

Funeral Planning Guide



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popcatholic.org



A Message for the Family

Dear Family Members,

I offer you the prayers and concern of our parish at this time of sorrow. The parish staff and I are here to assist you in celebrating the life of your loved one, so please schedule a time to meet with us as soon as you are able.

The Liturgy of the Church, specifically the Mass of Christian Burial, uses rituals that help us to pray and mourn. Within this ritual, there are certain choices that can be made regarding your involvement, the readings, and music. This booklet will serve as an aid to you in making those choices.

Take a moment with your family to read through this booklet before making any decisions about the liturgy. Then, prayerfully go over and complete the Funeral Planning Worksheet. By going through this process, you and your family will be able to share more fully in the liturgy and best express the care you have for your deceased loved one. Please bring the worksheet with you to the planning meeting and our Liturgy Director Cheri Poole, will review and confirm your information.

My prayer for you is that in celebrating the Rite of Christian Burial you may be comforted and find the fullness of hope as promised to us in the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Father Jon Chalmers, Pastor

What can you expect?

This planning guide can be completed before or after your loved one has passed away. Often, individuals may wish to use this guide and plan their own service. This guide will familiarize you with the information needed to plan the service. If your loved one is nearing death, or if the death has come unexpectedly, call the church office as soon as possible at 205-822-9125 to schedule a funeral planning meeting.

If possible, read through this guide and make your selections prior to the Funeral Planning Meeting with the church. The Rites of Christian Burial are celebrated to offer praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the author of life.

The Rite of Christian Burial is available to all baptized Christians, and includes three distinct parts:

The Visitation: Visitation generally is held on the same day immediately prior to the funeral service but can be scheduled for a previous day if needed.

The Funeral Liturgy: This is the funeral service that takes place in the church or chapel with or without the celebration of a Mass. The body or cremated remains of the person are honored by being brought to the church where the memory and spirit of the deceased are joined to the greater mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

The Committal: This is the graveside service committing the body or cremated remains to its final resting place where the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection, performed at a cemetery or in the church columbarium.

Scheduling the Funeral

According to diocesan guidelines, funerals can be held on most days of the year except Sunday, a Holy Day, and a few other special days. The Liturgy Director will coordinate with the family and the priests as to available days and Mass times. If, for personal or pastoral reasons, you need a service in the funeral home, please inform the Liturgy Director, who will make arrangements with a priest.

Please be mindful that Prince of Peace Church is a very busy parish with many meetings and services taking place all throughout the week. We will make every effort to accommodate your requested funeral date, however we cannot guarantee that the requested priest, church, funeral team, or facilities will be available. The Liturgy Director will work with you to find a suitable date and time.

Normally, Catholic parishes celebrate the funerals of their parishioners; however, we do not exclude someone because they are not formally registered or have not contributed financially to the parish. We will also do our best to accommodate your family members and/or former parishioners. Your loss is a time for our community to gather and pray, and we are committed to assisting in your time of need.

Offerings & Stipends

The church does not charge for a funeral service; however, it is customary that a stipend is offered to those who provide a service at the Funeral Mass: primarily the priest or celebrant, musician, soloist, and altar servers. A general donation can be made to the church as well. If the family wishes to hire additional musicians, those arrangements are to be made with the Liturgy Director.

Livestreaming the Service

The church has the technology to provide an online, livestream broadcast of the funeral service. If the family desires this service, it must be requested at the Funeral Planning Meeting and is subject to the availability of our videographer. The cost is \$100 that must be paid to the videographer prior to the service.

Flowers

Flowers are almost always presented at a funeral Mass by family and friends and are usually delivered to the Church from the florist. Funeral flowers are a visible tribute to the deceased and their messages of love and support are generally appreciated by grieving family members. Generally, the church is unable to reuse these flowers and we respectfully request that the family make arrangements to have all flowers and plants removed from the church following a funeral service.

How to Use the Rest of this Booklet to Plan the Liturgy

Please continue to read through the entire booklet before making any decisions. The following pages explain the progression of the Funeral Liturgy and offer suggestions on how family and friends can be involved. We hope that this guide will provide you with some comfort and help you to make choices that celebrate the life of your loved one.

