



Readings For Funeral Masses
Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate Church

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FIRST READINGS

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (25: 6–9)

On this mountain, the Lord of Hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

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

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

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom (3: 1, 6–9)

The souls of the upright are in the hand of God, and no torment can touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God has tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in a furnace he tried them, and accepted them as a perfect burnt offering.

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

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus (6: 14–17)

A faithful friend is a sure shelter, whoever finds one has found a rare treasure. A faithful friend is something beyond price, there is no measuring his worth. A faithful friend is the elixir of life, and those who fear the Lord will find one, Whoever fears the Lord makes true friends, for as a man is, so is his friends.

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3: 1–11)

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
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 refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Responsorial Psalm: no. 23, Read Version

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord's my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil, my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R**

Responsorial Psalm: no. 42

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

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God. **R**

My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God? **R**

These things will I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving, the throng wild with joy. **R**

Responsorial Psalm: no. 23, Sung Version

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want,
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green. He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill.
For thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd in presence of my foes,
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me.
And in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Responsorial Psalm: no. 102

Response: *The Lord is compassion and love.*

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R**

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust. **R**

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flowers like the flower of the field;
the wind blows and he is gone
and his place never sees him again. **R**

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth. **R**

Responsorial Psalm: no. 139

Response: *Lord, you examine me and you know me.*

Lord, you examine me and you know me,
you understand my thoughts from afar.
You watch when I walk or lie down,
you know every detail of my conduct. **R**

If I speed away on the wings of the dawn,
if I dwell beyond the ocean,
there your hand will be guiding me,
your right hand holding me fast. **R**

You created my inmost self,
knit me together in my mother's womb.
For so many marvels I thank you;
a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders. **R**

You knew me through and through,
my being held no secrets from you,
when I was being formed in secret,
textured in the depths of the earth. **R**

How hard for me to grasp your thoughts,
how many, God, they are!
If I count them, they are more than the grains of sand;
if I come to an end, I am still with you. **R**

SECOND READINGS

A reading from St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. (13: 1–13)

Though I command languages both human and angelic - if I speak without love, I am no more than a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. And though I have the power of prophecy, to penetrate all mysteries and knowledge, and though I have all the faith necessary to move mountains - if I am without love, I am nothing. Though I should give away to the poor all that I possess, and even give up my body to be burned - if I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophecies, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will fall silent; and if knowledge, it will be done away with. For we know only imperfectly, and we prophesy imperfectly; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will be done away with.

When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and see things as a child does, and think like a child; but now that I have become an adult, I have finished with all childish ways. Now we see only reflections in a mirror, mere riddles, but then we shall be seeing face to face. Now I can know only imperfectly; but then I shall know just as fully as I am myself known. As it is, these re-main: faith, hope and love, the three of them; but the greatest of them is love.

A reading from St. Paul's Second letter to Timothy (4: 6–8)

As for me, my life is already being poured away as an offering, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now, is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans (5: 5–11)

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
(1: 12–20)

Let us give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, -visible and invisible. All things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the Church he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell and through him to reconcile to himself all things whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
(2: 4–10)

God loved us with so much love, that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness to-wards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved through faith, not by anything of our own, but by a gift from God, not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art; created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

GOSPEL READINGS

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (19: 17–18, 25–28)

Carrying his own cross, Jesus went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his other and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son'. Then to the disciple he said, 'this is your mother'. After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said: 'I am thirsty'. A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

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

Mary stayed outside near the tomb, weeping. Then, still weeping, she stooped to look inside, and saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, the other at the feet. They said, 'Woman' why are you weeping?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' As she said this she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not recognise him. Jesus said, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him.' Jesus said, 'Mary!' She knew him then and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbuni!' - which means 'Master'. Jesus said to her 'Do not cling to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go and find the brothers, and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'. So Mary of Magdala went and told the disciples that had seen the Lord and that he had said these things to her.

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke
(10: 25–37)**

A Lawyer stood up and to test Jesus, asked, “Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, “What is written in the Law?” He replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and all your strength, and your neighbour as yourself.” Jesus said to him, “You have answered right, do this and life is yours.” But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbour? In answer Jesus said to him, “A man was once on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers; they stripped him, beat him and then made off, leaving him half-dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down that same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came on him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him onto his own mount and took him to an inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper and said, “Look after him, and on my way back I will make good any extra expense, you have.”

Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the bandits’ hands?’ He replied, ‘The one who showed pity towards him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go, and do the same yourself.

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
(17: 24–26)**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
(6: 35 – 40)**

Jesus said to the crowds: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst. But, as I have told you, you can see me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn him away; because I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of the one who sent me.

Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Yes, it is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day.'

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke
(24: 13–35)**

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, ‘What matters are you discussing as you walk along?’ They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, ‘You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.’ ‘What things?’ he asked. ‘All about Jesus of Nazareth’ they answered ‘who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us; they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.’

Then he said to them, ‘You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?’ Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. ‘It is nearly evening’ they said ‘and the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to

them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (11: 17–27)

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem about two miles off, and many of the Jesus had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, god will give you". Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again". Martha said to him "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day" Jesus said to her 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe?' she said to him 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world'

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
(5: 1–12)**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. This is what He said.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14: 1–6)

Do not let your hearts be troubled you must trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms to live in; otherwise I would have told you. And after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you to myself. so that you may be with me where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said 'I am the Way, the Truth and the life, no one can come to the Father except through me.'

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (11: 25–30)

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
(3: 14–18)**

Jesus said to Nicodemus: The Son of Man must be lifted up, As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned: But whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe In the name of God's only son.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (17: 1–5)

Jesus looked up to heaven and said. "Father, the hour has come, glorify you Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed"

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14: 1–6)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled; trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. If there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to where I am going". Thomas said, "Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said "I am the way the Truth and the Life, no-one can come to the Father except through me."