

Scripture Selection Funeral Liturgy



St Ninian Cathedral Parish

Antigonish, NS

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OLD TESTAMENT READINGS
(First Reading)

A reading from the second book of Maccabees:

Judas Maccabeus took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honourably, taking account of the resurrection.

For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Job

Job answered:

“O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lad
They were engraved on a rock forever! For
I know that my Redeemer lives,
And that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
Then in my flesh I shall see God,
Whom I shall see on my side,
And my eyes shall behold,
And not another”

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes:

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
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 to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.
He has made everything suitable for its time.

The word of the Lord.

A shorter version (1-6,9) follows.

A Reading from the book of Wisdom:

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
And their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality,
having been disciplines a little,
they will receive great food,
because God tested them
and found them worthy of himself;

like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,
And the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The word of the Lord.

OR

A Reading from the book of Wisdom:

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
And their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
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and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Wisdom:

The righteous, though they die early,
will be at rest.

For old age is not honoured for length of time,
or measured by number of years;
but understanding is gray hair for anyone,
and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There was one who pleased God and was loved by him,
and while living among sinners was taken up.

Such a person was caught up
so that evil might not change their understanding
or guide deceive their soul.

For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.

Being perfected in a short time,
they fulfilled long years;
for their soul was pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness.

Yet the people saw and did not understand,
or take such a thing to heart,
that God's grace over his holy ones.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

“See, this is our God;

we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

The word of the Lord.

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 broken hearted,
to proclaim, liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion-
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

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.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord."
The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly for
the salvation of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel

“Therefore prophesy, and say to them,
Thus says the Lord God:
I am going to open your graves,
and bring you up from your graves, O my people;
and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
And you shall know that I am the Lord,
when I open your graves,
and bring you up from your graves, O my people.
I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live,
and I will place you on your own soil;
then you shall know that I, the Lord,
have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of the Prophet Daniel

At that time Michael, the great prince,
the protector of your people, shall rise.
There shall be a time of anguish,
such has never occurred
since the nations first came into existence.
But at that time your people shall be delivered,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake,
some to everlasting life,
and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,
and those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever.

The word of the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS
(Second Reading)

A shorter version follows.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to them:

"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.

That message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth

with the Holy Spirit and with power;

how he went about doing good

and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,

for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did

both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;

but God raised him on the third day

and allowed him to appear,

not to all the people

but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses,

and who ate and drank with him after

he rose from the dead.

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.

OR

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to them:

“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.

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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.

A reading from the book of Revelation

After this I, John, looked,
and there was a great multitude that no one could count,
from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb,
robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
And one of the elders then said to me,
“These are they who come out of the great ordeal;
they have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
For this reason they are before the throne of God, and
worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation

And I, John, heard a voice from heaven saying,

“Write this:

Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.”

“Yes,” says the Spirit,

“they will rest from their labours,

for their deeds follow them.”

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation

Then I, John, saw a great white throne
and the one who sat on it;
the earth and the heaven fled from his presence,
and no place was found for them.
And I saw the dead, great and small,
standing before the throne,
and books were opened.
Also another book was opened, the book of life.
And the dead were judged according to their works,
as recorded in the books.
And the sea gave up the dead that were in it,
Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them,
and all were judged according to what they had done.
Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.
This is the second death, the lake of fire;
and anyone whose name was not found written
in the book of life
was thrown into the lake of fire.
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation

Then I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first time heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“See, the home of God is among humans.

He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said,
“See, I am making all things new.

I am Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift
from the spring of the water of life.

The one who conquers will inherit these things,
and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

The word of the Lord

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given us.

For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—
though perhaps for a good person someone
might actually dare to die.

But God proves his love for us
in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Much more surely then,
now that we have been justified by his blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
much more surely, having been reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.

But more than that,
we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

If, because of the one man's trespass,
death exercised dominion through that one,
much more surely will those who receive
abundance of grace
and the free gift of righteousness
exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
Therefore just as one man's trespass
led to condemnation for all people,
so one man's act of righteousness
leads to justification and life for all people.
For just as by the one man's disobedience
the many were made sinners
so by one man's obedience
the many will be made righteous.
But law came in,
with the result that the trespass multiplied;
but where sin increased,
grace abounded all the more,
so that, just as sin exercised dominion
through justification leading to eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A shorter version follows.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Do you not know
that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,
so that, just as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a resurrection like his,
we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him
so that the body of sin might be destroyed,
and we might no longer be enslaved to sin,
but if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead,
will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.

The word of the Lord.

OR

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

Do you not know
that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,
so that, just as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
so we too might walk in newness of life.

but if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead,
will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.

The word of the Lord

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

All who are led by the Spirit of God are
sons and daughters of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery
to fall back into fear,

but you have received a spirit of adoption to sonship.