We encourage you to invite others to take part in the funeral liturgy. Being involved not only displays the love for the deceased but can provide others with a special way to grieve and bring closure during this time of loss.

Visiting Clergy - If you have a family member or close friend that is either a priest or deacon, please know that they are most welcome to take part in the funeral liturgy. Just inform the Liturgy Director during the Planning Meeting.

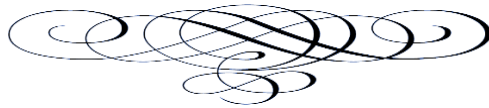
Once you have completed the *Funeral Planning Worksheet*, please contact the Liturgy Director at 205-822-9125 as soon as possible to schedule the funeral planning meeting. Please bring the completed planning worksheet to the meeting and she will review your choices and will assist you in the process.

Liturgy of the Word

About the Readings

Please read the suggested choices for first reading, second reading, and gospel reading. Share this with other family members and discuss which readings you agree are appropriate for the service and reflect the life and faith of the deceased. Choices should be recorded on the Funeral Planning Worksheet using the letter-number code that appears on the left side of the heading for each reading.

When the situation warrants, the second reading may be omitted. Non-biblical texts, poems, or other writings may not replace scriptural readings at the Funeral Mass.



First Reading

C1 A worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Proverbs 31: 10-12, 25-26, 28-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.

She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom,
and on her tongue is kindly counsel.

Her children rise up and praise her;
her husband, too, extols her:
"Many are the women of proven worth,
but you have excelled them all."
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

C2 He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second Book of 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, inasmuch 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.

C3 I know that my Vindicator lives. Job 19:1,23-27a

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said: Oh, would that my words were written
down!
Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's shall hold him;
And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

C4 As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Long version: Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an
affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet it is their hope full of immortality.
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them
and found them to be worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over
peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in
love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

C5 Short version: Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet it is their hope full of immortality.

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them
and found them to be worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

C6 An unsullied life, the attainment of old age. Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,

Nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,

And an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported –

Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the

innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career;

for his soul was pleasing to the LORD, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord.

C7 He will destroy death forever. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.

The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove

from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the LORD for whom we looked;

Let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The word of the Lord.

C8 It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord. Lamentations3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the LORD.
The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the LORD are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
So great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the LORD, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him.
Good is the LORD to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the LORD. The word of the Lord.

C9 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake. - Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and heard this word of the Lord:
At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the was shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord.

C10 A good wife is a generous gift. Sirach 26:1-4, 13-26

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife, twice-lengthened are his days;
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband, peaceful and full is his life.
A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face.
A gracious wife delights her husband, her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;
A gift from the LORD is her governed speech, and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste soul.
A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.
Like the sun rising in the LORD's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife
is the radiance of her home.

The word of the Lord.

C11 God has made everything appropriate to its time. Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, 11
A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down, and a time to build,
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek and a time to lose,
a time to keep and time to cast away.
A time to rend, and time to sew;
a time to be silent and time to speak.
A time to love, and time to hate;
a time of war, and time of peace.
God has made everything appropriate to its time but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

C12 There shall be no more death.
A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning,
wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."
The One who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.
The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son."

The Word of the Lord.



Second Readings

E1 Since we are now justified by his blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.

Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Not only that, but we will also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

E2 Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more. Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgressions of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of justification come to reign in the life through the one Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,

The word of the Lord.

E3 We too might live in newness of life. Long version: Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified through him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.
The word of the Lord.

