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ST. MARY'S PARISH, NUTLEY · FUNERAL MASS

Second Reading Choices

New Testament · Please choose one

We are so sorry for your loss. Choosing the Scripture for your loved one's funeral is a beautiful way to let their life and faith speak once more. Take your time with these 14 readings, and read them aloud if you can.

Choosing: Each reading is numbered. When you have made your choice, simply let the parish staff know the number and title.

Reading at Mass: Each reading is printed on its own page, so the person proclaiming it can print that page and bring it with them.

1	The peace of God that surpasses all understanding	Philippians 4:4–9
2	We have peace with God through Christ	Romans 5:1–5
3	Trust in the God who raises the dead	2 Corinthians 1:3–11
4	Hope does not disappoint	Romans 5:5–11
5	I have fought the good fight; I have kept the faith	2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18
6	We shall always be with the Lord	1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
7	Love in action and in truth	1 John 3:18–24
8	A home in heaven that will last forever	2 Corinthians 4:16–5:1, 5–8
9	We are God's children now	1 John 3:1–2
10	Children of God and heirs with Christ	Romans 8:14–23
11	Nothing can separate us from the love of God	Romans 8:31–35, 37–39
12	God is love	1 John 4:7–12
13	If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him	Romans 6:3–4, 8–9
14	Love never fails	1 Corinthians 13:1–8a

SECOND READING 1 · PHILIPPIANS 4:4–9

1 The peace of God that surpasses all understanding

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near.
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God
that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, or pure, or lovely,
whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.
Keep on doing what you have learned
and received and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 2 · ROMANS 5:1–5

2 We have peace with God through Christ

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has brought us by faith into this experience of God's grace, in which we now live. And so we boast of the hope we have of sharing God's glory.

We also boast of our troubles, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance brings God's approval, and God's approval creates hope. This hope does not disappoint us, for God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

3 SECOND READING 3 · 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–11

Trust in the God who raises the dead

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

If you are afflicted by pain or loss,
we ask you to endure it with hope.
For just as you have shared in Christ's suffering,
so, too, will you share in his Resurrection.

My brothers and sisters, we do not wish to leave you
in the dark about the pain that you are experiencing,
for you feel you are crushed beyond all strength,
even to the point of despairing of life.
But I will not leave you abandoned to despair.
We pray that you might have trust, not in yourselves,
but in the God who raised the dead, the God who gives life.

All of you must help us with your prayer,
so that on our behalf, God can be thanked
for the gift of life he has granted us.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 4 · ROMANS 5:5–11

4 Hope does not disappoint

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

5 SECOND READING 5 · 2 TIMOTHY 4:6–8, 17–18
I have fought the good fight; I have kept the faith

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

I am already poured out like a libation.
I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
From now on a merited crown awaits me.
On that day the Lord, just judge that he is,
will award it to me,
and not only to me, but to all
who have looked for his appearing
with eager longing.

But the Lord stood by my side and gave me strength.
That is how I was saved.
The Lord will continue to rescue me
from all attempts to do me harm,
and he will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.
To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 6 · 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–18

6 We shall always be with the Lord

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

7 SECOND READING 7 · 1 JOHN 3:18–24

Love in action and in truth

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action. This, then, is how we will know that we belong to the truth; this is how we will be confident in God's presence. If our conscience condemns us, we know that God is greater than our conscience and that he knows everything.

We receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. What he commands is that we believe in his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as Christ commanded us. Those who obey God's commands live in union with God, and God lives in union with them. And because of the Spirit that God has given us, we know that God lives in union with us.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

8 SECOND READING 8 · 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16–5:1, 5–8

A home in heaven that will last forever

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

For this reason we never become discouraged. Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day. And this small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever.

For we know that when this tent we live in, our body here on earth, is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home God has made, which will last forever. God is the one who has prepared us for this change, and he gave us his Spirit as the guarantee of all that he has in store for us.

So we are always full of courage. We know that as long as we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord's home. For our life is a matter of faith, not of sight. We are full of courage and would much prefer to leave our home in the body and be at home with the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

9 SECOND READING 9 · 1 JOHN 3:1–2

We are God’s children now

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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 Jesus either.

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.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

10 SECOND READING 10 · ROMANS 8:14–23

Children of God and heirs with Christ

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

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 now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

11 SECOND READING 11 · ROMANS 8:31–35, 37–39

Nothing can separate us from the love of God

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

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.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

12 SECOND READING 12 · 1 JOHN 4:7–12
God is love

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.

No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

13 SECOND READING 13 · ROMANS 6:3–4, 8–9

If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

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.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

14 SECOND READING 14 · 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1–8A
Love never fails

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues,
but do not have love,
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.
And if I have the gift of prophecy,
and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away everything I own,
and if I hand my body over so that I may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.
It is not jealous, it is not pompous,
it is not inflated, it is not rude,
it does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
but rejoices with the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

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FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Tips for the Reader

- Practice the reading aloud a few times before the day. Look up any names or words that are unfamiliar.
- Begin with the opening line exactly as printed, for example *"A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans."* There is no need to read the number, the title, or the chapter and verse at the top of the page.
- Go slower than feels natural. Pause at the end of each sentence and let the words settle.
- When you finish, pause for a breath, look up, and say *"The word of the Lord."* Everyone will respond, *"Thanks be to God."*
- It is perfectly okay to feel emotional. Take a moment, breathe, and continue when you are ready.

St. Mary's Parish, Nutley

Our Lady of Grace, pray for us.