

*Funerals for Children who Died before Baptism*  
*Gospel Reading*  
*Mark 15: 33-46*  
*Lectionary #1026, number 2*  
*[FuneralGospelUnbaptChild2.doc]*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon.  
And 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?"*  
Some of the bystanders who heard it said,  
*"Look, he is calling Elijah."*  
One 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."*  
Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.  
The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.  
When the centurion who stood facing him  
saw how he breathed his last he said,  
*"Truly this man was the Son of God!"*  
There were also women looking on from a distance.  
Among them were Mary Magdalene,  
Mary the mother of the younger James, and of Joses, and Salome.  
These 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.

When it was already evening,  
since it was the day of preparation,  
the day before the sabbath, Joseph 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.  
Pilate was amazed that he was already dead.  
He summoned the centurion  
and asked him if Jesus had already died.  
And when he learned of it from the centurion,  
he gave the Body to Joseph.  
Having 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 of the tomb.

The Gospel of the Lord.