E4 Short version: Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

E5 We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "*Abba, Father!*"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we will suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves,

who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

E6 What will separate us from the love of Christ? Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?
He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all,
will he not also give us everything else along with him?
Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn us?
It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.
What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, not life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

E7 Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself and no one dies for oneself.
For if we live we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
Why then do you judge your brother?
Or you, why do you look down on your brother?
For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of God;
*As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.*
So then each of us shall give an accounting himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

E8 So too in Christ shall all be brought to life. Long version: Corinthians 15:20-28

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end,
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
for "he subjected everything under his feet."
But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who
subjected everything to him,
When everything is subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to
him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

E9 Short version : 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

E10 Death is swallowed up in victory. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Behold, I tell you a mystery.
We shall not fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must
clothe itself with immortality.
And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility, and this which is mortal
clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is
written shall come about:

*Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O
death is your sting?*

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

E11 What is seen is transitory,
but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you,

so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged;

rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory
beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen, but to what is unseen;
for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed,
we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

E12 We have a building from God, eternal in heaven. 2 Corinthians 5:1,6-10

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed,
we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

We are always courageous,

although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,

and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away

For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may
receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

E13 He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory. Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body

to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself

The word of the Lord.

E14 Thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,

that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

E15 If we have died with him we shall also live with him. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.

If we persevere, we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him, he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

E16 We shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;

what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

**E17 We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love our brothers.** 1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.
Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.
The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.

**E18 So faith, hope, love remain, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.** 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Beloved:

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love,
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.
And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
And if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away everything I own,
and if I hand my body over so that I may boast,
But do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind,
It is not jealous, it is not pompous,
It is not inflated, it is not rude,
It does not seek its own interests,
It is not quick-tempered: it does not brood over injury,
It does not rejoice over wrongdoing,
But rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,
endures all things. Love never fails.

If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing:
If tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.
For we know partially and we prophesy partially,
But when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child;
when I became a man, I put aside childish things.

At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face.
At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.
So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Readings

G1 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Matthew 5:1-12a

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up to the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,

for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,

for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G2 Come to me and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:25-30

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus answered:

“I give praise to you Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things from the
wise and learned you have revealed them to the childlike.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father,

and no one knows the Father except the Son,

and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G3 Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him! Matthew 25:1-13

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.

Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you.

Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’

While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked.

Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’

But he said in reply,

‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’

Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G4 Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Matthew 25:31-46

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew]

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him,
he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right,

‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father.

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say,

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

And the king will say to them in reply,
 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did
 for the least of my brothers of mine, you did for me.'
 Then he will say to those on his left,
 'Depart from me you accursed,
 into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.
 For I was hungry and you gave me no food,
 I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
 a stranger and you gave me no welcome,
 naked and you gave me no clothing,
 ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'
 Then they will answer and say,
 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
 or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison
 and not minister to your needs?'
 He will answer them, 'Amen I say to you,
 what you did not do for one of these least ones,
 you did not do for me.'
 And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G5 Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last Long version: Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At noon the darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
 And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
 Some of the bystanders who heard it said,
 "Look, he is calling Elijah."
 One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying,
 "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."
 Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
 The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.
 When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said,
 "Truly this man was the Son of God!"
 When the sabbath was over,
 Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices so that they might go and anoint him.
 Very early when the sun had risen,
 on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.
 They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"
 When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large.
 On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed.
 He said to them, "Do not be amazed!
 You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
 He has been raised; he is not here.
 Behold the place where they laid him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G6 Short version: Mark 15:33-39

† **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*"
which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
Some of the bystanders who heard it said,
"Look, he is calling Elijah."
One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed,
and gave it to him to drink, saying,
"Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."
Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.
When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last, he said,
"Truly this man was the Son of God!"
The Gospel of the Lord.

G7 Young man I tell you, arise! Luke 7:11-17

† **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.
As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out,
the only son of his mother, and she was a widowed.
A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her,
he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep."
He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted,
and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!"
The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.
Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming,
"A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people."
This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.
The Gospel of the Lord.

G8 You must also be prepared. Luke 12:35-40

† **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like
servants who await their master's return from a wedding,
ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.
Blessed are those servants
whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.
Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,
have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.
And should he come in the second or third watch
and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants.
Be sure of this: If the master of the house had known the hour
when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.
You must also be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G9 Today you will be with me in Paradise. Luke 23:33, 39-43

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the soldiers came to the place called the Skull,
they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.
Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,
“Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us.”
The other man, however, rebuking him, said in reply,
“Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation?
And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to
our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.”
Then he said, “Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”
He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G10 Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Long version: Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52,-53, 24:1-6a

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an
eclipse of the sun.
Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”; and when he had said this he breathed his last.
Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the
council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus.
After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in
a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.
At daybreak on the first day of the week the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the
tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the
Body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments
appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.
They said to them, “Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G11 Short version: Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52,-53

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an
eclipse of the sun.
Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”;
and when he had said this he breathed his last.
Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the
council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus.
After he had taken the Body down,
he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in
a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G12 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things enter into his glory? Long version: Luke 24:13-35

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,

"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him,

"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.

