

ARLES PARISH  
FUNERAL MASS READINGS

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FIRST READINGS

1. A reading from the Book of Wisdom. (3:1-9)

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,  
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,  
their going looked like a disaster,  
their leaving us, like annihilation;  
but they are at peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it,  
their hope was rich with immortality;  
slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.

God has put them to the test  
and proved them to be worthy with him;  
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,  
and accepted them as a holocaust.

When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out;  
as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.  
they shall judge nations, rule over peoples, and  
the Lord will be their king forever.

They who trust in him will understand the truth,  
those who are faithful will live with him in love;  
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

This is the Word of the Lord!

2. A reading from the Book of Wisdom (4:7-15)

The virtuous person, though he die before his time, will find rest.

Length of days is not what makes age honourable,

nor number of years the measure of life;

understanding, this is man's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age.

He has sought to please God, so God has loved him;

as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.

He has been carried off so that evil may not wrap his understanding

or treachery seduce his soul;

Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life;

his soul being pleasing to the Lord,

he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.

Yet people look on, uncomprehending;

it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,

and protection, his holy ones.

This is the word of the Lord

3. A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by your name, you are mine.

Should you pass through the sea, I will be with you;

Or through the rivers, they will not swallow you up.

Should you walk through fire, you will not be scorched and the flames will not burn you.

For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

This is the Word of the Lord.

4. A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Let us praise the illustrious,  
our ancestors in their successive generations.

Here is a list of the generous  
whose good works have not been forgotten.

In their descendents there remains  
a rich inheritance born of them.

Their descendents stand by their covenants and  
thanks to them, so do their children's children.

Their offspring will last forever,  
their glory will not fade.

Their bodies have been buried in peace,  
and their names live on for all generations.

The peoples will proclaim their wisdom,  
the assembly will celebrate their praise.

This is the word of the Lord.

5. A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes: (3:1-7,11)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to root up what is planted;

A time to break down and a time to build up;

A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance;

A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

A time to keep and a time to discard;

A time to tear, and a time to sew;  
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
God has made everything suitable for its time.  
This is the word of the Lord.

6. 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. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy death forever.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

7. A reading from the prophet Isaiah (12,2-6)

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear, for the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my Saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name! Sing a psalm to the Lord, for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

This is the word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

### 1. Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22

Response: The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is 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. Response.

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. Response.

You have prepared a banquet for me

In the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;

My cup is overflowing. Response.

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. Response

2. Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102.8. 10. 13-18. Rv8

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. Response.

As a father has compassion on his children,

The Lord has pity on those who fear him;

For he knows of what we are made of

He remembers that we are dust. Response.

As for man, his days are like grass;

He flowers like the flowers of the field;

The wind blows and he is gone

and his place never sees him again. Response.

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. Response

## SECOND READINGS

### 1. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: “The truth I have now come to realize,” he said, “Is that God does not have favourites” but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him.

“It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is the Lord of all people, and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed Him to be judge of everyone, alive or dead. It is to Him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through His name.”

This is the word of the Lord.

### 2. A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (14:7-12)

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 that he might be both Lord of the dead and the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says; By my life - it is the Lord who speaks - every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

This is the Word of the Lord.

### 3. A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (8:35, 37-39)

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food and clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

4. A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (5:1,6-10)

For we know that when the tent we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

We are always full of confidence, then, when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight, - we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what we deserve for the things we did in the body, good and bad.

This is the Word of the Lord.

5. A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (3:20-21)

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

This is the Word of the Lord.

6. A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians (3:8,10-14)

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. All I want is to know is Christ and the power of his Resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you, I am far from thinking I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

7. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

We want you to be quite certain about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like 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. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from Heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to

rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these we will comfort one another.

This is the Word of the Lord.

8. A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy (4,6-8)

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but to all who have longed for his appearing.

This is the Word of the Lord

9. A reading from the first letter of St. John (3:1-2)

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

This is the Word of the Lord.

10. A reading from the first letter of St. John.

Let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

This is the word of the Lord.