

# MASSES FOR THE DEAD (1)

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

**3:1-6,9**

*He accepted them as a holocaust*

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,  
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,  
their going looked like a disaster,  
their leaving us, like annihilation;  
but they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it,  
their hope was rich with immortality;  
slight was their affliction, great will their blessing be.

God has put them to the test  
and proved them worthy to be with him;  
He has tested them like gold in a furnace,  
and accepted them as a holocaust.

They who trust in him will understand the truth,  
those who are faithful will live with him in love;  
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**26:1.4.7-9.13-14.**

**R. The Lord is my light and my help.**

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink? **R.**
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. **R.**
3. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face. **R.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans**     **14:7-12**

*Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others;  
If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord,  
so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

This explains why Christ both died and came to life,  
it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture  
says:

By my life - it is the Lord who speaks - every knee shall bend before me,  
and every tongue shall praise God.

It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life,  
says the Lord:

whoever believes in me will never die.

Alleluia!

# MASSES FOR THE DEAD (2)

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

25:6-9

*The Lord will destroy Death for ever.*

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare  
for all peoples a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain He will remove  
the mourning veil covering all peoples,  
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,  
He will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;  
He will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth,  
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God  
in whom we hoped for salvation;  
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice that He has saved us.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

## Responsorial Psalm

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**
2. He guides me along the right path;  
He is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. **R.**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans**      **6:3-4,8-9**

*Let us live a new life.*

When we are baptised in Christ Jesus  
we are baptised in his death;  
In other words, when we were baptised  
we went into the tomb with him  
and joined him in death,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the Father's glory,  
we too might live a new life.  
But we believe that having died with Christ  
we shall return to life with him;  
Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead  
will never die again.  
Death has no power over him any more.  
**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Our homeland is in heaven,  
and from heaven comes the Saviour  
we are waiting for,  
the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

# MASSES FOR THE DEAD (3)

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

**4:7-15**

*He accepted them as a holocaust*

The virtuous one, though they die before their time, will find rest.  
Length of days is not what makes age honourable,  
nor number of years the true measure of life;  
understanding, this is grey hairs,  
untarnished life, this is ripe old age.  
Coming to perfection in so short a while, they achieved long life;  
their soul being pleasing to the Lord, He has taken them quickly.  
Yet people look on, uncomprehending;  
it does not enter their heads  
that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,  
and protection, his holy ones.  
**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 41:2.3.5.**

**R. My soul is thirsting for God,  
the God of my life.**

1. Like the deer that yearns  
for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning  
for you my God. **R.**
2. My soul is thirsting for God,  
the God of my life;  
when can I enter and see  
the face of God? **R.**
3. These things will I remember  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd  
into the house of God,  
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,  
the throng wild with joy. **R.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians**

**4:13-14.18**

*We shall stay with the Lord for ever.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers,  
about those who have died,  
to make sure that you do not grieve about them,  
like the other people who have no hope.  
We believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus:  
God will bring them with Him.  
With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.  
**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
It is my Father's will, says the Lord,  
that I should lose nothing  
of all that he has given to me,  
and that I should raise it up on the last day.  
Alleluia!

# MASSES FOR THE DEAD (4)

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Sirach

2:1-9

If you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be hasty in time of calamity. Cleave to him and do not depart, that you may be honoured at the end of your life.

Accept whatever is brought upon you, and in changes that humble you be patient. For gold is tested in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust in him, and he will help you; make your ways straight, and hope in him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; and turn not aside, lest you fail. You who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not fail; you who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for everlasting joy and mercy.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 115(116):12-19*

**R. Precious in the eyes of the Lord,  
is the death of his faithful.**

1. How can I repay the Lord  
for his goodness to me?  
The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**
2. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people.  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. **R.**
3. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**
4. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.                   **R.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Timothy**                   **4:6-8**

I am already on the point of being sacrificed;  
the time of my departure has come.  
I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race.  
I have kept the faith.  
Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,  
which the Lord,  
the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day,  
and not only to me but also to  
all who have loved his appearing.  
**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Matthew 7:13*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Enter by the narrow gate,  
for the gate is narrow and the way is hard  
that leads to life,  
says the Lord.  
Alleluia!



# MASSES FOR THE DEAD (5)

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

*3:1-8.11*

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which 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 cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, 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 keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time of war, and a time of peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 91(92):2-6.13-16*

**R. It is good to give thanks to the Lord.**

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night **R.**
2. Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;  
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.  
O Lord, how great are your works,  
how deep are your designs. **R.**
3. The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.  
Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God. **R.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians**

**4:14-5:1**

He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen, but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Matthew 6:33*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be yours as well.

Alleluia!