

**Please Return this Booklet to the Church**

# **Funeral Policies & Readings**



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## INTRODUCTION

A Catholic funeral, like all funerals, is a time of sadness and mourning. However, in the Catholic faith there is joy in the belief that a funeral represents the passing of the beloved into eternal life. It is our goal to make this process as easy as possible. A funeral should reflect the life of the one that has passed before us and should uplift those who are left behind. Funeral arrangements begin with a meeting with the funeral director. The parish is contacted next, where a priest will confirm the time for the funeral Mass.

## PARTS OF A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

### **The Vigil**

At the vigil, the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ's presence. The Catholic vigil is a prayer service, usually held the day before the funeral. The community of friends and family will usually gather for a service at the funeral home/mortuary. In some cases, (especially if many people are expected), the vigil can be held in the church. The vigil includes scripture readings, a homily and prayers for both the deceased and the grieving family. Also, a eulogy may be read at the vigil instead of at the funeral service.

### **The Funeral Liturgy**

The core of the Catholic funeral celebration is the Mass. The Eucharist is at the center of the Catholic faith – the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Scripture readings and prayer also play a prominent role in the Catholic funeral service, along with songs, hymns, and a brief message.

### **Interment**

In the Catholic faith, there is great respect for the body. Catholics believe that the body is “the temple of the Lord” and that at the End of Days, there will be a resurrection of the body. The interment takes place at the cemetery

## OTHER DETAILS

### **Cremation**

The Christian faithful are unequivocally confronted by the mystery of life and death when they are faced with the presence of the body of one who has died. The body of a deceased Catholic Christian is also the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the Bread of Life. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites. If the body is to be cremated, the preference of the Church is that it be done after the funeral. However, if the deceased is to be cremated before the service, it is permissible to celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial with the cremated remains. The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. Thus, the cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or some other dedicated place reserved for the interment of human remains. *The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air or on the ground, keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased, dividing the remains among family members, or incorporating them into jewelry or other keepsakes are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.* Church law currently requires that funeral services be denied to any person who requests that their remains be disposed of in this manner. For more information see Appendix #1 of this document.

### **Viewing the Body**

This practice is highly encouraged, because it helps remove doubts that the loved one has truly died. The body should be viewed at the funeral home. At the time of the Mass of Christian Burial the casket is closed. If the vigil is held in the church, viewing can take place in the church before and after the vigil service.

### **Funeral Mass and Vigil Times**

Vigil services can be held at any time during the public viewing hours. A time for the service will be determined when you meet with one of our priests. Funeral Masses generally will begin at 9am or 10:15am. Mass is not offered later due to our daily Mass schedule. This should be coordinated between your funeral director and the church.

## **Church Offering and Fees**

Most funeral directors itemize all costs within their billings. This is something that should be discussed with them. Included should be payments and offerings for these services:

1. Church Offering: The suggested offering is \$125.00. Please note that this is an offering and not a fee, and each family is free to make a higher or lower offering that fits their financial situation.
2. Musicians and cantors: \$150.00 each

## GENERAL OUTLINE OF SERVICES

### **VIGIL ORDER**

#### Introductory Rites

Greeting  
Opening Song (optional)  
Invitation to Prayer  
Opening Prayer

#### Liturgy of the Word

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
Gospel  
Homily  
Intercessions  
The Lord's Prayer  
Eulogy (optional)

#### Concluding Rite

Concluding Prayer  
Blessing  
Closing Song (optional)

## ORDER OF A FUNERAL MASS

### Introductory Rites

Greeting

Sprinkling the Casket with Holy Water

Placing of the Pall (sometimes done by family members –handed to the family by the funeral director)

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

### Liturgy of the Word (SEE READINGS SECTION)

First Reading (taken from the Old Testament)

Psalm (sung by cantor)

Second Reading (taken from the New Testament)

Gospel Reading (from the Scripture list)

Intercessions/Petitions

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory/Presentation of Gifts song

Gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar table (by members of the deceased family if they so choose), and everything is prepared for the celebration.