But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his Body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther.

But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other,

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,

"The Lord has truly been raised and appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted

what had taken place on the way and how

he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G13 Short version: Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

† **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village called Emmaus,
seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were conversing
about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.
As they approached the village to which they were going,
Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."
So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread,
said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.
Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us
on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered
together the Eleven and those with them, who were saying, "The Lord has truly
been raised and appeared to Simon!"
Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G14 Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.

John 5:24-29

† **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:
"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word
and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and
will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life.
Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead
will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and those who hear will live.
For just as the Father has life in himself,
so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself.
And he gave him power to exercise judgement, because he is the Son of Man.
Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs
will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds
to the resurrection of life, but to those who have done wicked deeds
to the resurrection of condemnation."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G15 Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may
have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day. John 6:37-40

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:

“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will
but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me,
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,
but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G16 Whoever eats this bread will live forever,
and I will raise them up on the last day. John 6:51-59

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,
“How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them,

“Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless you eat of the Flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood
has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.

For my Flesh is true food,
and my Blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father,
so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me,

This is the bread that came down from heaven.

Unlike your ancestors who are and still died,
whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G17 I am the resurrection and the life. Long version: John 11:17-27

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.

Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But even now I know whatever you ask of God, God will give you.

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him,

“I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her,

“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the Word.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G18 Short version: John 11:21-27 (1016-14)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But even now I know whatever you ask of God, God will give you.

Jesus said to her,

“Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him,

“I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her,

“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord.

I have come to believe that you are Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the Word.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G19 Lazarus, come out! John 11:32-45

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Mar came to where Jesus was and saw him,
she fell at his feet and said to him,

“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping,
he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,

“Where have you laid him?”

They said to him, “Sir, come and see.”

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.”

But some of the said,

“Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man
have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him,

“Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.”

Jesus said to her,

“Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said,

“Father, I thank you for hearing me.

I know that you always hear me;

but because of the crowd here I have said this,
that they may believe you have sent me.”

And when he had said this,

he cried out in a loud voice,

“Lazarus, come out!”

The dead man came out,

tied hand and foot with burial bands,
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.

So Jesus said to the crowd,

“Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary

and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G20 If it dies, it produces much fruit. Long version: John 12:23-28 (1016-16)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life will lose it and

whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’

But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G21 - Short version: John 12:23-28 (1016-16)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life will lose it and whoever hates his life in this world
will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G22 In my Father’s house there are many dwellings. John 14:1-6

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not, would I have told you that

I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you may also be.

Where I am going you know the way.”

Thomas said to him,

“Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except
through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G23 I wish that where I am they also may be with me. John 17:24-26

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eye to heaven and said:

“Father, those whom you gave me are your gift to me.

I wish that where I am they may also be with me,
that they may see my glory that you gave me,
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world does not know you,
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known,
that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G24 And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit. John 19:17-18, 25-39

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself,

he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side,
with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister,
Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved,
he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son.”

Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.”

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished,
in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I thirst.”

There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge
soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.”

And bowing his head, he handed over the Spirit.

Now since it was a preparation day, in order that the bodies might
not remain on the cross on the sabbath,

for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,
the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then the other one
who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that
he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust a lance
into his side, and immediately Blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;

he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you may also come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:

Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says:

They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate if he could remove the Body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it.

So he came and took his Body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night,
also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.

The Gospel of the Lord.

General Intercessions

You may use one of the following formulas, combine parts of several together, adapt the material below to your circumstances, or compose your own. If you choose to write your own, those given here can serve as helpful models. The various intentions should express the congregation's prayerful concern not only for those gathered for the funeral, but also for others in particular need throughout the world. Record your choices on the selection form using the page number and the letter-number code on the left side of each heading.

