

Reading

2 Maccabees 12:43–45

A fine and noble action, in which he took account of the resurrection.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas, the leader of the Jews,
took a collection from the people individually,
amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae,
and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered,
an altogether fine and noble action,
in which he took full account of the resurrection.
For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again
it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead,
whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense
reserved for those who make a pious end,
the thought was holy and devout.
This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead,
so that they might be released from their sin.

The word of the Lord.