Preparation of the Gifts & Altar

Communion Song

Communion ministers from the parish will assist in the distribution of Holy Communion.

Optional Meditational Song

Prayer After Communion

Optional Eulogy (see below)

### Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell

Prayer of Commendation

Procession to the Place of Committal

Closing Song

## **RITE OF COMMITTAL ORDER**

Invitation

Scripture Verse

Prayer over the Place of Committal

Committal

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer & Blessing

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## MUSIC FOR A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

Because the Mass is a public act of worship of the church, the parish is ultimately responsible for the music in the liturgy. We will do our best to accommodate any hymns or sacred songs you may wish to hear. Please keep in mind that the music should be sacred and reflect the idea of resurrection and hope. Secular songs and popular music are not permitted as part of the services. For example, *O Danny Boy* and *Wind Beneath My Wings* are wonderful songs, but because they do not have a sacred character, they are not appropriate for a Catholic Mass. If you have a favorite song that cannot be used during Mass, you may want to play it during the Viewing, at the repast or during a slide show.

### **Choosing Music for the Service**

If you have particular hymns in mind, please discuss them with the priest when you meet with him. If you are unsure, you may wish to allow our music ministry, in cooperation with the presiding priest, to choose appropriate hymns. Our priests may also make recommendations based on the life of your loved one or the circumstances of their death. The final decision on what is permitted lies with the priest.

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## OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE FUNERAL MASS

### **Eulogy for the Deceased**

You may select one to two people to speak briefly at the end of Mass. There can also be a short eulogy at the vigil. It is strongly recommended that the eulogy be written down and must be between 3 and 5 minutes. It is often stressful for people to say a eulogy so having it written down helps them communicate the message in a more effective manner. Mentioning the deceased's history or interesting/funny stories is always enjoyable to the mourners present for Mass. The eulogy will take place after Communion.

### **Lectors/Readers**

You may select between one and three people to read at Mass. One or two readers are more common. If two are chosen, one person will read the Old Testament reading and one the selection from the New Testament. If there are three family members who want to participate, you may select one to read the Old Testament reading, one to read the New Testament reading, and one to read the intercessions/petitions. A list of petitions can be found in the intercession section of this document. Keep in mind that it may be difficult for an immediate family member to proclaim the readings at the funeral Mass. The office of Lector is a skilled church ministry. If the family cannot provide the lectors, the church will provide one for the service.

### **Gift Bearers/Offertory Procession**

Family members, such as grandchildren, or friends are welcome to bring up the wine and bread during Mass. It is recommended that young children be escorted by a parent or family member.

## CHOICES OF READINGS FOR SERVICES

This booklet can assist in the selection of scriptural readings for the funeral Mass. There are suggested readings that follow in this booklet. Although we cannot allow non-scripture readings, you may wish to choose a favorite reading from the Bible that is not in this booklet. You are most welcome to do so. Please make sure it meets the requirements below (e.g., the first reading for the funeral Mass should be from the Old Testament) and that it is taken from a Catholic Bible.

For the funeral Mass, you will choose one Old Testament reading, one Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 23 will be used unless another choice is made), one New Testament reading, and one Gospel reading. If you are uncertain as to what readings are appropriate for your loved one, our priests can assist you in making the selections.

### The Funeral Mass

- One Reading from the Old Testament
- One Responsorial Psalm (*sung by cantor*)
- One Reading from the New Testament
- One Gospel Reading

## OLD TESTAMENT CHOICES

Old Testament #1 *I know that my redeemer lives*

Job 19: 1. 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

Job answered 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 behold Him,  
and from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament #2 *He accepted them as a holocaust.*

Wisdom 3: 1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing 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 is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them and found them 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.

*Shorter Form, Old Testament #2 He accepted them as a holocaust.*

Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing 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 is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them and found them 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.

