

There is nothing more central to Christianity than our hope in the Resurrection. But it isn't a new teaching; it's also a part of the thought of our Jewish fathers and mothers in the faith. Judas Maccabeus made an offering for the war dead of Israel, and so we make an offering of the Mass for a deceased loved one; all with a view toward that great day that St. Paul speaks of in the Second Reading. One that day, whenever that may be, we will look forward to the Resurrection of all the dead when our immortal souls will be reunited with our glorified bodies. Until then, our souls thirst for the living God.

First Reading: 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

Judas, the ruler of Israel,

took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an
expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble
way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in
mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to
rise again, it would have been superfluous and
foolish to pray for the dead.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid
reward that awaits those who had gone to rest
in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he
made atonement for the dead that they
might be absolved from their sin.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 42

Response (*R/*): *My soul is thirsting for the living God;
when shall I see Him face to face?*

As the deer longs for the running waters,
So my soul long for you, O God. *R/*.

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God? *R/*.

I went with the throng and led the in procession
To the house of God.

Amid loud cried of joy and thanksgiving,
With the multitude keeping festival. *R/*.

Send for your light and your fidelity;
They shall lead me on
And bring me to your holy mountain,
To your dwelling place. *R/*.

Then will I go into the altar of God,
The God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
O God, my God! *R/*.

Why are you so downcast, O my soul?
Why do you groan within me?
Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking Him,
In the presence of my savior and my God. *R/*.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1,6-10

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers,
about those who have fallen asleep, so that you
may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if
we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too
will God, through Jesus, bring with him those
who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive, who are left until the
coming of the Lord, will surely not precede
those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel and with the
trumpet of God, will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught
up together with them in the clouds to meet the
Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.