



*Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*

*Matthew 19:14*



This booklet contains a selection of readings, approved by the Church for use at funerals. It is provided to assist people preparing for a funeral with help from the priest or the deacon to provide some specific guidance. It can also serve as a source of spiritual reading in the days and weeks that follow the funeral service.

The **First Reading** at a Funeral Mass is from the Old Testament. *Please choose one reading from the Old Testament* and choose someone to read it. During the Easter Season the First Reading is chosen instead from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation, or the First Reading of the day, as appropriate.

The **Second Reading** is from the New Testament. *Please choose one reading from the New Testament* and choose another person to read it.

Please be sure to choose readers who are able to read clearly and audibly so that your guests will be able to hear the readings you have chosen. If you feel that family members or friends will not be able to read, then please let the priest know, and he will be happy to arrange for someone else to read the chosen readings.

The family may choose the **Gospel Reading** or they may leave it to the Priest or Deacon. The Priest or Deacon always reads the Gospel. During Easter Time, the Gospel of John is preferred.

The Prayers of the Faithful are chosen and read by the Priest or the Deacon.

**After you have made your choices, please call All Saints Parish Office at 403-327-8931 and leave them with the receptionist.**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – OLD TESTAMENT

### 752(7) Isaiah 44.1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Listen, Jacob my servant,  
Israel whom I have chosen.  
Thus says the Lord who made you,  
who formed you from the womb, who is your help:  
Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant,  
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

For I will pour out water on the thirsty soil,  
streams on the dry ground.  
I will pour my spirit on your descendants,  
my blessing on your children.

The word of the Lord.

### 769(4) Jeremiah 1.4-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.”

I said, “Ah, Lord God; look, I do not know how to speak: I am a child!”

But the Lord replied,

“Do not say, ‘I am a child.’  
Go now to those to whom I send you  
and say whatever I command you.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to protect you –  
it is the Lord who speaks!”

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me:

“There! I am putting my words into your mouth.”

The word of the Lord.

#### **789(4) Isaiah 25.6-9**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain,  
the Lord Sabaoth will prepare for all peoples  
a banquet of rich food.  
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 God 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.

The word of the Lord.

#### **789(5) Lamentations 3.17-26**

A reading from the book of Lamentations.

My soul is shut out from peace;  
I have forgotten happiness.  
And now I say, "My strength is gone,  
that hope which came from the Lord."

Brooding on my anguish and affliction  
is gall and wormwood.  
My spirit ponders it continually  
and sinks within me.  
This is what I shall tell my heart,  
and so recover hope:

The favors of the Lord are not all past,  
his kindnesses are not exhausted;  
every morning they are renewed;  
great is his faithfulness.

"My portion is the Lord," says my soul,  
"and so I will hope in him."

The Lord is good to those who trust him,  
to the soul that searches for him.  
It is good to wait in silence  
for the Lord to save.

The word of the Lord.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> READING DURING EASTER – NEW TESTAMENT

### (52) Revelation 7.9, 14-17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count,  
of people from every nation, race, tribe and language;  
they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb,  
dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands.  
One of the elders then said to me,  
“These are the people who have been through the great persecution  
and because they have washed their robes white again  
in the blood of the Lamb,  
they now stand in front of God’s throne  
and serve him day and night in his sanctuary;  
and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

“They will never hunger or thirst again;  
neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them,  
because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd  
and will lead them to springs of living water;  
and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

The word of the Lord.

### 795(7) Revelation 21.1a, 3-5a

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne:

“You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.”

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: “Now I am making the whole of creation new.”

The word of the Lord.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – NEW TESTAMENT

### **(622) 1 Corinthians 15.20-26**

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

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man.

Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him.

After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The word of the Lord.

### **790(4) Romans 6.3-9**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

You have been taught that when we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized in his death; in other words, when we were baptized we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realize that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a person dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him anymore.

The word of the Lord.

### **795(2) Romans 14.7-9**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

This explains why Christ both died and came to life; it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

### **795(4) Ephesians 1.3-5**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes.

The word of the Lord.

### **795(5) 1 Thessalonians 4.13-14, 18**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL READINGS

### **712(11) John 19.25-27**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

Seeing his mother 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." And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **742(13) Mark 10.15-16**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

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 like a little child will never enter it."

Then he put his arms around them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The gospel of the Lord.

### **793(2) Matthew 11.25-30**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

At that time 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 is 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 labor 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 light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

### **793(11) John 6.37-40**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:

“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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

### **793(12) John 6.51-59**

(For a child who has already received the Eucharist)

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:

“I am the living bread  
which has come down from heaven.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;



and the bread that I shall give  
is my flesh, for the life of the world.”

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” they said. Jesus replied:

“I tell you most solemnly,  
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink his blood,  
you will not have life in you.  
Anyone who does eat my flesh  
and drink my blood  
has eternal life,  
and I shall raise him up on the last day.

“For my flesh is real food  
and my blood is real drink.  
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me  
and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father,  
myself draw life from the Father,  
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

“This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate:  
they are dead,  
but anyone who eats this bread  
will live for ever.”

The gospel of the Lord.

#### **798(4) John 11.32-38, 40**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Mary, the sister of Lazarus, went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, “Where have you put him?” They said, “Lord, come and see.”

Jesus wept; and the Jews said, “See how much he loved him!” But there were some who remarked, “He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?”

Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, "Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

The gospel of the Lord.

## ALTERNATE GOSPEL READING

### 793(5) Mark 15.33-40; 16.1-6

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, "Listen, he is calling on Elijah." Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, "Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down." But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, "In truth this man was a son of God."

When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, brought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back.

On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, "There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him."

The Gospel of the Lord.