

# **ST. ANTHONY - FUNERAL READINGS**



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**A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes**

**(3: 1-11)**

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for everything 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 that God has appointed  
for the sons of men to be busied about.  
He has made everything appropriate to its time,  
and has put the timeless into their hearts,  
without man's ever discovering,  
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

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

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 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 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.

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

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes**

**(3: 1-15)**

Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.  
For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:  
He sets the time for birth and the time for death;  
the time for planting and the time for pulling up;  
the time for killing and a time for healing;  
the time for tearing down and the time for building.  
He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy;  
the time for mourning and the time for dancing;  
the time for casting away stones and the time for gathering stones together;  
He sets the time for making love and the time for not making love;  
the time for kissing and the time for not kissing;  
the time for finding and the time for losing;  
the time for saving and the time for throwing away;  
the time for tearing and the time for mending;  
the time for silence and the time for talk;  
the time for war and the time for peace.

What do we gain from all our work?

I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time;  
also, he has put eternity into man's mind He has set the right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what he does.  
I know that there is nothing better for us than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we live. All of us should eat and drink and enjoy what we have worked for. I know that whatever God does last forever. You can't add anything to it or take anything away from it.  
God has made it so that we should stand in awe before Him.  
Whatever happens or can happen has already happened before.  
God makes the same thing happen again and again.

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

Thus says the Lord God:

O my people,

I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and have you rise from them,

O, my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord.

I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

**This is the word of the Lord**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the broad valley. It was filled with bones. He made me walk among them in every direction. So many lay on the surface of the valley! How dry they were!

He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come back to life?

“Lord GOD,” I answered, “you alone know that.”

Then he said to me: Prophecy over these bones, and say to them: dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Listen! I will make breath enter you so you may come to life. I will put strength on you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put breath into you so you may come to life. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

I prophesied as I had been commanded. A sound started up, as I was prophesying, rattling like thunder. The bones came together, bone joining to bone. As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh grew over them, skin covered them on top, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me: Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man! Say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: From the four winds come, o breath, and breathe into this slain that they may come to life.

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath entered them; they came to life and stood on their feet, it was a vast army.

He said to me: Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel! They are saying, “Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off.” Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel. You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have spoken; I will do it—oracle of the LORD.

**This is the 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.

**This is the word of the Lord**

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

**25:6-9**

On this mountain, the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples

A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure,  
choice wines.

On this mountain, he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations.

He will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away  
the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us!

This is the LORD to whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!

**This is the word of the Lord**



But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in the rivers, you shall not drown. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia, and Seba in return for you.

Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you, I give men in return for you and peoples in exchange for your life.

Fear not, for I am with you.

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

**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah      49:8,13-16**

Thus says the LORD to his servant:

In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you;

I form you and set you as a covenant for the people,

To restore the land and assign you the devastating heritages,

Shout for joy, you heavens, and rejoice, you earth,

break forth into song, you mountains,

For the LORD comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted.

But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.”

Can a mother forget her child, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?

Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

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

**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel 36.24-28**

I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you back to your soil. I will sprinkle clean water over you to make you clean; from all your impurities and all your idols, I will cleanse you.

I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

I will put my spirit within you so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them. You will live in the land I gave to your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

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

## **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!

As for me, I know that my vindicator lives,  
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust.  
This will happen when my skin has been stripped off,  
and from my flesh I will see God:

I will see for myself,  
my own eyes, not another's, will behold him:  
my inmost being is consumed with longing.

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

**A reading from the Book of Micah**

**6:1-2a-4-8**

Hear, o my people, what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice!

Hear, O mountains, the Lord's case,  
pay attention, O foundations of the earth!

I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
from the place of slavery I ransomed you;

And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

You have been told, O mortal, what is good,  
and what the LORD requires of you:

Only to do justice and to love goodness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

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

But the righteous one, though he dies early, shall be at rest.

For the honorable age comes not with the passing of time,  
nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding passes for gray hair,  
and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.

The one who pleased God was loved.

Having become perfect in a short while,  
he reached the fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD.

But the people saw and did not understand,  
nor did they take that consideration into account.

Grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,  
and protection, his holy ones.

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

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. And I saw the holy city, 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, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new," he said.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty, I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son."

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

**A reading from the Book of Revelation**      Rev 7:9, 14b-17

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude,  
which no one could count,  
from every nation, race, people, and tongue.  
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,  
wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their  
hands.

