

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
PLANNING SHEET

Mass of Christian Burial for _____

to be celebrated at Saint Helena Church on (day/date) _____ at (time) _____

Name/phone# of person planning the Funeral Liturgy: _____

Priest Celebrant is _____ Body/Cremens (circle one)

Place and Date of Burial _____

PLACING OF THE FUNERAL PALL & SYMBOL OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

Will members/friends of the family place the funeral pall on the casket? Yes ___ No ___

Will a symbol of Christian life be placed on the casket? Yes: Cross ___ or Bible ___ No ___

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS:

FIRST READING: (Found on the purple pages.)

We have selected number _____. Long form ___ Short form ___ N/A ___

To be proclaimed by: _____

SECOND READING: (Found on the blue pages.)

We have selected number _____. Long form ___ Short form ___ N/A ___

To be proclaimed by: _____

GOSPEL READING: (Found on the green pages.)

We have selected number _____. Long form ___ Short form ___ N/A ___

The Holy Gospel will be proclaimed by the Priest.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS: (Found on the yellow pages.)

We have selected: Set A ___ Set B ___ We have added/modified. ___

To be read by: _____

(Please be sure to give a copy of the Intercessions to the person you selected to read, as well as to the Priest at least one day before the Mass.)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION of the OFFERTORY GIFTS

Bread/Wine will be brought forward by: _____
(2 or 3 people)

Will members/friends of the family present flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Yes ___ No ___ If yes, flowers will be presented by whom? _____

FINAL COMMENDATION:

Words of Remembrance - *Optional* (Please read the gold page carefully.)

Will one member/friend of the family share Words of Remembrance? (Please be sure to give a copy of the Words of Remembrance to the Priest at least one day prior to the Funeral Mass.)

Yes ___ No ___ If yes, they will be read by whom? _____

We ask that the person presenting the Words of Remembrance move immediately after Communion to the front pew on the St. Joseph side of the Church. Seeing you there, the priest will know that you are ready and prepared to offer these words. Should you feel overwhelmed during the Mass and choose not to present the Words of Remembrance, you may choose not to do so. Therefore, you would not move to the front of the Church. The priest will then know to go forward with the conclusion of the Mass without the optional Words of Remembrance.

MUSIC (Recommended selections can be found on the pink page.)

Entrance Hymn: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Offertory Hymn: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Hymn of Praise/Meditation Hymn: (Optional) _____

Recessional Hymn: _____

Other: _____



Dear Parishioner/Family,

Please accept our condolences on the loss of your loved one. Understandably, right now you are probably feeling confused, sad, stunned, even overwhelmed by your loss. The Roman Catholic funeral ceremony should offer both comfort in this present sorrow and great hope for the future. Each Sunday when we gather together as God's family to celebrate the Eucharist, we profess our faith in "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." (Nicene Creed) When someone we love dies, we are challenged to say these ancient words with renewed faith and conviction.

In the past, you have loved others, comforted them, and shared their losses. During the hours ahead, it will be your turn, your time to be loved, to be comforted, and to let others share your grief. There will be times when tears come regardless of efforts to control them, but you will be surprised at the wonderful support you will receive from others. The words and embraces of friends and relatives, their prayers, their phone calls, and written notes, their silent presence at the family residence or at the viewing/calling will raise you from the depths and help you to carry on. That is the primary purpose of wakes or calling hours. They make it possible for others to share your sorrow, to lend you support, and to pray for your departed loved one.

Christians, however, find hope in the midst of their many tears. We believe that death is not an end, but a beginning; that a beloved has passed through death from this present, temporary life to a perfect, permanent one; that he or she who saw God in faith on earth now sees the Lord face to face in heaven; that while death separates us now, it is only for a time.

The Funeral Mass expresses our faith in Jesus' victory over death and our personal share in His resurrection. It does so through prayers and blessings, through songs and readings, through ceremonies and symbols. Take a few moments and read through the following information about some of the things you may see and hear at a Funeral Mass. These may make the liturgy in church more understandable and more consoling.

