Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life, which has now been returned to God, the author of life and hope of the just.

The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral.

The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. While proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and witnessing to Christian hope in the resurrection, the funeral rite also recalls to all who take part in them God's mercy and judgment while meeting the human need to turn to God in time of crisis.

If because of present circumstances, time or any other reason, you feel that you cannot make selections, or that you prefer to have us prepare the Liturgy, please contact the Pastor at 732- 774-0456 for assistance and support.

"Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord…

…and may perpetual light shine upon them."

Parish of St. Teresa of Calcutta

501 Brinley Avenue
Bradley Beach, New Jersey 07720
732-774-0456

CELEBRATING
THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERAL

Revised: September 9, 2026

In my own name and on behalf of the entire Parish of St. Teresa of Calcutta, I wish to extend sincere and prayerful condolences on your loss.

Knowing that this time is never easy, we would like to assist you in preparing for the celebration of your loved one's Funeral Mass.

In this booklet, we have placed our policies regarding all aspects of the Funeral Liturgy, together with various readings from the Old and New Testament, and appropriate musical hymns that will enhance the meaning of resurrection and new life. Please review these selections, so that when you meet with our Deacon or Pastoral Associate, you can finalize the liturgy.

Be assured of our continued thoughts and prayers during this time of grieving.

It is the prayer of our entire parish community that God will continue to strengthen you and fill you with His blessings of peace and comfort.

On behalf of the Parish Staff of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish and myself may the blessings of Christ crucified and resurrected be with you all of your days.

Rev. Erin Brown
Pastor

Name of Deceased _____

Date & Time of Funeral _____

Family Contact _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

Funeral Home _____

Date & Time of Viewing _____

Eulogy at Wake Service _____

Given by: _____

Mass:

Placing of Symbol

(1) person _____

First Reading _____

Read by: _____

Second Reading _____

Read by: _____

Gift Bearers (2): _____

_____

19.
"There will be no more death."
Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7

A Reading from the book of Revelation.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
I also saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.

The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be their God and they will be my people."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At the Parish of St. Teresa of Calcutta, we encourage families to plan and personalize the Funeral Mass, to select the liturgical music and scripture readings, to place the pall on the casket, a religious symbol of remembrance and bring forward the gifts at the offertory.

Assisting your family at a time of grief is a major role of our Parish community.

Our Policies

The Funeral Mass at church is truly a celebration of Christ's death, His resurrection and our hope of the future. This booklet is intended to help you prepare for the customary form of the Roman Catholic Mass of Christian Burial in the Parish of St. Teresa of Calcutta. Please read through all of the material and then go back and make your selections.

Mass Time: Funeral Masses are celebrated at 9:00AM or later Monday through Saturday. There are NO funerals celebrated on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation or during the Triduum (Holy Thursday through Easter). This policy has been set by the USCCB in order to coordinate funerals with the regular parish schedule of Liturgies and Sacraments.

The Church Offering: The minimal offering is currently a $200.00 stipend for the Parish, $200.00 for the Organist and $200.00 for the Cantor, customarily given on your behalf by the Funeral Director in the sacristy at the conclusion of the Mass.

Should you desire to give a financial gift directly to the priest/deacon, please make the check payable directly to that clergyman and provide it in a separate envelope marked in the clergy's name.

The Pall: A white pall is placed over the casket upon entering the church and before processing up the aisle to remind us of our baptismal garment. Two to four friends, family members or the pallbearers may be chosen to assist the funeral director with the placement of the pall on the casket at the start of the Mass.

Religious Symbols: A Bible or Book of the Gospels or a Cross or Crucifix is placed on the Coffin by a family member of friend. After coming down the aisle and stopping in front of the Paschal Candle.

Offertory Gifts: Two family members or friends may bring up the gifts of bread and wine at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Altar Servers: Who are members of your family and are practicing servers may also assist at the liturgy.

Music: The model of all Roman Catholic worship is the Sunday Mass. The words, gestures and music for the funeral liturgy should manifest to all present what is happening, namely, that Jesus through His death and resurrection has broken the chains of sin and death that bind all people.

