

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

(12:43-46)

The noble Judas Maccabeus took up a collection, man by man,  
to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver,  
and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering.  
In doing this he acted very well and honourably,  
taking account of the resurrection.  
For if he were not expecting  
that those who had fallen asleep would rise again,  
it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.  
But if he was looking to the splendid reward  
that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness,  
it was a holy and pious thought.  
Therefore he made atonement for the dead,  
so that they might be delivered from their sin.

The Word of the Lord.