES

The regularly scheduled time for Confessions at St. Thomas Aquinas is Saturdays from **4:15pm to 5:00pm**. Please feel free to make an appointment with a priest at the Rectory if the above time is not convenient for you.

General information...

CHURCH OFFERING

Because the operational costs of *St. Thomas Aquinas* is not supported by Sunday collections alone, we suggest a minimal offering of **\$200.00** for the church in addition to payment of the musicians. Because our musicians are accomplished professionals, they receive the following fees: Organist **\$150.00**; Cantor **\$150.00**.

Normally the Funeral Director will add these fees to your bill. However, some may suggest you write a personal check directly to the church for **\$500.00**.

In case of grave financial need... the parish can waive the *funeral offering*. All of our parishioners are buried with the same dignity and honor they deserve as members of the Body of Christ. Please speak to the Funeral Director if a special need arises. Your parish will do anything it can to help in cases of need.

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 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.

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; 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* (John 20:22-23) before receiving Holy Communion.

For Other Christians:

The Catholic Church welcomes all Christians baptized in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. However, due to the diversions in the Christian Faith, we cannot extend an invitation to non-Catholics to receive Holy Communion. Roman Catholics believe in the Eucharist as the *Real Presence* of Christ given to us by our Lord to *feed our soul* with his divine life, and to celebrate the *oneness* of his flock. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with the Catholic Church would imply a *oneness* which does not yet exist, but for which we all pray will happen one day.

For Non-Christians

We also welcome those who do not share our Christian faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. While we cannot extend an invitation to receive Holy Communion to them, we do invite them to be united with us in prayer during this portion of the Mass.

Thank you...

Prayers of the Faithful

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.

EULOGY

A family member, or close 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/her ability to speak at this emotional time.
2. The eulogy should be no longer than 5 minutes. We encourage you to share some happy memories of the deceased and what you admired most about them during the eulogy.

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, only one eulogy is permitted at the funeral Mass. If others wish to speak, please note there is an opportunity to do so at the *wake* or *committal service*.

Preparing your Loved One's funeral...

Please choose one Reading from the Old Testament and one Reading from the New Testament.

Please record your choices on page 27 of this book.

Thank you!

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE— THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

(Please see Pages 9-19 for Readings suggestions. Thank you...)

Among the many options open to you in a funeral liturgy is to choose the Scripture readings. There are many beautiful readings from scripture that may have meaning to the deceased and or to the deceased's family. You may select one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. The priest who is preaching will pick the Gospel, but if there is one in particular you think would be appropriate, please indicate that. Family members or friends who are Lectors or at least accustomed to public speaking and familiar with the Catholic Mass may do an Old and New Testament reading from this booklet. A parish lector will be provided in the absence of a qualified family member or friend. If there is a scripture passage not included in this booklet which you feel is appropriate, please feel free to select it for the Mass. All readings must be from the bible. Please note that the Psalm will be sung by the Cantor.

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."*

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:

(Continued on next page)

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:

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:
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

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...

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

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 11:

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.

The Priest will choose the Gospel Reading

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	

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

NT 9:

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 10:

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)

But 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.

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

OT 5:

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (4:7-14)

But 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 6:

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 de-
stroy 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.

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.

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

NT 6:

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57:20)

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 in corruptibility 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.

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

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 (6:3-9)

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. 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.

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

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

The Word of the Lord.