Therefore, whatever music is chosen for your celebration should demonstrate for all gathered, our love for one another in Christ.

Diocesan Liturgy Office regulations prohibit the use of popular music and show tunes during Rites.

It is the policy of this Parish that our Music Director plays at all funerals, along with one of the Parish Cantors. Please discuss your wishes with us and *choose from the selection provided, four hymns* that will further personalize the Funeral Liturgy. Other parts of the Mass are selected, prepared and sung by the cantor.

18.
"The dead have been judged according to their works."
Revelation 20: 11 – 21: 1

A Reading from the book of Revelation.

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.
The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them.
I saw the dead, the great and the lowly standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened.
Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.
The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls.
The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead.
All the dead were judged according to their deeds.
Then Death and Hades were thrown into the fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.)
Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

17.
"Happy are those who die in the Lord."
Revelation 14:13

A Reading from the book of Revelation.

I heard a voice from heaven say,

> "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
>
> "Yes," says the spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Try to bear in mind that a community singing is an important part of our Catholic tradition. It is appropriate to choose some music, which the entire congregation can sing during the liturgy in addition to the music sung by a soloist.

The Rite of Christian Funerals provides various options for song, the prayers, readings and options of the Catholic funeral rite.

While families have many options available to them, secular readings and songs are not permitted at this time. As many of you are aware, there is much beautiful, fresh and exciting music speaking of God and Christ in our lives that will add significance to the funeral.

Readings: There are two reading before the proclamation of the Gospel, one taken from the Old Testament (1-8), the second from the New Testament (1-17).

This booklet contains the readings that are available to you in order to personalize the Liturgy of the Word.

Family members or friends are invited to read, but this is optional. To assure that the Word is proclaimed with the dignity that it deserves, a copy of the two readings selected will be provided to you at planning time so that the sacred text can be reviewed before the day of the funeral. When it is time to read, the person will enter the sanctuary, pause in the center, bow to the Altar and proceed to the pulpit for the reading.

Eulogy:

The ritual of the Church has never officially permitted the delivery of a eulogy as part of the funeral rite itself.

The Diocesan Office of Worship offers a sensitive and practical solution to the question of eulogies and remembrances of the deceased are not only permitted but strongly encouraged ***outside of the Mass*** context, namely, at the wake or vigil service. Here there are no time constrictions. Here, too, the remarks of the eulogist can invite a whole train of thoughts and memories from others. Here the whole setting can be more personal, more participatory, more pleasing. (In this regard, we would remind you that true Catholic remembrance should focus on the faith and virtue of the deceased and how that affected your family, friends and community. Eulogy time is not really a time to share family secrets or publicly thank everyone for attending.)

Having ***the eulogy at the wake service – is our preference.***

In addition to the wake service, words of remembrance can be offered at the conclusion of the cemetery service or during repast.

16.
"We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sister."
1 John 3: 14-16

A Reading from the first letter of John.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters.

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.

The way we came to know love was that Jesus laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

15.
"We shall see God as he really is."
1 John 3: 1-2

A Reading from the first letter of John.

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

Yet so we are.

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

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Funeral Liturgy Music
Parish of St. Teresa of Calcutta

Hymns (Please select 4 hymns)

All I Ask of You
Abide With Me
Amazing Grace
Ave Maria
Be Not Afraid
Be Still My Soul
Be Thou My Vision
Blest Are They
Christ Be Our Light
City of God
Come to Me
Eternal Father Strong to Save (Military Hymn)
Eye Has Not Seen
For All the Saints
Gift of Finest Wheat
Give Me Jesus
Goodness of the Lord
Hail Mary Gentle Women
Here At This Table
Here I Am Lord
Holy Darkness
Hosea
How Deep the Riches
How Great Thou Art
I Am the Bread of Life
I Have Love You
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
I Know the My Redeemer Lives
In Paradisum
Jerusalem My Happy Home
Lady of Knock
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Lord of All Hopefulness
Lord You Have Come
May the Road Rise to Meet You
O God, Our Hope in Ages Past
O Loving God (tune to Danny Boy)
On Eagle's Wings
One Bread, One Body
Panis Angelicus
Parable
Peace is Flowing Like a River
Prayer of St. Francis
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Saints of God
Shepherd of Souls
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling
Song of Farewell
Taste and See
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Summons
There is a Balm in Gilead
The Supper of the Lord
We Remember
We Walk By Faith
We Will Rise Again
You Are Mine
You Are Near