H1

Priest: "Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:"

Deacon: "In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him (her) over the waters of death."

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Deacon: "Our brother/sister N. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him (her) into the halls of the heavenly banquet."

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Deacon: "Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son."

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Deacon: "Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace."

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Deacon: "Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all those whose faith is known to you alone."

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the mourners

Deacon: "The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief."

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Deacon: "We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister N. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming."

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Priest: "Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

General Intercessions

H2

Priest: “God the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead.”

Deacon: “For N. who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he (she) may now be admitted to the company of the saints.”

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Deacon: “For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he (she) may be raised up on the last day.”

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Deacon: “For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.”

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Deacon: “For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.”

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the mourners

Deacon: “For the family and friends of our brother/sister N., that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.”

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Deacon: “For all us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together in God’s kingdom.”

We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Priest: “God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption.”

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn Selections

Our musicians are trained in liturgical music listed on this page. The songs in this Funeral Guide have been approved for use in our funeral services. As a general rule, secular music is not approved for a funeral service. Other songs may be requested but must be approved by the Liturgy Director.

The songs in this list have YouTube links, allowing you to listen if you're unfamiliar with the titles and aim to acquaint you with the overall melody, though the actual performance may differ.

[All The Ends of The Earth](#)

[Amazing Grace](#)

[Ave Maria - Schubert](#)

[Ave Maria, Bach-Gounod](#)

[Ave Verum Corpus](#)

[Be Not Afraid](#)

[Blessed Assurance](#)

[City of God](#)

[Eye Has Not Seen](#)

[Faith Of Our Fathers](#)

[Fly Like a Bird](#)

[Gather Us In](#)

[Give Me Jesus](#)

[Go in Peace](#)

[Hail Mary, Gentle Woman](#)

[Healer of My Soul](#)

[Here I Am, Lord](#)

[Holy God, We Praise Thy Name](#)

[Hosea](#)

[How Can I Keep From Singing](#)

[How Great is Our God](#)

[How Great Thou Art](#)

[I Can Only Imagine](#)

[I Have Loved You](#)

[I Will Rise](#)

[In the Garden](#)

[Jesus Remember Me](#)

[Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You](#)

[Laudate Dominum](#)

[Like A Shepherd](#)

[Look Beyond](#)

[Lord, I Need You](#)

[May the Angels Lead You](#)

[Morning Has Broken](#)

[O Breathe of God](#)

[Old Rugged Cross](#)

[On Eagle's Wings](#)

[Panis Angelicus](#)

[Prayer of St. Francis](#)

[Precious Lord Take My Hand](#)

[Rain Down](#)

[Sacred Silence](#)

[Soon And Very Soon](#)

[The King of Love My Shepherd Is](#)

[I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say](#)

[The Summons](#)

[Unless A Grain of Wheat](#)

[We Have Been Told](#)

[We Remember](#)

[We Walk By Faith](#)

[When the Saints go Marching In](#)

[You Are Mine](#)

[You Are Near](#)

Communion Hymns:

[Bread Of Life](#)

[Eat This Bread](#)

[Gift of Finest Wheat](#)

[I Am the Bread of Life](#)

[I Myself am the Bread of Life](#)

[Look Beyond](#)

[One Bread One Body](#)

[Taste And See](#)



Other Important Information

Frequently Asked Questions

We know there are questions that will arise, so we included a few commonly asked questions here to aid you.

What should we do first to plan a funeral?

Call the church office and ask for the Liturgy Director, Cheri Poole. She will work with you to set a date for a Funeral Planning Meeting and will guide you through the process. Then, share this booklet with your family and read it in its entirety *before* making any decisions regarding the liturgy.

How can family members be involved in the Funeral Mass?

There are many ways to participate, from placing the pall on the casket or the cremation urn at the beginning of Mass, reading one of the Scripture passages, presenting the Gifts at the Offertory, or participating in Words of Remembrance, just to name a few.

Are we limited to Scripture choices presented in this booklet?

This booklet provides Scriptures that are most often chosen and approved by the Catholic church. We ask you to please choose from the ones within the booklet, however any bible passage may be requested and submitted to the priest for approval.

