

FUNERALS



FUNERAL

1

Man Cannot Hit on the Right Time To Act

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes. Father, give your blessing.

Ecc1 3:1-22

Pause for the blessing, then read:

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

I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad
and to do well during life.

For every man, moreover, to eat and drink
and enjoy the fruit of all his labor is a gift of God.

I recognized that whatever God does will endure forever;
there is no adding to it, or taking from it.

Thus has God done that he may be revered.

What now is has already been; what is to be, already is;
and God restores what would otherwise be displaced.

And still under the sun in the judgment place I saw wicked-
ness,

and in the seat of justice, iniquity.

And I said to myself, both the just and the wicked God will
judge, since there is a time for every affair and
on every work a judgment.

I said to myself: As for the children of men,
it is God's way of testing them and of showing
that they are in themselves like beasts.

For the lot of man and of beast is one lot;
the one dies as well as the other.

Both have the same life-breath,
and man has no advantage over the beast; but all is vanity.

Both go to the same place;
both were made from the dust, and to the dust they both
return.

Who knows if the life-breath of the children of men goes
upward

and the life-breath of beasts goes earthward?

And I saw that there is nothing better for a man
than to rejoice in his work; for this is his lot.

Who will let him see what is to come after him?

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

2

On Suffering

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom. Father, give your blessing.

Wis 3:1-6

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BUT the souls of the just are in the hand 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 him-
self.

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

3

Freedom from Sin / Life in God

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing.

Rom 6:3-11

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

Are you unaware 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 into 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.

For a dead person has been absolved from 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.

As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God.

Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

4

Children of God through Adoption / Destiny of Glory

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing.

Rom 8:14-23

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

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.

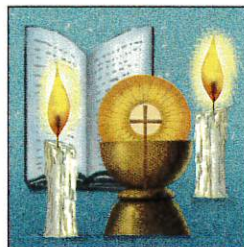
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

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.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains
even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption,
the redemption of our bodies.

Praise be to God always.



FUNERAL

5

God's Indomitable Love in Christ

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing.

Rom 8:31-39

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

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.

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.**

Praise be to God always.



FUNERAL

6

To Live and Die for Christ

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing.

Rom 14:7-12

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:
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 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 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.

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

7

Results of Denial / Christ the Firstfruits

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
Father, give your blessing. 1 Cor 15:12-20

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:
But if Christ is preached as raised from the dead,
how can some among you say there is no resurrection of
the dead?

If there is no resurrection of the dead,
then neither has Christ been raised.

And if Christ has not been raised,
then empty too is our preaching; empty, too, your faith.
Then we are also false witnesses to God,
because we testified against God that he raised Christ,
whom he did not raise if in fact the dead are not raised.
For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been
raised,

and if Christ has not been raised,
your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.
Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have
perished.

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are the most pitiable people of all.

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

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

8

Christ the Firstfruits

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
Father, give your blessing.

1 Cor 15:20-26

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

But now Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits 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;
then comes the end,
when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father,
when he has destroyed every sovereignty
and every authority and power.

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

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

9

The Manner of the Resurrection The Resurrection Body

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
Father, give your blessing.

1 Cor 15:35-49

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

But someone may say, "How are the dead raised?
With what kind of body will they come back?"

You fool! What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies.
And what you sow is not the body that is to be
but a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or of some other kind;
but God gives it a body as he chooses,
and to each of the seeds its own body.

Not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for human
beings,

another kind of flesh for animals,
another kind of flesh for birds, and another for fish.

There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies,
but the brightness of the heavenly is one kind
and that of the earthly another.

The brightness of the sun is one kind,
the brightness of the moon another,
and the brightness of the stars another.

For star differs from star in brightness.

So also is the resurrection of the dead.

It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible.

It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious.

It is sown weak; it is raised powerful.
It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.
If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual one.
So, too, it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living
being,"
the last Adam a life-giving spirit.
But the spiritual was not first;
rather the natural and then the spiritual.
The first man was from the earth, earthly;
the second man, from heaven.
As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly,
and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly.
Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one,
we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.
Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

10

The Resurrection Event

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
Father, give your blessing. 1 Cor 15:51-57

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

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 when this 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.

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

11

Paradox of the Ministry / Our Future Destiny

A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
Father, give your blessing. 2 Cor 4:14-5:1

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

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.

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

12

Our Future Destiny

A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
Father, give your blessing. 2 Cor 5:1-10

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

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.

Praise be to God always.



FUNERAL

13

Hope for the Christian Dead

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.
Father, give your blessing.

1 Thes 4:13-18

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

We do not want you to be unaware 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 down 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.

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

14

Vigilance

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.
Father, give your blessing.

1 Thes. 5:1-5, 9-11

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:
Concerning times and seasons,
you have no need for anything to be written to you.
For you yourselves know very well
that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night.
When people are saying, "Peace and security,"
then sudden disaster comes upon them,
like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will
not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness,
for that day to overtake you like a thief.
For all of you are children of the light and children of the
day.

We are not of the night or of darkness.
For God did not destine us for wrath,
but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep
we may live together with him.
Therefore, encourage one another and build one another
up,
as indeed you do.

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

15

Timothy's Conduct

A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy. Father,
give your blessing.

2 Tm 2:8-13

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:
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.

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

16

Children of God

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint John. Father, give your blessing.

1 Jn 3:1-2

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BELOVED:

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

Praise be to God always.

FUNERAL

17

Love for One Another

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint John. Father, give your blessing. 1 Jn 3:11-18

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BELOVED:

For this is the message you have heard from the beginning:

we should love one another,
unlike Cain who belonged to the evil one
and slaughtered his brother.

Why did he slaughter him?

Because his own works were evil, and those of his brother
righteous.

Do not be amazed, then, brothers and sisters, if the
world hates you.

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 or sister is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life remain-
ing in him.

The way we came to know love was that he laid down his
life for us;

so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and
sisters.

If someone who has worldly means sees a brother or sister
in need

and refuses them compassion,

how can the love of God remain in him?

**Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed
and truth.**

Praise be to God always.



FUNERAL

18

The New Heaven and the New Earth

A Reading from the Book of Revelation. Father, give your blessing.

Rev 21:1-7

Pause for the blessing, then read:

BROTHERS and Sisters:

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.

I also saw the holy city, a 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.”

Then he said, “Write these words down,
for they are trustworthy and true.”

He said to me,

“They are accomplished.

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 his God,
and he will be my son.”

Praise be to God always.