Then one of the elders said to me,  
“These are the ones who have survived the time of great  
distress; they have washed their robes  
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“For this reason, they stand before God’s throne  
and worship him day and night in his temple.  
The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.  
They will not hunger or thirst anymore,  
nor will the sun or any heat strike them.  
For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne  
will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving  
water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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



## **A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-2,3-4,20-23**

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established, the gospel that brings you salvation.

In the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

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

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians  
(1 Cor. 15:20-23)**

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order:

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

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

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians  
(2 Cor. 5:1-10)**

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.

For in this tent we groan, longing to be further clothed with our heavenly habitation if indeed, when we have taken it off, we shall not be found naked.

For while we are in this tent we groan and are weighed down because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be further clothed so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Now the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a first installment.

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

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

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians  
(13: 4-13)**

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.

For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became an adult, I put aside childish things.

At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face.

At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.

So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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

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

**(3:1-2)**

Think of the love that the Father has given to us  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.

The reason why the world does not know us  
is that it did not know him.

My dear people, we are already the children of God  
But what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;  
We shall be like him  
Because we shall see him as he is.

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

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans  
(Rom. 6:3-9)**

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

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

For 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.

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

What then shall we say to this? 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?

As it is written: "For your sake, we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

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.

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



**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (:3-10)**

Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the  
heavens.

God chose us in him before the world began  
to be holy and blameless in his sight, to be full of love.

He predestined us  
to be his adopted sons through Jesus Christ,  
such was his will and pleasure, that all might praise the glorious favor  
he has bestowed on us in his beloved.

In him and through his blood, we have been redeemed,  
and our sins are forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God's favor  
to us.

God has given us the wisdom to understand fully the mystery,  
the plan he was pleased to decree in Christ.

A plan to be carried out in Christ, in the fullness of time,  
to bring all things into one in him, in the heavens and on earth.

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

## **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**(Rom.8:35, 37-39)**

Who 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 are more than conquerors 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.

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

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans  
12:9-10,16,18,21**

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;  
love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing  
honor.

Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with  
the lowly; do not be wise in your estimation.

If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

**This is the word of the Lord**

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans  
14:7-9**

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.

For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

**This is the word of the Lord**

**A reading from the 1st letter of Paul to the Thessalonians  
1 Thess. 4:13-18**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

For this, we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord, Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Rom 8:14-23)**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.  
For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship.

When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided 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 that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation but we, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

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

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Rom 8:31-39)**

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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.

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

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans Rom 12:5-16ab**

Brothers and sisters: We, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.  
Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them.

Let love be sincere;  
hate what is evil,  
hold on to what is good;  
love one another with mutual affection;  
anticipate one another in showing honor.

Do not grow slack in zeal,  
be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.  
Rejoice in hope,  
endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.  
Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice,  
weep with those who weep.  
Have the same regard for one another.

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



**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Rom 14:8-12)**

We do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves.  
For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of  
both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother?  
Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;  
for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before  
me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."  
So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

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

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord;

walk as children of light

(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),  
and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret;  
but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for  
anything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it is said,

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you  
light."

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

**A reading from the first letter of Peter**

**1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance which 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 may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Without having seen him you love him; and even though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

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

**4:29-32**

Never let evil talk come out of your mouths; say only the good things men need to hear only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption.

All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with malice of every kind.

In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate, and mutually forgiving as God has forgiven you in Christ.

**This is the word of the Lord**

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

**1John 3:1-3**

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

And this 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 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.

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

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

**1John 2:12-17**

I am writing to you, children, because your sins have been forgiven for his name's sake.

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one.

I write to you, children because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men because you are strong and the word of God remains in you, and you have conquered the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches, is not from the Father but is from the world. Yet the world and its desire are passing away.

But whoever does the will of God will live forever.

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

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy  
2Timothy 4: 5-8**

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, 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.

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

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 6:34-44**

When Jesus saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

By now it was already late and his disciples approached him and said, “This is a deserted place and it is already very late. Dismiss them so that they can go to the surrounding farms and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

He said to them in reply, “Give them some food yourselves.”

But they said to him, “Are we to buy two hundred days’ wages worth of food and give it to them to eat?”

He asked them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out they said, “Five loaves and two fish.”

So he gave orders to have them sit down in groups on the green grass. The people took their places in rows by hundreds and by fifties.

Then, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; he also divided the two fish among them all.

They all ate and were satisfied.