Can we request secular music for the Mass?

The Mass is a time for liturgical music. Secular music may be more appropriately played at a wake, visitation, or gathering after Mass. Also, although our musicians are trained in liturgical music, they may not know a particular piece or have the time to learn it. The songs in this Funeral Guide have been approved by our Liturgy Director and our musicians are familiar with the hymns.

What does the Church teach about cremation?

The Catholic Church allows cremations and when cremation is chosen, the full course of the Order of Christian Funerals is still celebrated, including the Funeral Liturgy and the Committal of the remains.

Words of Remembrance

A Guide for Speakers at the Funeral Liturgy

Following the prayer after communion, a friend or family member may speak in remembrance of the deceased. Please limit the remarks to less than five minutes.

Catholics believe that at death "Life is changed, not ended." Death is a passage to a new and fuller life, and ultimately to resurrection and eternal union with God. Therefore, the Church emphasizes life in the funeral liturgy. The resurrection is the theme, and the readings, hymns, and prayers should reflect the overall tone of expectant joy.

During the Catholic funeral, we gather to pray for the repose of the soul of the one who has died, and to ask that God will strengthen and console family and friends. The priest is the principal presider of this sacred action between God and humanity, as we pray for the beloved departed and for ourselves.

The Funeral Mass is offered in intercession for the deceased person because we believe that God hears our prayers for the forgiveness of the sins of our deceased loved ones. We know that we are not alone, but are supported by God's grace, by the community here on earth and by the communion of saints.

At the funeral, we derive strength from our Christian faith, which provides the true consolation we find in the resurrection of Jesus, our source of hope in times of sorrow. Our attention is centered on Jesus, who speaks to us through the Scriptures, and who comes to us in the Holy Eucharist in our time of grief.

For some non-Catholics, the funeral can primarily be a time for remembrance and celebration of a person's life. For Catholics, however, the intercession for the dead and the transition to eternal union with God are the central focus of the funeral liturgy. Nonetheless, sometimes people desire to have "Words of Remembrance," an option which is permitted by the revised *Order of Christian Funerals*. ***A eulogy is not allowed at a Catholic Funeral.*** "Words of Remembrance" are a short tribute (*less than five minutes*) to the faith life of the deceased loved one, offered by a family member or close personal friend, who knows the deceased well. In cases where the family would like to have "Words of Remembrance," a member of the family should discuss this idea with the Liturgy Director.

Here are few guidelines to follow:

- Only two people are allowed to offer words of remembrance.
- The spoken remembrance may not be more than five minutes in length.
- Prepare your remembrance in writing. Two pages of text generally represents five minutes of speaking time.
- Remember that you are speaking to some people whom you know well, and others that you have never met; therefore, refrain from using "inside jokes."
- Use your own words. Speak from the heart.
- Always read your words of remembrance. This will help you to not lose your train of thought.
- You should arrive at the church 30 minutes before the service is to begin so that you may practice hearing your voice on the church audio system.

If you have any questions, please contact the Liturgy Director at the church office at (205) 822-9125.

Christian Symbols Used in the Funeral Mass

Blessed Holy Water: Reminds us of the saving waters of baptism. Its use calls to mind the deceased's baptism and initiation into the community and the newness of life into which he or she is now called.

The Pall: A reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased and a sign of Christian dignity, it is placed over the coffin. Christian symbols are to be used during the Mass; flags should not be used during the church service.

Placing of Christian Symbols: Family members may choose to place a Christian symbol on top of the casket during the Mass. A crucifix, rosary, or prayer book of the deceased would be most appropriate.

The Paschal Candle: Also known as the Easter Candle is sign of the light of Christ and the eternal life into which we are born and die with him. It represents Christ's saving presence in our midst and is a reminder that Christ is with the deceased, and with the worshipping community.

Thurible and Incense: The smoke of burning incense is seen by the church as an image of the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven. That symbolism is seen in Revelation 8:4 as an image of the worship offered to the Almighty in heaven: "The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel." At a funeral Mass, as well as symbolizing the prayers of the congregation directed toward heaven, incensing the casket honors the deceased, whom through baptism became a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Amen.



