Select One of the following as a FIRST READING

1. A reading from the book of Job (19:1, 23-27a)

Then Job answered,
"O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

The Word of the Lord.

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

The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction; but
they are at peace.
For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive
great good, because God tested them and found
them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he
tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he
accepted them.
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and
the Lord will reign over them forever.
Those who trust in him will understand truth, and
the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace
and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches
over his elect.
The Word of the Lord.

3. A reading from the book of Wisdom (4:7-15)

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.
For old age is not honored for length of time, or
measured by number of years; but understanding is
grey hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old
age.
There were some who pleased God and were loved
by him,
and while living among sinners were taken up.
They were caught up so that evil might not change
their understanding or guile deceive their souls.
For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is
good,
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.
Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long
years; for their souls were pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he took them quickly from the midst of
wickedness.
Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, or take
such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are
with his elect, and that he watches over his holy
ones.

The Word of the Lord.

4. A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all
peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged
wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged
wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that
is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over
all nations; he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all
faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from
all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we
have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is
the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

5. A reading from the book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord."
The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."
The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

6. A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

"At that time Michael, the great prince,
the protector of your people, shall arise.
There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence.
But at that time your people shall be delivered,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life,
and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

7. A reading from the second book of Maccabees (12:43-46)

The noble Judas Maccabeus took up a collection,
man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver,
and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering.
In doing this he acted very well and honourably,
taking account of the resurrection.
For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen asleep would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.
But if he was looking to the splendid reward
that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.
Therefore he made atonement for the dead,
so that they might be delivered from their sin.

The Word of the Lord.

Select One of the following as a SECOND READING

1. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person -- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.
For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

2. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:17-21)

If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.
For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied;
but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,
so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death,
so grace might also exercise dominion through justification
leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

3. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-9)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.
For whoever has died is freed from sin.
But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

The Word of the Lord.

4. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:14-23)

All 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 have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ -- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility,not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

5. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:31-35, 37-39)

**If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes,
who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The Word of the Lord.

6. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (14:7-12)

**We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.
If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister?
Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister?
For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.
For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.**

The Word of the Lord.

7. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:20-28)

**Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.
For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.
But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.
Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler 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 "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says,"All things are put in subjection," it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him.
When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.**

The Word of the Lord.

8. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57)

**Listen, I will tell you a mystery!
We will not all die, but we will all be changed,
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound,
and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.
When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality,
then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:
"Death has been 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.

9. A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:13–5:1)

**We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus,
and will bring us with you into his presence.
Yes, everything is for your sake,
so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.
So we do not lose heart.
Even though our outer nature is wasting away,
our inner nature is being renewed day by day.
For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,
because we look not at what can be seen
but at what cannot be seen;
for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.
For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

The Word of the Lord.

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

**We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
So we are always confident;
even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away
from the Lord
-- we walk by faith, not by sight.
Yes, we do have confidence,
and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
So whether we are at home or away,
we make it our aim to please him.
For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body,
whether good or evil.**

The Word of the Lord.

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

**Our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.
He will transform the body of our humiliation
that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,
by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.**

The Word of the Lord.

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

**But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,
about those who have died,
so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will by no means precede those who have died.
For the Lord himself, with a cry of command,
with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet,
will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air;
and so we will be with the Lord forever.
Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

The Word of the Lord.

13. A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy (2:8-13)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David -- that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.
The saying is sure:
If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

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

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what 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 will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

15. A reading from the first letter of John (3:14-16)

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another.
Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us -- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

The Word of the Lord.

16. A reading from the book of Revelation (14:13)

I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them."

The Word of the Lord.

17. A reading from the book of Revelation (20:11 – 21:1)

I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.
And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.
Also another book was opened, the book of life.
And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done.
Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

18. A reading from the book of Revelation (21:1-5a, 6b-7)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new.
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

The Word of the Lord.