And they picked up twelve baskets full of fragments and what was left of the fish.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**



**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 6:45-51**

After the five thousand had eaten and were satisfied,  
Jesus made his disciples get into the boat  
and precede him to the other side toward Bethsaida,  
while he dismissed the crowd.  
And when he had taken leave of them,  
he went off to the mountain to pray.  
When it was evening,  
the boat was far out on the sea and he was alone onshore.  
Then he saw that they were tossed about while rowing,  
for the wind was against them.  
About the fourth watch of the night,  
he came toward them walking on the sea.  
He meant to pass by them.  
But when they saw him walking on the sea,  
they thought it was a ghost and cried out.  
They had all seen him and were terrified.  
But at once he spoke with them,  
“Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!”  
He got into the boat with them and the wind died down.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
5: 1-12a**

When he saw the crowds, Jesus went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
6:8b-14**

Jesus said to his disciples:

" Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

Pray then like this:

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who  
trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father  
also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their  
trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
5:13-16**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?

It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
11: 25-30**

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to childlike; yes, Father, for such was thy gracious will. All things have been delivered to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**  
12.46,48-50

While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him. Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with you."

But he said in reply to the one who told him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"

And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers.

For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

## **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16**

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.

After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

Going out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.'

So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise.

Going out about five o'clock, he found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?'

They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.'

When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage.

So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage.

And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.'

He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?'

Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?'

Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?'

So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together and one of Pharisees, a scholar of the law tested Jesus by asking,

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**



**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
25:31-40**

"When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?  
And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

## **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 10: 25-37**

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

**He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."**

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.

He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him on his animal, took him to an inn and he took care of him.

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

The disciples of Jesus recounted what had taken place along the way, and how they had come to recognize him in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I.

Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.”

And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?”

They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

"See that you are dressed for action and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will put on his apron and have them sit at the table, and he will come and serve them.

If he comes in the second watch or the third and finds them so, blessed are those servants! But know this that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have been awake and would not have left his house to be broken into.

You also must be ready; because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” [And] Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.”

His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.”

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

Then the Pharisees said to him, 'You are testifying on your behalf; your testimony is not valid.' Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one.

Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law, it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.'

Then they said to him, 'Where is your Father?'

Jesus answered, 'You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.'

He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 10:11-16**

Jesus said:

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**



**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**Jn 10:27-30**

Jesus said:

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.  
No one can take them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all,  
and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand.

The Father and I are one.”

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**(3:16-21)**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might  
have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn  
the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but  
whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he  
has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world,  
but people preferred darkness to light because their works were evil.

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and  
does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that  
his works may be seen as done in God.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father’s house, there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way.”

Thomas said to him,

“Master, we do not know where you are going;

how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John Jn 15:12-17**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,  
to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,  
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,  
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you  
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,  
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.  
This I command you: love one another.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**(15:9-17)**

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**(17:20-26)**

When the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father, Jesus looked up to heaven and said,  
"I pray not only for them but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.  
And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.  
Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see the glory that you gave me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.  
Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me.  
I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 20:11-18)**

But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping.

And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been.

And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni,"\* which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

**(6:45-54)**

After feeding the five thousand with the loaves and fish,  
Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and  
precede him to the other side toward Bethsaida,  
while he dismissed the crowd.

And when he had taken leave of them,  
he went off to the mountain to pray.

When it was evening, the boat was far out on the sea  
and he was alone onshore.

Then he saw that they were tossed about while rowing,  
for the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the  
night, he came toward them walking on the sea. He meant to  
pass by them.

But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought  
it was a ghost and cried out.

They had all seen him and were terrified. But at once  
he spoke with them, "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!"

He got into the boat with them and the wind died down.

They were (completely) astounded.

They had not understood the incident of the loaves.

On the contrary, their hearts were hardened.

After making the crossing, they came to land at  
Gennesaret and tied up there.

As they were leaving the boat, people immediately  
recognized him.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**



People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to touch them.  
The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; Do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”  
Then he put his arms around them, laid his hands on them, and gave them his blessing.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Have faith in God and have faith also in me.  
In my Father's house, there are many rooms.  
If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to  
prepare a place for you?  
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come  
back again and take you to me,  
so that where I am you also may be.  
Where I am going you know the way."  
Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you  
are going; how can we know the way?"  
Jesus said to him,  
"I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,  
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,  
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will  
but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me,  
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,  
but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,  
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him  
may have eternal life,  
and I shall raise him on the last day."

