

THROUGH DEATH TO LIFE



Saint David Parish
316 Easton Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090

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A MESSAGE FOR THE FAMILY

Dear Family Members,

I offer you the prayers and concern of our parish at this time of sorrow. The parish staff and I are here to assist you in celebrating the life of your loved one, so please schedule a time to meet with us as soon as you are able. Be sure to contact the funeral home first as they will help to guide you through the funeral arrangements and will take care of calling the church to schedule the funeral mass.

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

Take a moment with your family to read through the entire booklet before making any decisions about the liturgy. Then, prayerfully go over the Outline of the Mass that is found on page 8 and complete the Selection Sheet at the back of this booklet. By going through this process, you and your family will be able to share more fully in the liturgy and best express the care you have for your deceased loved one.

We understand that this is a difficult time; therefore, you should not feel pressured to make selections if you are unable. Just let us know and the priest or deacon will plan the liturgy for you.

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

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Matthew Windle".

Fr. Matthew P. Windle, Pastor

What can you expect?

The Rites of Christian Burial are celebrated to offer praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the author of life. The Rite of Christian Burial is available to all baptized Christians, and includes three distinct parts:

The Wake: This takes place during the visiting hours at the funeral home. Please contact the rectory if you would like a minister from the church to lead a prayer service.

The Funeral Liturgy: This takes place in the church with the celebration of a Mass. The body or cremated remains of the person are honored by being brought to the church where the memory and spirit of the deceased are joined to the greater mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

The Committal: This is the graveside service committing the body to its final resting place where the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection.

Scheduling the Funeral

According to our diocesan guidelines, funerals can be held on most days of the year except a Sunday or Holy Day and a few other special days. The normal time for funerals at Saint David is 10:30 AM. The funeral director will coordinate with Saint David as to the days and Mass times. If, for personal or pastoral reasons, you need a service in the funeral home, please make arrangements with a priest.

Normally, Catholic parishes celebrate the funerals of their parishioners; however, we do not exclude someone because they are not formally registered or have not contributed financially to the parish. We will also do our best to accommodate your family members and/or former

parishioners. Your loss is a time for our community to gather and pray, and we are committed to assisting in your time of need.

Offerings & Stipends

It is customary that a stipend is offered to those who provide a service at the Funeral Mass: the celebrant, organist, and a professional soloist or cantor. A donation can be made to the Parish as well. The funeral director will assist you in making these monetary offerings. If the family wishes to hire additional musicians, those arrangements are to be made separately, in cooperation with our Music Director or Organist.

Flowers

Flowers are almost always presented at a funeral Mass and are usually brought to the Church from the funeral home by the funeral director. Funeral flowers are a visible tribute to the deceased and their messages of love and support are generally appreciated by grieving family members. Most families choose not to, or are unable to, bring home all of the flower arrangements following a funeral service. Often times, families donate these flowers to Saint David. Donated flowers are gratefully accepted and will be displayed at our Masses.

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

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

In the back of this booklet, you will find the *Selection Sheet* which can be easily removed and used to record the names of who will participate in the funeral liturgy as well as music and reading selections.

We encourage you to invite others to take part in the funeral liturgy. Being involved not only honors your loved one, but can help you move from life before a death to life after a death.

What about visiting clergy? If you have a family member or friend that is either a priest or deacon, please know that they are most welcome to take part in the funeral liturgy; just let us know in advance.

Once you have completed the *Selection Sheet*, please return it to the priest at least 48 hours before the funeral, so he can review your choices with you. If we can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to call us at (215) 657-0252.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

About the Readings

First Reading

Outside Easter Time: Old Testament

During Easter Time: New Testament

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Reading

General Intercessions

About the Readings

In collaboration with the Priest or other parish minister assisting you, select one each from the choices for first reading, second reading, and gospel reading. Choices can be recorded on the selection sheet using the letter-number coding that appears on the left side of the heading for each reading. Please also record the page number. The number on the right in parentheses is the lectionary number for that reading. It will be used by parish personnel to mark the lectionary for whoever will read during the Funeral Mass.

**When the situation warrants, a single reading may be chosen for use before the gospel.*

***Non-biblical texts may not replace scriptural readings at the Funeral Mass.*

FIRST READING

During Easter Time: New Testament

(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.)

C1 He is the one appointed by God as
Long version: judge of the living and the dead.

