

Scripture for the Preborn

*Your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be*

Psalm 139:16

Scripture for the Pre-born

These Scripture readings are meant to be used with the “Liturgy for the Preborn” booklet, page 4, in Part I - Liturgy at the Time of Death, which is usually followed by Part II - Intercessory Prayer for Life and the End of Abortion, both parts prayed sequentially.

If Part I is not prayed, and Part II - Intercessory Prayer for Life and an End to Abortion is prayed independently, the O.T. and N.T. and Gospel Scripture readings can be optionally read following the Responsive Psalm on page 11 of the Liturgy booklet, as the *rubrics* there also instruct.

Scripture Readings:

- p.3* O.T. **Genesis 1:26-28a** or **Isaiah 9:2-7** or **11:1-9** or **53:1-9**, or **Jeremiah 31:10-17**
- p.8* Psalm **2** or **8** or **10** or **16** or **18:1-19** or **72:1-14**
- p.15* N.T. **Romans 8:35-39** or **1Cor 15:19-26** or **James 1:12-18** or **Revelation 21:1-7**
- p.18* Gospel **Mt 11:25-30** or **18:1-5** or **Mark 9:35-37** or **John 1:5-14** or **3:3-16** or **14:1-6**

going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

Response: **Praise to you Lord Christ**

All Scripture Readings were taken from the New International Version bible.

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1:26-28a

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in

battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

Isaiah 11:1-9

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord-- ³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the

my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

Response: **Praise to you Lord Christ**

John 14:1-6

¹ Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am

through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord
Response: **Praise to you Lord Christ**

John 3:3-16

³ In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." ⁴ "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" ⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at

wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord
Response: **Thanks be to God**

Isaiah 53:1-9

¹ Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him,

and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

Jeremiah 31:10-17

¹⁰ "Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' ¹¹ For the Lord will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. ¹² They will come and shout for joy on the

never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

Response: **Praise to you Lord Christ**

Mark 9:35-37

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." ³⁶ He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

Response: **Praise to you Lord Christ**

John 1: 5-14

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that

Gospel Readings

Mt 11:25-30

25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. *26* Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. *27* "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. *28* "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. *29* Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. *30* For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord
Response: **Praise to you Lord Christ**

Matthew 18:1-5

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
2 He called a little child and had him stand among them. *3* And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will

heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord-- the grain, the new wine and the oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. *13* Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. *14* I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty," declares the Lord. *15* This is what the Lord says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more." *16* This is what the Lord says: "Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded," declares the Lord. "They will return from the land of the enemy. *17* So there is hope for your future," declares the Lord. "Your children will return to their own land.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord
Response: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm Readings

Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. 3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." 4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." 7 I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." 10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Rev 21:1-8

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

James 1:12-18

¹² Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 8

¹ O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! ² From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 10

¹ Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? ² In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are

caught in the schemes he devises. ³ He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord. ⁴ In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. ⁵ His ways are always prosperous; he is haughty and your laws are far from him; he sneers at all his enemies. ⁶ He says to himself, "Nothing will shake me; I'll always be happy and never have trouble." ⁷ His mouth is full of curses and lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue. ⁸ He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent, watching in secret for his victims. ⁹ He lies in wait like a lion in cover; he lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net. ¹⁰ His victims are crushed, they collapse; they fall under his strength. ¹¹ He says to himself, "God has forgotten; he covers his face and never sees." ¹² Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless. ¹³ Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, "He won't call me to account"? ¹⁴ But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. ¹⁵ Break the arm of the wicked and evil man; call him to account for his wickedness that would not be found out. ¹⁶ The Lord is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. ¹⁷ You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, ¹⁸ defending the

New Testament Readings

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Response: **Thanks be to God**

1 Corinthians 19-26

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he

save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. *5* He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. *6* He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. *7* In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more. *8* He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. *9* The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust. *10* The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts. *11* All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him. *12* For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. *13* He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. *14* He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.

Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 16

1 Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. *2* I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." *3* As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight. *4* The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips. *5* Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. *6* The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. *7* I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. *8* I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. *9* Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, *10* because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. *11* You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with

joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 18:1-19

1 I love you, O Lord, my strength. *2* The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. *3* I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. *4* The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. *5* The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. *6* In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears. *7* The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry. *8* Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. *9* He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. *10* He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind. *11* He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him-- the

dark rain clouds of the sky. *12* Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning. *13* The Lord thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded. *14* He shot his arrows and scattered the enemies, great bolts of lightning and routed them. *15* The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at your rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of breath from your nostrils. *16* He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. *17* He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. *18* They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support. *19* He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.

Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 72:1-14

1 Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. *2* He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. *3* The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. *4* He will defend the afflicted among the people and