- **Passages from Holy Scripture** Among the many resources open to you in the funeral liturgy is a list of more than 40 Scriptural readings. You may select three: one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and one from the Gospels. Commonly used passages are included later in this booklet to make it easy for you to make a selection. Practice from these sheets. During Mass all readings will be done from the Lectionary.
- **Music** Music affects our feelings and the atmosphere in which we pray. It expresses well our inner thoughts. Easter tunes which speak of the Lord's resurrection are particularly appropriate. A list of appropriate and commonly used songs/hymns is provided toward the end of this booklet for your convenience.
- **The Easter or Paschal Candle** For 50 days after Easter, the large Paschal Candle stands in the Sanctuary. It symbolizes the Risen Christ; telling us He has conquered sin and death, and now lives in our midst. In the Catholic Funeral service, we place the Paschal Candle before the casket as a reminder that the deceased, through his/her death, shares in that victory of Jesus over the powers of darkness.
- **Sprinkling of the casket.** We first share in the resurrection of the Lord through Baptism. At the font, saving waters poured over our bodies made us Christians and sharing in the life of Christ. When the priest

sprinkles Holy Water over the casket during the service, it recalls that initial washing in Baptism. It is this which gives us the basis for hope in attaining Eternal Life.

- ***Incensing of the body.*** As Christians, we believe the body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit and one day will be resurrected by God's mighty power. During the Funeral Mass, the priest walks around the casket and incenses the body as a sign of our respect for the remains; as a symbol of the community's prayers for the deceased rising to the throne of God; and as a final farewell or commendation of this departed one to God.
- ***Placing the Pall.*** A funeral pall, reminding us of the white garment given at baptism; and, therefore, symbolizing our life in Christ, is draped over the coffin at the beginning of the liturgy. Family members or friends are encouraged to do this. The use of this pall also signifies that all are equal in the eyes of God. (James 2:1-9)
- ***Symbols of the Christian life.*** A small symbol of the *Christian life* may be carried in the procession by a family member or friend and placed on the coffin. This may be a Bible as a sign that Christians live by the Word of God, and that fidelity to that Word leads to Eternal Life. It might also be a Cross as a sign that the Christian is marked by the Cross in Baptism, and through Jesus' suffering on the Cross, is brought to the victory of His Resurrection. The priest recites a prayer to accompany this placing of the symbol on the casket.
- ***Reconciliation.*** People who are alienated from God, the church, family members, or others often are touched by the experience of death and wish to become reconciled. The parish priest will be happy to assist in that process. If you think this would be helpful, contact the local priest to make arrangements.
- ***Funeral homily and family remarks.*** The priest or deacon will give a brief homily based on your choice of the Scripture readings. While this is not meant to be any kind of eulogy, the homilist will, nevertheless, find it helpful to speak with you about the deceased's life so he can better integrate those particular texts and the reasons for your selections into his message.

Following the prayer after Communion and before the final commendation, *one* member or *one* friend of the family may speak *briefly* (3-5 mins.) in remembrance of the deceased. This is an occasion to cite some of the ways in which the departed has *inspired us and deepened our faith* through his/her life on earth. (Please see the gold paper at the end of this packet.) Mass is not the appropriate time to share funny anecdotes about the deceased or to reminisce about family vacations, etc. Those wonderful stories should be shared; however, this can be done at a family gathering, funeral luncheon, or during calling hours.

- ***Presentation of Offertory Gifts*** The church encourages family members or friends at the Funeral Mass to bring to the altar the bread and wine. Flowers may also be brought to the Blessed Virgin Mary at this time. A vase will be placed there for you, should you wish to present flowers.
- ***Holy Communion.*** This is the *most perfect* way to share in the Funeral Mass. The church encourages you and those present to do so. However, it is important that those intending to receive Holy Communion during the Funeral Mass actually be in communion with the church – i.e., a practicing Catholic; and in the state of grace. Although it is our desire that we are all united in Christ, the reality is that we are not. The words of Jesus in St. John have great meaning here: "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has life eternal, and I will raise him on the last day." (John 6:54)

- **Final Commendation and Committal.** The last ceremony after Mass and at the cemetery is called a *Liturgy of Final Farewell* or *Commendation and Committal*. In some ways, this is the most difficult time, for it is a final good-bye to one we have loved through life. But, again, the support of friends and the comfort of faith tell us that it is and it isn't final - a separation, yes, but only a temporary one; an end, yes, but more, a beginning. The following prayer, one of several which conclude the graveside service, summarizes these thoughts:

Our brother/sister N. has gone to his/her rest in the peace of Christ. May the Lord now welcome him/her to the table of God's children in heaven. With faith and hope in eternal life, let us assist him/her with our prayers.

Let us pray to the Lord, also, for ourselves. May we who mourn be reunited one day with our brother/sister. Together may we meet Christ Jesus when He, who is our life, appears in glory. (#216, Order of Christian Funerals)

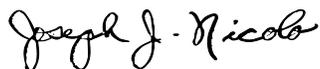
- **Personalized memorial cards and participation booklets/programs.** If you have the time and the desire, you may wish to prepare more individualized memorial cards to be handed out before the Mass and/or programs to help people participate during the service. This takes some effort and involves a bit of a rush.