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

(1012-1)

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 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 the forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

C2

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

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 the forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

C3

Revelation 14:13
(1012-2)

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

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.

C4 The dead were judged according to their deeds.

Revelation 20:11-21:1
(1012-3)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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 the 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.

C5 There shall be no more death.

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7
(1012-4)

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.

SECOND READING

E1

Romans 5:5-11

(1014-1)

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

E2 Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.

Romans 5:17-21

(1014-2)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

E3 We too might live in newness of life.

Long version: Romans 6:3-9

(1014-3)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into

death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death
like his, we shall also be united with him in the
resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified through him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,

we believe that we shall also live with him.

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

The word of the Lord.

E4

Short version: Romans 6:3-4, 8-9
(1014-3)

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.

(1014-4)

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation
the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility
not of its own accord but because of the one who
subjected it, in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

E6**What will separate us from
the love of Christ?**

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39
(1014-5)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn us?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, not life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

E7**Whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's.**

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12
(1014-6)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself

The word of the Lord.

Long version: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
(1014-7)

Brothers and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
then comes the end,
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.
For he must reign until he has put all his
enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
for “he subjected everything under his feet.”

But when it says that everything has been subjected,
it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected
everything to him,

When everything is subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected
to the one who subjected everything to him,
so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

E9

Short version : 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
(1014-7)

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

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

E10 **Death is swallowed up in victory**

1 Corinthians 15:51-57
(1014-8)

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

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound

the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with
incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe
itself with immortality.

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with
incorruptibility, and this which is mortal clothes itself
with immortality, then the word that is
written shall come about:

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

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

E11 What is seen is transitory,
2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1 but what is unseen is eternal.
(1014-9)

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

Therefore, we are not discouraged;
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction

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

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

The word of the Lord.

E12 We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10
(1014-10)

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body
and go home to the Lord.

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

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

The word of the Lord.

E13 He will change our lowly bodies
Philippians 3:20-21 to conform to his glory.
(1014-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

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

He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified Body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself

The word of the Lord.

E14 Thus we shall always be
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 with the Lord.
(1014-12)

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

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

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely no precede those who have fallen asleep.

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

Then we who are alive, who are left,

will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

E15

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

2 Timothy 2:8-13
(1014-13)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a
descendant of David:

such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering,
even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

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

This saying is trustworthy:

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

If we persevere
we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him
he will deny us.

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

The word of the Lord.

E16

We shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:1-2

(1014-14)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

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

Yet so we are.

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

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

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

The word of the Lord.

E17

We know that we have passed from
death to life because we love
our brothers.

1 John 3:14-16

(1014-15)

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.

GOSPEL READING

G1

Rejoice and be glad, for your
reward will be great in heaven.

Matthew 5:1-12a
(1016-1)

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

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

He began to teach, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

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

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

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

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

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

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

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

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

Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G2 Come to me and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:25-30

(1016-2)

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

At that time Jesus answered:

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

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

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

No one knows the Son except the Father,

and no one knows the Father except the Son,

and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

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

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

for I am meek and humble of heart;

and you will find rest for yourselves.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

G3 Behold the bridegroom!

Matthew 25:1-13

Come out to him!

(1016-3)

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

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

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

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,

brought no oil with them,

but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.

Since the bridegroom was long delayed,

they all became drowsy and fell asleep

At midnight, there was a cry,
 ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’
 Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.
 The foolish ones said to the wise,
 ‘Give us some of your oil,
 for our lamps are going out.
 But the wise ones replied,
 ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you.
 Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’
 While they went off to buy it,
 the bridegroom came and those who were ready
 went into the wedding feast with him.
 Then the door was locked.
 Afterwards the other virgins came and said,
 ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’
 But he said in reply,
 ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’
 Therefore, stay awake,
 for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G4

**Come, you who are blessed
by my Father.**

Matthew 25:31-46
(1016-4)

† **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew]**

Jesus said to his disciples:
 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
 and all the angels with him,
 he will sit upon his glorious throne,
 and all the nations will be assembled before him.
 And he will separate them one from another,
 as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
 He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
 Then the king will say to those on his right,

‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world.
For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.’
Then the righteous will answer him and say,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you drink?
When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’
And the king will say to them in reply,
‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for the least
of my brothers of mine, you did for me.’
Then he will say to those on his left,
‘Depart from me you accursed,
into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.
For I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you gave me no welcome,
naked and you gave me no clothing,
ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’
Then they will answer and say,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison
and not minister to your needs?’
He will answer them, ‘Amen I say to you,
what you did not do for one of these least ones,
you did not do for me.’
And these will go off to eternal punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G5

Jesus gave a loud cry and
breathed his last.