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

Jesus said to the people,

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him on the last day.

It is written in the prophets: ' They shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.

Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life.

Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.  
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

This I command you: love one another.

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples,  
“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,  
that everything is written about me in the law of Moses  
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”  
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.  
And he said to them,  
“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer  
and rise from the dead on the third day  
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,  
would be preached in his name to all the nations,  
beginning from Jerusalem.  
You are witnesses of these things.”

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

## GENERAL INTERSESSIONS

- 1. In baptism . . . received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and let him/her be admitted to the company of the Saints. We pray to the Lord:**

Lord hear our prayer

- 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:**

Lord hear our prayer

- 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:**

Lord hear our prayer

- 4. Those who trusted in the Lord now they sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray to the Lord:**

Lord hear our prayer



Ma ora così parla l'Eterno, il tuo Creatore, o Giacobbe, Colui che ti ha formato, o Israele! Non temere, perché io ti ho riscattato, ti ho chiamato per nome; tu sei mio!

Quando passerai per delle acque, io sarò con te; quando traverserai dei fiumi, non ti sommergeranno; quando camminerai nel fuoco non ne sarai arso, e la fiamma non ti consumerà.

Poiché io sono l'Eterno, il tuo Dio, il Santo d'Israele, il tuo salvatore; io ho dato l'Egitto come tuo riscatto, l'Etiopia e Seba in vece tua.

Perché tu sei prezioso agli occhi miei, perché sei prezioso ed io ti amo, io do degli uomini in vece tua, e dei popoli in cambio della tua vita.

Non temere, perché io sono con te; io ricondurrò la tua progenie dal levante, e ti raccoglierò dal ponente.

**Parola di Dio**

Preparerà il Signore degli eserciti per tutti i popoli, su questo monte, un banchetto di grasse vivande, un banchetto di vini eccellenti, di cibi succulenti, di vini raffinati.

Egli strapperà su questo monte il velo che copriva la faccia di tutti i popoli e la coltre distesa su tutte le nazioni.

Eliminerà la morte per sempre. Il Signore Dio asciugherà le lacrime su ogni volto, la condizione disonorevole del suo popolo farà scomparire da tutta la terra, poiché il Signore ha parlato.

E si dirà in quel giorno: Ecco il nostro Dio; in lui abbiamo sperato perché ci salvasse. Questi è il Signore in cui abbiamo sperato; rallegriamoci, esultiamo per la sua salvezza.

**Parola di Dio**

Il giusto, anche se muore prematuramente,  
si troverà in un luogo di riposo.

Vecchiaia veneranda non è quella longeva,  
né si misura con il numero degli anni;  
ma la vecchiaia per gli uomini è la saggezza,  
età senile è una vita senza macchia.

Divenuto caro a Dio, fu amato da lui  
e, poiché viveva fra peccatori, fu portato altrove.  
Fu rapito, perché la malvagità non alterasse la sua  
intelligenza o l'inganno non seducesse la sua anima, poiché  
il fascino delle cose frivole oscura tutto ciò che è bello e il  
turbine della passione perverte un animo senza malizia.

Giunto in breve alla perfezione,  
ha conseguito la pienezza di tutta una vita.  
La sua anima era gradita al Signore,  
perciò si affrettò a uscire dalla malvagità.  
La gente vede ma non capisce,  
non ha riflettuto su un fatto così importante:

che la grazia e la misericordia sono per i suoi eletti  
e la protezione per i suoi santi.

**Parola di Dio**

**Dalla lettera di St. Paolo apostolo ai Romani (14:7-9)**

Nessuno di noi infatti vive per se stesso, e nessuno muore per se stesso; perché , se viviamo, viviamo per il Signore; e se moriamo, moriamo per il Signore.

Sia dunque che viviamo o che moriamo, siamo del Signore.

Poiché a questo fine Cristo è morto ed è tornato in vita: per essere il Signore sia dei morti sia dei viventi.

**Parola di Dio**

La carità è paziente, è benigna la carità; non è invidiosa la carità, non si vanta, non si gonfia, non manca di rispetto, non cerca il suo interesse, non si adira, non tiene conto del male ricevuto, non gode dell'ingiustizia, ma si compiace della verità.