Old Testament #3 *A blameless life is a ripe 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.  
Because grace and mercy are with His holy ones,  
and His care is with His elect.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament #4 *The Lord God will destroy death for ever*  
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

Old Testament #5 *It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save*  
Lamentations 3: 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.



Old Testament #6 *Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake*

Daniel 12: 1 – 3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

(I, Daniel mourned and I 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 wise 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.

Old Testament #7 *It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again*  
2 Maccabees 12: 43-46

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 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

Old Testament #8 *A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of worth?  
Far beyond jewels is her value.  
Her husband trusts her judgment;  
    he does not lack income.  
She brings him profit, not loss,  
    all the days of her life.  
She seeks out wool and flax  
    and weaves with skillful hands.  
She girds herself with strength;  
    she exerts her arms with vigor.  
She puts her hands to the distaff,  
    and her fingers ply the spindle.  
She reaches out her hands to the poor,  
    and extends her arms to the needy.  
She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
    and laughs at the days to come.  
She opens her mouth in wisdom;  
    kindly instruction is on her tongue.  
She watches over the affairs of her household,  
    and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and call her blessed;  
    her husband, too, praises 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.  
Acclaim her for the work of her hands,  
    and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament # 9 *There is a time for every affair under the heavens.*  
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

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 give birth, 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 a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;  
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time of war, and a time of peace.

The Word of the Lord

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM CHOICES

Option #1 – Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil;  
for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Option #2- Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21

R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Remember that your compassion, O Lord,  
and your kindness are from of old.

In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Relieve the troubles of my heart;  
and bring me out of my distress.  
Put an end of my affliction and my suffering;  
and take away all my sins.

R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Preserve my life and rescue me;  
let me not be put to shame,  
for I take refuge in you.  
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
because I wait for you, O Lord.

R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Option #3- Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14

R/. The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?

The Lord is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?

R/. The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.

One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek:  
To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.  
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord  
and contemplate his temple.

R/. The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;  
have pity on me, and answer me.

Your presence, O Lord I seek,  
hide not your face from me.

R/. The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

R/. The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.

Option #4- Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5

R/. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

As the hind longs for the running waters,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.

R/. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.  
When shall I go and behold the face of God?

R/. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

I went with the throng  
and led them in procession to the house of God.  
Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,  
with the multitude keeping festival.

R/. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on  
And bring me to your holy mountain,  
to your dwelling-place.

R/. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

Then will I go in to the altar of God,  
the God of my gladness and joy;  
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,  
O God, my God!

R/. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

Why are you so downcast, O my soul?  
Why do you sigh within me?  
Hope in God!  
For I shall again be thanking him,  
In the presence of my savior and my God.

R/. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?



Option #5- Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;  
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts  
Like the earth, parched,  
lifeless and without water.

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary  
to see your power and your glory,  
For your kindness is a greater good than life;  
my lips shall glorify you.

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus will I bless you while I live;  
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.  
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,  
And with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.  
My soul clings fast to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Option #6- Psalm 103:8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,  
slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.  
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,  
Nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful.

As a father has compassion on his children,  
So the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.  
For he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Man's days are like those of grass;  
like a flower of the field he blooms;  
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,  
and his place knows him no more.

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity,  
to eternity toward those who fear him,  
And his justice toward children's children  
Among those who keep his covenant  
and remember to fulfill his precepts.

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Option #7- Psalm 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac

R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Gracious is the Lord and just;  
yes, our God is merciful.  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.  
The Lord keeps the little ones;  
I was brought low, and he saved me.

R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said.  
“I am greatly afflicted”;  
I said in my alarm, “No man is dependable.”

R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.  
O Lord, I am your servant,  
you have loosed my bonds.

R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Option #8- Psalm 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R/. I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,  
“We will go up to the house of the Lord.”

And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R/. I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

According to the decree for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

In it are set up judgment seats,  
seats for the house of David.

R/. I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

May those who love you prosper!

May peace be within your walls,  
prosperity in your buildings.

R/. I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

Because of my relatives and friends I will say

“Peace be within you!”

Because of the house of the Lord, our God,

I will pray for your good.

