

Gospel Readings for Funeral Mass



E-1 Matthew 5:1-12a

¹ When he saw the crowds,^{*} he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. ² He began to teach them, saying: The Beatitudes^{*}

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,^{*} for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.^a

⁴ Blessed are they who mourn,^b for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,^c for they will inherit the land.

⁶ Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,^{*} for they will be satisfied.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.^d

⁸ Blessed are the clean of heart,^e for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,^{*} for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.^f

¹¹ Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.^g ^{12^{*}} Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.^h Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

E-2 Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ⁿ 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. ²⁶ Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. ²⁷ 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.^o ^{28^{*}} “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,^{*} and I will give you rest. ^{29^{*}} ^p Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

E-3 Matthew 25:1-13

¹ “Then^{*} the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ^{2^{*}} Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. ^{11^{*}} ^a Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ ¹² But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ^{13b} Therefore, stay awake,^{*} for you know neither the day nor the hour.

E-4 Matthew 25:31-46

^{31f} “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, ^{32g} and all the nations^{*} will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ 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. ^{35h} For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you

welcomed me, ³⁶naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷Then the righteous* will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?’

³⁸When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

⁴⁰ⁱ 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.’

^{41* i} Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’

^{42k} For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ ^{44*} Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ ⁴⁵He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ ^{46l} And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

E-5 Mark 10:13-16

^{13f} And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ^g ¹⁴When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child* will not enter it.” ^h ¹⁶Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

E-6 Mark 13:33-37

³³ⁿ Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his work, and orders the

gatekeeper to be on the watch. ^o ³⁵Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. ³⁶May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

E-7 Mark 15:33-46

³³At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴And at three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*”^{*} which is translated, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”^k ^{35*} Some of the bystanders who heard it said, “Look, he is calling Elijah.” ³⁶One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.” ³⁷Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ^{38*} The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. ^{39* l} When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” ^{40*} There were also women looking on from a distance. ^m Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These women had followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him. There were also many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²ⁿ When it was already evening, since it was the day of preparation, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea,* a distinguished member of the council, who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Pilate was amazed that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵And when he learned of it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

E-8 Mark 15:33--16:6

³³At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*"^x which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^k ³⁵Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." ³⁷Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹! When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" ⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance. ^m Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These women had followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him. There were also many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

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¹When the sabbath was over,^a Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.^b ²Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. ³They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone had

been rolled back; it was very large. ⁵On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed.^c ⁶He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.

E-9 Luke 7:11-17

^{11b} Soon afterward he journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. ¹²As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her.^e ¹³When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.^d ¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people."^e ¹⁷This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

E-10 Luke 12:35-40

^{35q} "Gird your loins and light your lamps ³⁶and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.^f ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. ³⁸And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. ^{39s} Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

E-12 Luke 20:34-38

³⁴Jesus said to them, “The children of this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise.” ³⁷That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called ‘Lord’ the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; ³⁸and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”^s

E-13 Luke 23:33-43

³³When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.^q
³⁴[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”]^r They divided his garments by casting lots.^r ³⁵The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, ^s“He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God.”^t ³⁶Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine^u ³⁷they called out, “If you are King of the Jews, save yourself.” ³⁸Above him there was an inscription that read, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹* Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.” ⁴⁰The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, “Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? ⁴¹And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.”^y ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”^w ⁴³He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

E-14 Luke 23:44--24:6a

⁴⁴* It was now about noon^z and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon ⁴⁵because of an eclipse of the sun. Then

the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.^a ⁴⁶Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”; and when he had said this he breathed his last.^b ⁴⁷The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, “This man was innocent^{*} beyond doubt.” ⁴⁸When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts;^c ⁴⁹but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.^d

^e ⁵⁰Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, ⁵¹had not consented to their plan of action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God.^f ⁵²He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.^g ⁵⁴It was the day of preparation, and the sabbath was about to begin. ⁵⁵The women who had come from Galilee with him followed behind, and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it,^h ⁵⁶they returned and prepared spices and perfumed oils. Then they rested on the sabbath according to the commandment.

^{1a} But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.^b ⁵They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, “Why do you seek the living one among the dead?^c ⁶He is not here, but he has been raised.^{*}

E-15 Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles^{*} from Jerusalem called Emmaus,¹ ¹⁴and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. ¹⁵And it happened that while

they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,^{16j} but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped, looking downcast.¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?”¹⁹ And he replied to them, “What sort of things?” They said to him, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,^k how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.^{21l} But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

^{22m} Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning²³ and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.²⁴ⁿ Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see.”^{25o} And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer* these things and enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.^p²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther.²⁹ But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.³² Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”³³ So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and

those with them³⁴ who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”^q³⁵ Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

E-16 John 5:24-29

²⁴ Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life.^o²⁵ Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.^p²⁶ For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself.^q²⁷ And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man.^r^{28*} Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice^s²⁹ and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.

E-17 John 6:37-40

³⁷ Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,³⁸ because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.^s³⁹ 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.^t⁴⁰ 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.”

E-18 John 6:51-58

⁵¹ 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.”^a

⁵²The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?” ⁵³Jesus 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. ⁵⁴Whoever eats* my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. ⁵⁷Just 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. ^b ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

E-19 John 11:17-27

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles* away. ¹⁹And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. ^h ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ⁱ ²²[But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” ⁱ ²⁵Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, ^k ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷* ^l 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.”

E-20 John 11:32-45

³²When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed* and deeply

troubled, ³⁴ and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” ³⁵ And Jesus wept. ^m ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

³⁸ So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father,* I thank you for hearing me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁿ ⁴³ And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice,* “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

E-21 John 12:23-28

²³* Jesus answered them, ^q “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴* Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; ^r but if it dies, it produces much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life* loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. ^s ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. ^t

²⁷ “I am troubled* now. Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. ^u ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”

E-22 John 14:1-6

^{1*} “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith^{*} in God; have faith also in me. ²In 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? ^{3*} 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. ^a ⁴Where [I] am going you know the way.” ^{5*} Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth^{*} and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ^b

E-23 John 17:24-26

²⁴ Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am^{*} they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ⁿ ²⁵ Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. ^o ²⁶ I made known to them your name and I will make it known,^{*} that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

E-24 John 19:17-30

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ⁱ and carrying the cross himself^{*} he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. ^{19*} Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰ Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. ²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’” ^j ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

^{23*} When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, ^k they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. ^l They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. ²⁴ So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,” in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled [that says]: “They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots.” This is what the soldiers did.

^{25*} ^m Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother^{*} and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” ⁿ ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

^{28o} After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled,^{*} Jesus said, “I thirst.” ^p ²⁹ There was a vessel filled with common wine.^{*} So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. ^{30*} When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” ^q And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.