

# Scripture Readings

from the

## New Testament

(select one reading)

*(Please Note: during the Easter season, a selection from among numbers 1, 17, 18, or 19 is used as the first reading instead of a reading from the Old Testament.)*

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## *New Testament Readings*

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\* Readings marked with \* are suitable for the funeral of a child

*During Easter NT # 1, 17, 18 or 19 should be used in place of Old Testament Reading*

## A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.  
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him  
and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the Israelites  
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism  
that John preached,  
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good  
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,  
for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did  
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day and granted  
that he be visible,  
not to all the people, but to us,  
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,  
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people  
and testify that he is the one appointed by God  
as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him  
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

*NT 1S – Acts 10:34 – 36, 42 –43 (short version)*

## A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him  
and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the Israelites  
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord of all.

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and testify that he is the one appointed by God  
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To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him  
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

## A Reading from the Letter of St. 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,  
yet 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.

## A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

If, by the transgression of one person,  
death came to reign through that one,  
how much more will those who receive  
the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification  
come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

In conclusion,  
just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all,  
so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of one person  
the many were made sinners,  
so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase but,  
where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more,  
so that, as sin reigned in death,  
grace also might reign through justification for eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

## A Reading from the Letter of St. 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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

*NT 4S – Romans 6:3 – 4, 8 – 9 (short version)*

## A Reading from the Letter of St. 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.

## A Reading from the Letter of St. 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 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.

## A Reading from the Letter of St. 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.

*NT 7L – Romans 14:7 – 12 (long version)*

## A Reading from the Letter of St. 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*NT 7S – Romans 14:7 – 9 (short version)*

## A Reading from the Letter of St. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

## A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

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.

The Word of the Lord.

*NT 8S – Romans 15:20 – 23 (short version)*

## A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

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    the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
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    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.

The Word of the Lord.

## A Reading from the First Letter of St. 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.

## A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

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.

The Word of the Lord.

## A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

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.

*NT 12 – Philippians 3:20 - 21*

## A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

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.

## A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
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.

*NT 13S – 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 14, 18 (short version)*

## A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
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.  
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

## A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. John

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 is a murderer,  
and you know that no murderer has eternal life  
remaining in him.

The way we came to know love  
was that Jesus laid down his life for us;  
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

The Word of the Lord.

*NT 17 – 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.

## A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.  
The earth and the sky fled from his presence  
and there was no place for them.  
I saw the dead, the great and the lowly,  
standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened.  
Then another scroll was opened,  
the book of life.  
The dead were judged according to their deeds,  
by what was written in the scrolls.  
The sea gave up its dead;  
then Death and Hades gave up their dead.  
All the dead were judged according to their deeds.  
Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.  
(This pool of fire is the second death.)  
Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life  
was thrown into the pool of fire.  
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.

The Word of the Lord.

## A Reading from the Book of Revelation

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.

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.

## A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

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."

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. 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, (love) 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.

If there are prophecies,  
they will be brought to nothing;  
if tongues, they will cease;  
if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.

For we know partially and we prophesy partially,  
but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

When I was a child, I used to talk as a child,  
think as a child, reason as a child;  
when I became a man, I put aside childish things.

At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face.

At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.  
So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord

*NT 21 – Ephesians 1:3 – 5*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,  
as he chose us in him,  
before the foundation of the world,  
to be holy and without blemish before him.  
In love he destined us for adoption to himself  
through Jesus Christ,  
in accord with the favor of his will.

The Word of the Lord

*NT 22 – Philippians 4:4 – 7*

## 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.

The Word of the Lord

## A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

I repeat the request I made of you  
when I was on my way to Macedonia,  
that you stay in Ephesus to instruct certain people  
not to teach false doctrines or to concern themselves  
with myths and endless genealogies,  
which promote speculations  
rather than the plan of God  
that is to be received by faith.

The aim of this instruction is love from a pure heart,  
a good conscience, and a sincere faith.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

The people will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths.

But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances;

    put up with hardship;

    perform the work of an evangelist;

    fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a libation,

    and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have competed well; I have finished the race;

    I have kept the faith.

The Word of the Lord

## A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

I am already being poured out like a libation,  
and the time of my departure is at hand.  
I have competed well; I have finished the race;  
I have kept the faith.  
From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,  
which the Lord, the just judge,  
will award to me on that day, and not only to me,  
but to all who have longed for his appearance.  
But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength,  
so that through me the proclamation might be completed  
and all the Gentiles might hear it.  
And I was rescued from the lion's mouth.  
The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat  
and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.  
To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

## A Reading from the Letter of Saint James

Be patient, therefore, brothers,  
    until the coming of the Lord.  
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,  
    being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.  
You too must be patient.  
Make your hearts firm,  
    because the coming of the Lord is at hand.  
Do not complain, brothers, about one another,  
    that you may not be judged.  
Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.  
Take as an example of hardship and patience,  
    the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

## A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude,  
    which no one could count,  
    from every nation, race, people, and tongue.  
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,  
    wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.  
They cried out in a loud voice:  
    "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne,  
    and from the Lamb."

He said to me,  
    "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress;  
    they have washed their robes  
    and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."  
"For this reason they stand before God's throne  
    and worship him day and night in his temple.  
The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.  
They will not hunger or thirst anymore,  
    nor will the sun or any heat strike them.  
For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne  
    will shepherd them  
    and lead them to springs of life-giving water,  
    and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord