

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

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 of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.**

**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 freed from this sin.**

The word of the Lord.