

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI - BRANT BEACH
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS - BEACH HAVEN
ST. THOMAS VILLANOVA - SURF CITY
ST. CLARE - LOVELADIES**

SUGGESTED READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE FOR A FUNERAL MASS OR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Please choose one reading from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament,) a reading from the New Testament, a Gospel and a Prayer of the Faithful. Please speak with your Care Minister or the Presider if you wish to use a Scripture reading/s that is not listed here.

Old Testament Readings:

A1 Book of Wisdom 3:1-9

A2 Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A3 Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A4 Sirach 6:14-17

A5 Ruth 1:16-17

A6 Sirach 44:1, 10-15

A1 Book of Wisdom 3:1-9

A Reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the righteous 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 to others, indeed, they seem 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 judgment they shall shine
and 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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord

A2 Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A Reading from the book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond jewels is her value.

Her husband trusts her judgment; he does not lack income.

She brings him profit, not loss, all the days of her life.

She seeks out wool and flax and weaves with skillful hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Acclaim her for the work of her hands,

and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

A3 Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A Reading for the book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to give birth, 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 profit have workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be
busied about.

God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the
timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning
to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord

A4 Sirach 6:14-17

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter;
whoever finds one finds a treasure.
Faithful friends are beyond price,
no amount can balance their worth.
Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;
those who fear God will find them.
Those who fear the Lord enjoy stable friendship,
for as they are, so will their neighbors be.

The Word of the Lord

A5 Ruth 1:16-17

A reading from the book of Ruth

Wherever you go, I will go.
Wherever you live, I will live.
Your people will be my people.
Your God will be my God too.
Wherever you die I will die.
And there I shall be buried beside you.
We shall be together forever.
And our love will be the gift of our life.

The Word of the Lord.

A6 Sirach 44:1, 10-15

A reading from the Book of Sirach

I will now praise the godly,
our ancestors, in their own time,
Yet these also were godly;
their virtues have not been forgotten.
Their wealth remains in their families,
their heritage with their descendants.
Through God's covenant their family endures,
and their offspring for their sake.
And for all time their progeny will endure,
their glory will never be blotted out;
Their bodies are buried in peace,
but their name lives on and on.
At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
and the assembly proclaims their praises.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

- B1. Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
- B2. Romans 14:7-9, 10-12
- B3. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10
- B4. Philippians 3:20-21
- B5. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- B6. 1 John 3:1-2
- B7. Revelation 14:13
- B8. Revelation 21:1-5, 6-7
- B9. Romans 6:3-4, 8-9
- B10. Romans 8:14-23
- B11. 1 Corinthians 15:20-30
- B12. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

B1. Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

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?

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.

The Word of the Lord

B2. Romans 14:7-9, 10-12

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 or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord

B3. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

B4. Philippians 3:20-21

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

But 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

B5. 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, 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.

The Word of the Lord

B6. 1 John 3:1-2

A Reading from the First Letter of St. John.

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.

The Word of the Lord

B7. 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,” said the Spirit, “let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord

B8. Revelation 21:1-5, 6-7

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

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.

The Word of the Lord.

B9. Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Or 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.

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

B10. Romans 8:14-23

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

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.

Destiny of Glory.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

B11. 1 Corinthians 15:20-30

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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, 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, then the Son himself will [also] be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all. Otherwise, what will people accomplish by having themselves baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, then why are they having themselves baptized for them? Moreover, why are we endangering ourselves all the time?

The Word of the Lord

B12. 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

The Gospel will be proclaimed by the presider

C1 Matthew 5:1-12

C2 Matthew 11:25-30

C3 Matthew 25:34a-40

C4 John 6:37-40

C5 John 11:17-27

C6 John 12:23-26

C7 John 14:1-6

C8 John 10:27-30

C9 John 6:51-58

Gospel Readings

C1 Matthew 5:1-12

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

He began to teach them, saying:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord

C2 Matthew 11:25-30

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus said in reply, “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C3 Matthew 25:34a-40

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

C4 John 6:37-40

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it [on] the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him [on] the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord

C5 John 11:17-27

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C6 John 12:23-26

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C7 John 14:1-6

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

C8 John 10:27-30

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand.

The Father and I are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C9 John 6:51-58

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

Please choose one

Prayer of the Faithful 1

Presider:

Gracious God, you raised Jesus from the dead; with confidence, we ask you to hear our prayer:

Reader:

Our response is: Gracious God, Hear our Prayer.

For N____ who in Baptism was given the pledge of Eternal Life, that he/she now be admitted to the company of the saints, we pray...

For N___ who ate the Body of Christ, the Bread of life, that he/she may enjoy the vision of God, we pray...

For the family and friends of N____ that they may be console in their grief by Christ who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, we pray...

For all of us assembled to worship God in faith, that we may be gathered together in God's Kingdom, we pray...

Presider:

God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer. Receive your son/daughter into your Sacred Presence and comfort his/her family in this time of grief.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

Prayer of the Faithful 2

Presider:

We remember that Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus. Let us turn to our compassionate God as we mourn today for our beloved _____.

Reader:

Our response is: Gracious God, Hear our Prayer.

That N_____ enter with great joy into the home of God, we pray...

That all who mourn the death of N_____ receive the consolation of God's tender mercy, we pray...

That God will grant us the courage and grace we need at the hour of our own death, we pray...

That this gathering on the occasion of N_____ 's death help us to appreciate and reverence life, we pray...

Presider:

**We are your people, O God. Sustain us with your promise of Eternal Life. Strengthen our hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.
Amen.**

