

## **A reading from the second book of Maccabees**

Judas [the ruler of Israel] then took up a collection among all his soldiers, 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, in as much 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.**