One of the ways we profess our belief in the resurrection is to celebrate a Mass of Christian Burial for our beloved deceased. The Catholic liturgy provides courage and comfort for those mourning the death of one they loved. However, the more the family, relatives and friends actively plan and participate in the ceremony itself, the deeper will be the consolation and strength they experience.

This booklet has been designed to facilitate such active involvement in preparing for and taking part in the Funeral Mass of Christian Burial.

Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and in our prayers at this difficult time.

May the Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercession of Saint Helena, bless you and keep you.



Msgr. Joseph J. Nicolo
Saint Helena Church, Blue Bell, PA

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
FIRST READING (from the Old Testament)
Choose One

1. **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.

2. **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 behold him;

And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

3. **As sacrificial offerings, He took them to Himself.**

Wisdom 3:1-9 (Long version)

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 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 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.

OR

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (Short version)

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 away was thought an affliction, and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if in the eyes of 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 worth 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

4. **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.

5. 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.

6. It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

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.

7. 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 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.

FIRST READING (from the New Testament during the Easter Season only)

(Note: During the Easter Season, one of the following four readings is used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.)

Choose One

8. He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (Long version)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

“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 children of Israel 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.

OR

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43 (Short version)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

“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 children of Israel as He proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 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.

9. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

Revelation 14:13

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord.

10. The dead were judged according to their deeds.

Revelation 20:11-21:1

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

I, John, saw the 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.

11. There shall be no more death.

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

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

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.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

SECOND READING (from the New Testament)

Choose One

1. **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 also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

2. **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 transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in 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.

3. **We too might live in newness of life.**

Romans 6:3-9 (Long version)

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 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.

OR

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 (Short version)

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.

4. **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 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 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.

5. **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? 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 in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

6. **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 judgment seat of God; for it is written:

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 of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

7. **So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.**

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (Long version)

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

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have 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 first fruits; 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.

OR

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (Short version)

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

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have 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 first fruits; then, at His coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

8. 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 all 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.

9. **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.

10. **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 judgment 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.

11. **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.

12. Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. **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.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

GOSPEL READINGS

Choose One (To be proclaimed by the Priest)

1. **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 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 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.

2. **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 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

3. **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.

4. 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 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.

5. Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed His last.

Matthew 15:33-39; 16:1-16 (Long version)

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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!"

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.

OR

Matthew 15:33-39 (Short version)

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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

6. **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 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.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

8. 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.

9. Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.

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

+ 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 in 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.

OR

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

+ 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 in 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.

10. Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?

Luke 24:13-35 (Long version)

+ 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 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.

OR

Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

(Short version)

+ 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 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.

11. 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 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 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.

14. I am the resurrection and the life.

John 11:17-27 (Long version)

+ 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 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 Christ, the Son of God, the One who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR

John 11:21-27 (Short version)

+ 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 Christ, the Son of God, the One who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

15. Lazarus, come out!

John 11:32-45

+ 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 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.

16. If it dies, it produces much fruit.

John 12:23-28 (Long version)

+ 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 the 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.

OR

John 12:23-26 (Short version)

+ 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.

17. 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 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.

18. 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 eyes to heaven and said:

“Father, those whom You gave Me 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.

19. 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 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 of 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 his 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 also may 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.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

You may use one of the following formulas, combine parts of several together, adapt the material below to your circumstances, or compose one of 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 for others throughout the world. This, naturally, includes the deceased and bereaved, but also might reach out to persons in the community, the nation, and beyond our shores to those who are in need of support.

To invite the people's response, an invitation at the end of each petition needs to be added. It will read as follows: *"We pray to the Lord."*

The people's response (R) is: **"Lord, hear our prayer."**

No matter what you choose to do, we ask that you provide a copy of your General Intercessions to the reader as well as to the priest at least one day before the Funeral Mass. Set A and Set B are provided below.

The priest will begin and end the General Intercessions with a prayer. Those prayers are also included with each set of Intercessions. This is an excellent time to pray specifically for family members and their special intentions.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Read by: _____

SET A

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:

Reader:

Our response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.** (pause briefly)

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the Heavenly Kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with Your Son.

"We pray to the Lord:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to You alone.

"We pray to the Lord:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **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 Heavenly Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

(R) **Amen**

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Read by: _____

SET B

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.

Reader:

Our response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.** (pause briefly)

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **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.