When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,

and if children, then heirs,

heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-

if in fact, we suffer with him

so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing with the glory
about to be revealed to us.

For the creation waits with eager longing

for the revealing of the children of God;

for the creation was subjected to futility,

not of its own will

but by the will of the one who subjected it,

in hope that the creation itself

will be set free from its bondage to decay

and will obtain the freedom of the glory

of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation

has been groaning in labour pains until now;

and not only the creation,
but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption to sonship,
the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died,
yes, who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

We do not live to ourselves,
and we do not die to ourselves.

If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord;

so then, whether we live or whether we die,
we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ died and lived again,
so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.

For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord,

every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead,
how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?
For if the dead are not raised,
then Christ has not been raised.
If Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile and you are still in sins.
Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.
If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are all people most to be pitied.
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep
for since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead has also come through a man;
for as all die in Adam,
so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in his own order:

Christ the first fruits,
then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end,
when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father.
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies
under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet."

But when it says, "All things are put in subjection,"
it is plain that this does not include the one
who put all things in subjection under him.

When all things are subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one
who put all things in subjection under him,
so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

Listen, I will tell you a mystery!

We will not all die,

but we will all be changed,

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,

and the dead will be raised imperishable,

and we will be changed.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability,

and this mortal body must put on immortality.

When this perishable body puts on imperishability,

and this mortal body puts on immortality,

then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin,

and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God,

who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus,
and will bring us with you into his presence.

Yes, everything is for your sake,
so that grace, as it extends to more and more people,
may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart.

Even though our outer nature is wasting away,
our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

For this slight momentary affliction
is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory
beyond all measure,

because we look not at what can be seen

but at what cannot be seen;

for what can be seen is temporary,

but what cannot be seen is 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.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

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

So we are always confident
even though 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.

Yes, we do have confidence,
and we would rather be away from the body
and at home with the Lord.

So whether we are at home or away,
we make it our aim to please him.

For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense
for what has been done in the body,
whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Timothy

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ,
raised from the dead, a descendant of David—
that is my gospel,
for which I suffer hardship,
even to the point of being chained like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect,
so that they may also obtain the salvation
that is in Christ Jesus,
with eternal glory.

The saying is sure:

If we have died with him,
we will also live with him;
if we endure,
we will also reign with him;
if we deny him,
he will also deny us;
if we are faithless,
he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Timothy

Beloved:

I am already being poured out as a libation,
and the time of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight,

I have finished the race,

I have kept the faith.

From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness,

which the Lord, the righteous judge,

will give me on that day,

and not only to me but also to all who have
longed for his appearing.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead:
a birth into an inheritance
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for you,
who are being protected by the power of God through faith
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
In this you rejoice,
even if now for a little while
you have had to suffer various trials,
so that the genuineness of your faith
—being more precious than gold that,
though perishable, is tested by fire—
may be found to result in praise and glory and honor
when Jesus Christ is revealed.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved:

See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God;
and that is what 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 will be has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this:
when he is revealed, we will be like him,
for we will see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved:

We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love one another.

Whoever does not love abides in death.

All who hate a brother or sister are murderers,
and you know that murderers do not have
eternal life abiding in them.

We know love by this,
that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for
our brothers and sisters.

The word of the Lord.

INTERCESSIONS

Option A:

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

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

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.

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day.
Show your mercy to those who suffer unjustly
 these sins against your love,
and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

We pray to the Lord.

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.

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

We are assembled here in faith and confidence
to pray for our brother/sister _____.
Strengthen our hope
so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.

We pray to the Lord.

Option B:

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

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.

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.

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

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.

For all assembled here to worship in faith,
that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

We pray to the Lord.

Option C:

That the bishops and priests of the Church,
and all who preach the Gospel,
may be given the strength
to express in action and word they proclaim.

We pray to the Lord

That those in public office may promote justice and peace.

We pray to the Lord

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body
may never feel forsaken by God.

We pray to the Lord.

That God may deliver the soul of his servant
from punishment and from the powers of darkness.

We pray to the Lord.

That God in his mercy may blot out all his/her offenses.

We pray to the Lord.

That God may call him/her to happiness
in the company of all saints.

We pray to the Lord.

That God may welcome into his glory
those of our family and friends who have departed this life.

We pray to the Lord.

That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven
to all the faithful departed.

We pray to the Lord.

MUSIC

A Funeral Mass requires four (4) hymns. A Gathering hymn, an Offertory piece, a Communion hymn, and a Recessional hymn. A suggested list of popular hymns follows:

- + Amazing Grace
- + Here I am Lord
- + Be not Afraid
- + How Great Thou Art
- + Morning Has Broken
- + The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me)
- + Jesus Remember Me
- + On Eagles Wings
- + The Lord Is My Shepard
- + O God Our Help in Ages Past