Tutto copre, tutto crede, tutto spera, tutto sopporta. La carità non avrà mai fine. Le profezie scompariranno; il dono delle lingue cesserà e la scienza svanirà. La nostra conoscenza è imperfetta e imperfetta la nostra profezia. Ma quando verrà ciò che è perfetto, quello che è imperfetto scomparirà. Quand'ero bambino, parlavo da bambino, pensavo da bambino, ragionavo da bambino. Ma, divenuto uomo, ciò che era da bambino l'ho abbandonato.

Ora vediamo come in uno specchio, in maniera confusa; ma allora vedremo a faccia a faccia. Ora conosco in modo imperfetto, ma allora conoscerò perfettamente, come anch'io sono conosciuto.

Queste dunque le tre cose che rimangono: la fede, la speranza e la carità; ma di tutte più grande è la carità!

**Parola di Dio.**

## **Dalla prima lettera di Sant Paolo ai Corinti 15:20-23**

Cristo è stato risuscitato dai morti, primizia di quelli che sono morti.

Infatti, poiché per mezzo di un uomo è venuta la morte, così anche per mezzo di un uomo è venuta la risurrezione dei morti.

Poiché, come tutti muoiono in Adamo, così anche in Cristo tutti riceveranno la vita; ma ciascuno nel proprio ordine: prima Cristo; poi alla sua venuta quelli che sono di Cristo.

**Parola di Dio.**

## **Dal libro dell'Apocalisse di San Giovanni apostolo 7, 9.14b-17**

Io, Giovanni, vidi: ecco, una moltitudine immensa, che nessuno poteva contare, di ogni nazione, tribù, popolo e lingua.

Tutti stavano in piedi davanti al trono e davanti all'Agnello, avvolti in vesti candide, e tenevano rami di palma nelle loro mani.

E uno degli anziani disse:

Sono quelli che vengono dalla grande tribolazione e che hanno lavato le loro vesti, rendendole candide col sangue dell'Agnello. Per questo stanno davanti al trono di Dio e gli prestano servizio giorno e notte nel suo tempio; e Colui che siede sul trono stenderà la sua tenda sopra di loro.

Non avranno più fame né avranno più sete, non li colpirà il sole né arsura alcuna, perché l'Agnello che sta in mezzo al trono, sarà il loro pastore e li guiderà alle fonti delle acque della vita.

E Dio asciugherà ogni lacrima dai loro occhi.

**Parola di Dio.**

## **Dalla prima lettera di san Giovanni apostolo 1Gv 3,1-3**

Carissimi, vedete quale grande amore ci ha dato il Padre per essere chiamati figli di Dio, e lo siamo realmente!

Per questo il mondo non ci conosce: perché non ha conosciuto lui.

Carissimi, noi fin d'ora siamo figli di Dio, ma ciò che saremo non è stato ancora rivelato.

Sappiamo però che quando egli si sarà manifestato, noi saremo simili a lui, perché lo vedremo così come egli è.

Chiunque ha questa speranza in lui, purifica se stesso, come egli è puro.

**Parola di Dio**



Fratelli, la speranza non delude, perché l'amore di Dio è stato riversato nei nostri cuori per mezzo dello Spirito Santo che ci è stato dato.

Infatti, quando eravamo ancora deboli, nel tempo stabilito Cristo morì per gli empi.

Ora, a stento qualcuno è disposto a morire per un giusto; forse qualcuno oserebbe morire per una persona buona. Ma Dio dimostra il suo amore verso di noi nel fatto che, mentre eravamo ancora peccatori, Cristo è morto per noi.

A maggior ragione ora, giustificati nel suo sangue, saremo salvati dall'ira per mezzo di lui. Se infatti, quand'eravamo nemici, siamo stati riconciliati con Dio per mezzo della morte del Figlio suo, molto più, ora che siamo riconciliati, saremo salvati mediante la sua vita.

**Parola di Dio**

Vedendo le folle, Gesù salì sulla montagna e, messosi a sedere, gli si avvicinarono i suoi discepoli.

Prendendo allora la parola, li ammaestrava dicendo:

Beati i poveri in spirito, perché di essi è il regno dei cieli.

Beati gli afflitti, perché saranno consolati.

Beati i miti, perché erediteranno la terra.

Beati quelli che hanno fame e sete della giustizia, perché saranno saziati.

Beati i misericordiosi, perché troveranno misericordia.

Beati i puri di cuore, perché vedranno Dio.

Beati gli operatori di pace, perché saranno chiamati figli di Dio.

Beati i perseguitati per causa della giustizia, perché di essi è il regno dei cieli.

Beati voi quando vi insulteranno, vi perseguiteranno e, mentendo, diranno ogni sorta di male contro di voi per causa mia.