Responsorial Psalms (Choose 1)

Be With Me Lord
Father, I Put My Life in Your Hands
I Lift Up My Soul
In the Presence of God
Let Us See Your Kindness
Loving and Forgiving
My Shepherd is the Lord
My Soul Thirsts
Shepherd Me, O God
The Cry of the Poor
The Lord is Kind and Merciful
The Lord is My Light
The Lord is My Shepherd

If you would prefer, we will make the music selections for you. Otherwise, you will be contacted by the Pastor or Music Director who will assist you with your music selections. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please call 732-774-0456.

Old Testament Scripture Readings:
(Please select only one reading)

1.
"I know that my Redeemer lives."
Job 19: 23-27

A Reading from the Book of Job.

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!
Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead
they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,
And that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
Whom I myself shall see:
My own eyes, not another's, shall behold him,
And from my flesh I shall see God;
My inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

14.
"If we have died with him, then we shall live with him."
2 Timothy 2: 8-13

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.
But the word of God is not chained.
Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.
This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him
We shall also live with him;
If we persevere
We shall also reign with him.
But if we deny him
He will deny us.
If we are unfaithful
He remains faithful
For he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

13.
"We shall stay with the Lord for ever."
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2.
"He accepted them as a holocaust."
Wisdom 3: 1-9

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom.

The souls of the just are in the hands of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
And their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished;
Yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
Because God tried them
and found them worthy of Himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and, as sacrificial offerings he took them to Himself,
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples
and the Lord shall be their king forever.
Those who trust in Him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with His holy ones,
and His care is with His elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

3.
"A blameless life is a ripe old age."
Wisdom 4: 7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

The just man, though he dies early, shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not
with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
He who lived among sinners was transported –
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.
Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
For his soul was pleasing to the Lord,
Therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

12.
"Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like his glorious body."
Wisdom 3: 1-9

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

11.
"He accepted them as a holocaust."
2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

4.
"The Lord, God will destroy death forever."
Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain He will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
He will destroy death forever.
The Lord God will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of His people He will remove
from the whole earth;
For the Lord has spoken.
on that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the Lord for whom we looked;
Let us rejoice and be glad that He has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

5.
"It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save."
Lamentations 3: 17-26

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations.

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
His mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is His faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord says my soul;
Therefore will I hope in him.
Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

10.
"What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal."
2 Corinthians 4: 13 - 5: 1

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

9.
"Death is swallowed up in victory."
1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And then that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this, which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

"Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

6.
"Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake."
Daniel 12: 1-3

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel.

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

"At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
Guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
Others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

7.
"It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again."
2 Maccabees 12: 43-46

A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees.

Judas (the ruler of Israel) then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from sin.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

8.
"All people will be brought to life in Christ."
1 Corinthians 15: 20-23

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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

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 first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the One who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, the Son himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

7.
"Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord."
Romans 14: 7-12

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live of 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 sister? Or you, why do you look down on your brother or sister?

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

8.
"To everything there is a season."
Ecclesiates 3: 2-11

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

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 advantages 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Scripture Readings:
(Please select only one reading)

1.
"God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive & dead."
Act 10: 34-43

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:
"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

6.
"Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?"
Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

If God is for us, who can be against us?
He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?
Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn?
It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

5.
"We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies."
Romans 8: 14-23

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2.
"Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him."
Romans 5: 5-11

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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

For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

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

How much more than, since we are now justified by his blood,
Will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled, we will be saved by his life. Not only that, but we boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

3.
"Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more."
Romans 5: 17-21

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase, but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

4.
"Let us walk in newness of life."
Romans 6: 3-9

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For, if we have grown in union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.