R/. I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

Option #9- Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8

R/. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.

R/. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities,  
Lord, who can stand?  
But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

R/. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

I trust in the Lord;  
my soul trusts in his word.  
My soul waits for the Lord  
more than the sentinels wait for the dawn.

R/. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

More than the sentinels wait for the dawn,  
let Israel wait for the Lord,  
For with the Lord is kindness  
and with him is plenteous redemption.  
And he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

R/. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

Option #10- Psalm 143:1-2, 5-6, 7ab and 8ab, 10

R/. O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer;  
hearken to my pleading in your faithfulness;  
In your justice answer me.  
And enter not into judgment with your servant,  
for before you no loving person is just.

R/. O Lord, hear my prayer.

I remember the days of old;  
I meditate on all your doings;  
The works of your hands I ponder.  
I stretch out my hands to you;  
my soul thirsts for you like parched land.

R/. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Hasten to answer me, O Lord;  
for my spirit fails me.  
At dawn let me hear of your mercy,  
for in you I trust.

R/. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.  
May your good spirit guide me on level ground.

R/. O Lord, hear my prayer.

## NEW TESTAMENT CHOICES

New Testament #1 *God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone*

Acts 10: 34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

*Shorter Form: New Testament #1 God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone*  
Acts 10: 34-36 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

“I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality. Rather, the man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him. This is the message He has sent to the son of Israel, ‘the good news of peace’ proclaimed through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that He is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets testify, saying that everyone who believes in Him has forgiveness of sins through His name.”

The Word of the Lord



New Testament #2 *Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him*

Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of 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 that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet 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 for 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 also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #3 *However great the number of sins grace was greater*  
Romans 5: 17-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If death began its reign through one man because of his offense, much more shall those who receive the overflowing grace and gift of justice live and reign through the one man, Jesus Christ. To sum up, then: just as a single offense brought condemnation to all, a single righteous act brought all men acquittal & life. Just as through one man's disobedience all became sinners, so through one man's obedience all shall become just. The law came in order to increase offenses; but despite the increase of sin, grace has far surpassed it, so that, as sin reigned through death, grace may reign by way of justice leading to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

*Longer Form New Testament #4 Let us walk in newness of life*  
Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the letter of 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 with 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

*Shorter Form: New Testament #4 Let us walk in the newness of life.*

Romans 6: 3-4. 8-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with Him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over Him.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #5 *We wait for our bodies to be set free*  
Romans 8: 14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children 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 with God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so as to 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 of 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 first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #6 *Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ*  
Romans 8: 31-35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed Him over for us all, how 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? 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, nor 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 that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #7 *We belong to the Lord*

Romans 14: 7-9. 10-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master. While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die, we die as His servants. Both in life and in death we are the Lord's. that is why Christ died and came to life again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. We shall all have to appear before the judgment seat of God. It is written, "*As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before Me and every tongue shall give praise to God.*" Every one of us will have to give an account of himself before God.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #8, Longer Form *All men will be brought to life in Christ*  
1 Corinthians 15: 20-24. 25-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death came through a man; hence the resurrection of the dead comes through a man also. Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits and then, at His coming, all those who belong to Him. After that will come the end, when, after having destroyed every sovereignty, authority, and power, He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under his feet, and the last enemy to be destroyed is death. Scripture reads that God “*has placed all things under his feet.*” But when it says that everything has been made subject, it is clear that He who has made everything subject to Christ is excluded. When, finally, all has been subjected to the Son, He will then subject Himself to the One who made all things subject to Him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord



*Shorter Form: New Testament #8 All men will be brought to life in Christ.*  
1 Corinthians 15: 20-23

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death came through a man; hence the resurrection of the dead comes through a man also. 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 first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #9 *Death is swallowed up in victory*  
1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

I am going to tell you a mystery. Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality, then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? *O death, where is your sting?*” The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #10 *What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal*  
1 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the second letter of 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, tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #11 *We have an everlasting home in heaven*  
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of 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. So 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 judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #12 *Jesus will transfigure our bodies to be like His*  
Philippians 3: 20-21