Rallegratevi ed esultate, perché grande è la vostra ricompensa nei cieli.

**Parola del Signore**

In quel tempo Gesù disse:

«Ti rendo lode, Padre, Signore del cielo e della terra, perché hai nascosto queste cose ai sapienti e ai dotti e le hai rivelate ai piccoli. Sì, o Padre, perché così hai deciso nella tua benevolenza. Tutto è stato dato a me dal Padre mio; nessuno conosce il Figlio se non il Padre, e nessuno conosce il Padre se non il Figlio e colui al quale il Figlio vorrà rivelarlo.

Venite a me, voi tutti che siete stanchi e oppressi, e io vi darò ristoro. Prendete il mio giogo sopra di voi e imparate da me, che sono mite e umile di cuore, e *troverete ristoro per la vostra vita*.

Il mio giogo infatti è dolce e il mio peso leggero».

**Parola del Signore**

In quel tempo, Gesù disse ai suoi discepoli questa parabola:

«Il regno dei cieli sarà simile a dieci vergini che presero le loro lampade e uscirono incontro allo sposo. Cinque di esse erano stolte e cinque sagge; le stolte presero le loro lampade, ma non presero con sé l'olio; le sagge invece, insieme alle loro lampade, presero anche l'olio in piccoli vasi.

Poiché lo sposo tardava, si assopirono tutte e si addormentarono.

A mezzanotte si alzò un grido: "Ecco lo sposo! Andategli incontro!". Allora tutte quelle vergini si destarono e prepararono le loro lampade. Le stolte dissero alle sagge: "Dateci un po' del vostro olio, perché le nostre lampade si spengono". Le sagge risposero: "No, perché non venga a mancare a noi e a voi; andate piuttosto dai venditori e compratevene".

Ora, mentre quelle andavano a comprare l'olio, arrivò lo sposo e le vergini che erano pronte entrarono con lui alle nozze, e la porta fu chiusa.

Più tardi arrivarono anche le altre vergini e incominciarono a dire: "Signore, signore, aprici!". Ma egli rispose: "In verità io vi dico: non vi conosco". Vegliate dunque, perché non sapete né il giorno né l'ora».

**Parola del Signore**

In quel tempo, Gesù disse alla folla:

Io sono il pane della vita. I vostri padri hanno mangiato la manna nel deserto e sono morti; questo è il pane che discende dal cielo, perché chi ne mangia non muoia. Io sono il pane vivo, disceso dal cielo. Se uno mangia di questo pane vivrà in eterno e il pane che io darò è la mia carne per la vita del mondo».

Allora i Giudei si misero a discutere aspramente fra loro: «Come può costui darci la sua carne da mangiare?».

Gesù disse loro: «In verità, in verità io vi dico: se non mangiate la carne del Figlio dell'uomo e non bevete il suo sangue, non avete in voi la vita. Chi mangia la mia carne e beve il mio sangue ha la vita eterna e io lo risusciterò nell'ultimo giorno. Perché la mia carne è vero cibo e il mio sangue vera bevanda.

Chi mangia la mia carne e beve il mio sangue rimane in me e io in lui. Come il Padre, che ha la vita, ha mandato me e io vivo per il Padre, così anche colui che mangia me vivrà per me. Questo è il pane disceso dal cielo; non è come quello che mangiarono i padri e morirono. Chi mangia questo pane vivrà in eterno».

Gesù disse queste cose, insegnando nella sinagoga a Cafàrnao.

**Parola del Signore**

## **PREGHIERA DEI FEDELI**

- 1. Accogli o Signore l'anima del nostro caro/cara . . . che ha lasciato questo mondo ed ora vive in te; nella tua misericordia concedi a lui/lei il perdono e la pace. Preghiamo**

Ascoltaci o Signore

- 2. Coloro che hanno sperato nel Signore ora riposano nel Signore. Benedici o Signore tutti I nostri cari defunti ed accogli nella tua dimora di pace e di vita il nostro fratello/sorella . . . Preghiamo**

Ascoltaci o Signore

- 3. Per tutti i nostri cari defunti ed amici . . . perche' un giorno ci possiamo riunire di nuovo nella vita eterna del Regno di Dio. Preghiamo**

Ascoltaci o Signore

- 4. Per la famiglia e per tutti noi qui presenti che il Signore possa portare il dono della sua benedizione e pace. Preghiamo**

Ascoltaci o Signore