(R) **Amen**

“WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE”

Guidelines Regarding “Words of Remembrance” at a Funeral Promulgated by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

- A. The order of Christian Funerals provides for the possibility of “a member or a friend of the family speaking in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins.” [OCF, #197]
- B. As with the homily, these “words of remembrance” are not to constitute a eulogy as such. Rather, they are to express appreciation for the life of the deceased, or take the form of a prayer or other inspirational text.
- C. Only **one** family member or friend is to speak. He/she is to be **brief**, speaking no more than 3 minutes.
- D. Because of the intensity of the emotions at the time of a funeral, the “words of remembrance” should be consigned to writing. To ensure that these words are in harmony with the celebration, the script should be given to the priest celebrant in advance of the Funeral Liturgy, so that he can make any suitable suggestions to help the “words of remembrance” convey the consolation of God’s love, grace, and mercy. These words, then, are intended to particularize the praise and gratitude to God for His gifts to the deceased, especially the gift of the Christian life.
- E. Those who wish to give a eulogy or to share a story about the deceased more fittingly should do so during the Vigil (viewing/wake/calling hours) at the funeral home, or following the Committal at the cemetery. A biography of the deceased could be included in the printed worship aid if one is prepared for the Funeral Liturgy.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has established these guidelines to provide direction to the priest in the celebration of the Order of Christian Funerals, specifically regarding the “words of remembrance” at the Funeral Liturgy. These guidelines not only pertain to Funerals of the lay Christian faithful, but also to Funerals of Priests and Deacons as well. They are not intended to serve as a comprehensive treatment, which addresses all matters pertinent to the various Funeral Rites.

BASIC PRINCIPLES (excerpts from the Order of Christian Funerals [OCF])

- A. “In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by His Death and Resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity.” [OCF, #1]
- B. “Christians celebrate the Funeral Rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the Author of Life and the Hope of the Just.” [OCF, #5]
- C. The three principal ritual moments in the Christian Funeral Rites are the Vigil (viewing/wake/calling hours), the Funeral Liturgy, and the Committal. “The Mass, the memorial of Christ’s Death and Resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian Funeral.” [OCF #5]
- D. “Among the priest’s responsibilities are:
 - 1. To impart catechesis on the meaning of Christian death;
 - 2. To comfort the family of the deceased, to sustain them amid the anguish of their grief, to be as kind and helpful as possible; and, *through the use of the resources provided and allowed in the ritual*, to prepare with them a funeral celebration that has meaning for them;
 - 3. Finally, to fit the Liturgy for the dead into the total setting of the liturgical life of the parish and his own pastoral ministry.” [Ordo Exsequiarum #25]

CONCLUDING PRINCIPLE

These guidelines, as with the norms regulating Christian Funerals, are intended to assist the priest celebrant, family members and friends to celebrate the Funeral Rites “in an atmosphere of simple beauty, in a setting that encourages participation...affirming the Christian belief and hope in the Paschal Mystery.” [OCF, #21]

**HYMNS and SONGS APPROPRIATE
for a MASS of CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

Amazing Grace
As the Deer Longs
Ave Maria
Alleluia, Alleluia *
Be Not Afraid
Be Still, My Soul
Because the Lord is My Shepherd
Behold the Lamb
Center of My Life
Christ Be Our Light
City of God
Come to Me
Eye Has Not Seen
For You are My God
Gather Us In
Gifts of Finest Wheat
Glory and Praise
Grant Them Eternal Rest
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Here I Am Lord
Holy Darkness
Holy God We Praise Thy Name
Holy Holy Holy
Hosea (Come Back to Me)
How Great Thou Art
How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place
I Am the Bread of Life
I Am the Living Bread
I Have Loved You
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
I Know That My Redeemer Lives

In Every Age
Irish Blessing (Blessing Prayer)
Jesus Christ is Risen Today *
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Lady of Knock
Like a Shepherd
Lord, You Have Come
Now Thank We All Our God
Now the Green Blade Rises
O God, You Search Me
O Loving God
On Eagles' Wings
One Bread One Body
Only This I Want
Out of the Depths
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise to the Lord
Prayer of St. Francis
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Shelter Me, O God
Shepherd Me O God
Sing with All the Saints in Glory
Song of Farewell
Table of Plenty
The Lord is Kind and Merciful
There is a Longing
To You, O Lord
We Remember
We Walk by Faith
You Are Near

* May not be sung during the Lenten Season.

The above songs are to be of help in making your selections; however, you are not limited to these titles. You are welcome to choose other Catholic music as well. When you are finished making your selections, please place them on the *Planning Sheet for the Mass of Christian Burial*.