

A reading from the second Book of the Maccabees

Judas the ruler of Israel,
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,

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.