

## **A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees**

**Judas [the ruler of Israel]**

**then 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 in mind;  
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,  
it would have been superfluous  
and foolish to pray for the dead.**

**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 absolved from their sin.**

**The Word of the Lord**