A reading from the letter of 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

New Testament #13 *We shall stay with the Lord forever*  
Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters:

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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

New Testament #14 *If we have died with Him, we will live with Him*  
Timothy 2: 8-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

Brothers and sisters:

Remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, was raised from the dead. This is the gospel I preach; in preaching it I suffer as a criminal, even to the point of being thrown into chains- but there is no chaining the word of God! Therefore I bear with all of this for the sake of those whom God has chosen, in order that they may obtain the salvation to be found in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. You can depend on this: If we have died with Him we shall also live with Him; If we hold out to the end we shall also reign with Him. But if we deny Him He will deny us. If we are unfaithful He will still remain faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #15 *We shall see God as he really is*  
1 John 3: 1-2

A reading from the first letter of John

Brothers and sisters:

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 Gods 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



New Testament #16 *We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters*

1 John 3: 14-16

A reading from the first letter of John

Brothers and sisters:

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 and sisters.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #17 *Happy are those who die in the Lord*  
Revelation 14: 13

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me: “Write this down: *Happy now are the dead who die in the Lord!*” The Spirit added, “Yes, they shall find rest from their labors, for their good works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #18 *The dead have been judged according to their works*  
Revelation 20:11-21:1

A reading from the book of Revelation

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. This pool of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #19 *There will be no more death*  
Revelation 21: 1-5a. 6-7b

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, saw new heavens and a new earth. The former heavens and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer. I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne cry out: "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He shall dwell with them and they shall be His people, and God himself will always be with them as their God. He shall 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 Word of the Lord

## GOSPEL READING CHOICES

The Gospel is proclaimed by the priest or deacon

*(Gospel - 1) MATTHEW 5:1-12a Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

He began to teach them, 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

*(Gospel - 2) MATTHEW 11:25-30 Come to me...and I will give you rest*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the 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 your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord

*(Gospel - 3) MATTHEW 25:1-13 Look the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: “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

*(Gospel - 4) MATTHEW 25:31-46 Come, you whom my father has blessed*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

“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 a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 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 one of these least 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



*Longer Form (Gospel - 5) MARK 15:33-39; 16:1-6 Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

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 bought 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 to 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

*Shorter Form MARK 15:33-39 Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

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

*(Gospel - 6) LUKE 7:11-17 Young man, I say to you, arise*

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 widow. 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

*(Gospel - 7) LUKE 12: 35-40 Be prepared*

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 also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

The Gospel of the Lord

*(Gospel - 8) LUKE 23:33, 39-43 Today you will be with me in paradise*

A reading from The Holy Gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him 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 Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, 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

*Longer Form (Gospel - 9) LK 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53, 24: 1-6a Father, I put my life in your hands*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

It was now 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, he 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.

But 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

*Shorter Form (Gospel - 9) LK 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53 Father, I put my life in your hands*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

It was now 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, he 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

*Longer Form (Gospel - 10) LUKE 24:13-35 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, 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 Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he 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 has 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



*Shorter Form (Gospel - 10) LK 24: 13-16. 28-35 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Now that very day, the first day of the week two of the disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, 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, He 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 has 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

*(Gospel - 11) JOHN 5:24-29 Whoever hears my word and believes, has passed from death to life*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews: “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 his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, 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 those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.”

The Gospel of the Lord

*(Gospel - 12) JOHN 6:37-40 All who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

“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

*(Gospel - 13) JOHN 6:51-58 All who eat this bread will live forever; and I will raise them up on the last day*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

“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 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 ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord

*Longer Form (Gospel - 14) JOHN 11:17-27 I am the resurrection and the life*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And 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 that 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 the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord

*Shorter Form JOHN 11:21-27 I am the resurrection and the life*

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 that 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 the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord

*(Gospel - 15) JOHN 11:32-45 Lazarus, come out*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

When Mary 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 them 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 that you 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 them, "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

*Longer Form (Gospel - 16) JOHN 12:23-28 Lazarus, come out*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus told 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 loses 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



*Shorter Form JOHN 12:23-26 Lazarus, come out*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus told 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 loses 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

*(Gospel - 17) JOHN 14:1-6 There are many rooms in my Father's house*

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 also may 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 and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

The Gospel of the Lord

*(Gospel - 18) JOHN 17:24-26 Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Father, [my disciples] are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may 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 also 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

*(Gospel - 19) JOHN 19:17-18, 25-30 Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus, carrying the cross himself, 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 of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

## INTERCESSIONS

Option #1

**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 theirs:

**Deacon/Lector:**

Please respond, "Lord, hear our prayer."

In baptism [Name] received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

We pray to the Lord.

Our sister/brother was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

We pray to the Lord.

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.

We pray to the Lord.

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 your eternal kingdom of peace. We Pray to the Lord.

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.

The family and friends of our sister/brother [Name] seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

We pray to the Lord.

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

We pray to the Lord.

**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.

## Option #2

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

### **Deacon/Lector:**

For [Name], 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.

For our sister/brother 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.

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.

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.

For the family and friends of our sister/brother [Name], 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.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

We pray to the Lord.

### **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 brother and sisters.

Cleanse them of their sins  
and grant them the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## APPENDIX #1

### What Does the Church Believe About Cremation?

One of our most important beliefs is the belief in life after death. As Christians, we believe that through our baptisms we are intimately united with the death and resurrection of Christ and so come to share in the new life that Christ promises (cf. Romans 6:3-11). We also believe that who we are as individuals is a union of body and soul, and that both are redeemed through the death and resurrection of Christ. The resurrection we await, then, is one in which our souls will be reunited with our transformed bodies. This is most evident in the Gospel accounts of the resurrected Christ's appearances to his disciples. In each, it is clear that they are interacting with a transformed physical being, not just a spirit; they eat and drink with him, break bread, and touch the wounds in his hand and side. All Christians are called to proclaim this faith in our words and actions.

One important way we proclaim this faith is through the way we treat the remains of those who have died. To treat the bodies of the dead with dignity and respect shows in a concrete way that we believe that the now lifeless body will someday be reunited with the soul and live again in the Kingdom of God. For this reason, the Church has always taught that the bodies of our deceased relatives and friends should receive a full Christian funeral in a Church (and not just prayers at the funeral home) and be buried in a dignified place reserved for that purpose. This respect for human remains is also why the Church prohibited cremation for much of its history, seeing it as too closely associated with pagan religious practices which denied resurrection.

The Church, recognizing that attitudes and associations change, lifted the ban on cremation in 1963, provided that cremation was not requested as a denial of the resurrection or of other essential Christian dogmas. The Church prefers that the



cremation take place after the funeral mass, as having the full body present is a clearer sign of our belief in the resurrection, but it is possible to celebrate the funeral with cremated remains for just reason. The fact that cremation is permitted, however, does not abrogate the requirement that a person's remains be buried or interred in a dignified and dedicated place. *The Church absolutely prohibits, therefore, the scattering of ashes in any way; the division of the remains between family members; or the preservation of ashes in jewelry or other objects.* Any person who requests such a disposition of their remains is to be denied a Catholic funeral and burial according to the laws of the Church.

The problem with such practices is that they are drawn from non-Christian traditions which do not share our beliefs about life after death or respect for human remains. As such, when practiced, they weaken our faith in Christ and in the salvation of body and soul we receive from him through baptism. Also, such practices all too often lead to accidents or acts of disrespect to human remains contrary to Church teaching. Finally, the interment of human remains, bodily or ashes, makes it easier for the faithful departed to be remembered in the prayers and devotions of the Church, according to our ancient practice.

How we treat the dead is always an expression of what we believe about the life to come. As such, it should never be taken lightly or seen as unimportant. I encourage all of our parishioners to keep these truths in mind when they plan the funerals of family members or when considering what arrangements they would like made for themselves.