Long version: Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6
(1016-5)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At noon the darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated,
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the bystanders who heard it said,
"Look, he is calling Elijah."

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed,
and gave it to him to drink, saying,
"Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him
saw how he breathed his last he said,
"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

When the sabbath was over,

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome
brought spices so that they might go and anoint him.

Very early when the sun had risen,
on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

They were saying to one another,
"Who will roll back the stone for us
from the entrance of the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been
rolled back; it was very large.

On entering the tomb they saw a young man
sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe,
and they were utterly amazed.

He said to them, "Do not be amazed!

You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.

He has been raised; he is not here.
Behold the place where they laid him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G6

Short version: Mark 15:33-39
(1016-5)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

G7

Young man I tell you, arise!

Luke 7:11-17
(1016-6)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain,
and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.
As he drew near to the gate of the city,
a man who had died was being carried out,
the only son of his mother, and she was a widowed.

A large crowd from the city was with her.
 When the Lord saw her,
 he was moved with pity for her and said to her,
 “Do not weep.”
 He stepped forward and touched the coffin;
 at this the bearers halted,
 and he said, “Young man, I tell you, arise!”
 The dead man sat up and began to speak,
 and Jesus gave him to his mother.
 Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming,
 “A great prophet has arisen in our midst,”
 and “God has visited his people.”
 This report about him spread through the whole of Judea
 and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G8

You must also be prepared.

Luke 12:35-40
 (1016-7)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

 “Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like
 servants who await their master’s return from a wedding,
 ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those servants

 whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.

Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,

 have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.

And should he come in the second or third watch

 and find them prepared in this way,

 blessed are those servants.

Be sure of this:

 If the master of the house had known the hour
 when the thief was coming, he would not have let his
 house be broken into.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

G9 Today you will be with me in Paradise.

Luke 23:33, 39-43

(1016-8)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the soldiers came to the place called the Skull,
they crucified Jesus and the criminals there,
one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,
“Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us.”

The other man, however, rebuking him, said in reply,
“Have you no fear of God, for you are subject
to the same condemnation?

And indeed, we have been condemned justly,
for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,
but this man has done nothing criminal.”

Then he said,

“Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

He replied to him,

“Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G10 Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

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

(1016-9)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.

Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”;
and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph
who, though he was a member of the council, went to
Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus.

After he had taken the Body down,
he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in
a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

At daybreak on the first day of the week
the women took the spices they had prepared
and went to the tomb.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;
but when they entered,
they did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold,
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.

They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.
They said to them,

“Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G11

Short version: Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52,-53
(1016-9)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.
Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.
Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”;
and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph
who, though he was a member of the council, went to

Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus.
 After he had taken the Body down,
 he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in
 a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G12 Was it not necessary that the Christ
 Long version: Luke 24:13-35 should suffer these things
 (1016-10) and enter into his glory?

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the week,
 two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village
 called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they
 were conversing about all the things that had occurred.
 And it happened that while they were conversing and
 debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
 but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them,

“What are you discussing as you walk along?”

They stopped, looking downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,

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

And he replied to them, “What sort of things?”

They said to him,

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

But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;
 and besides all this,

it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:
 they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not

find his Body; they came back and reported that
they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.

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

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

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

As they approached the village to which they were going,
Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, "Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.

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

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

Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke
to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where
they found gathered together the Eleven and
those with them, who were saying,
"The Lord has truly been raised and appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted
what had taken place on the way and how
he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G13

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

(1016-10)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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

G14 Whoever hears my word and believes
 John 5:24-29 has passed from death to life.
 (1016-11)

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

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word
 and believes in the one who sent me
 has eternal life and will not come to condemnation,
 but has passed from death to life.

Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here
 when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
 and those who hear will live.

For just as the Father has life in himself,
 so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself.

And he gave him power to exercise judgement,
 because he is the Son of Man.

Do not be amazed at this,
 because the hour is coming in which all who are in the
 tombs will hear his voice and will come out,
 those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of
 life, but to those who have done wicked deeds
 to the resurrection of condemnation.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G15 Everyone who sees the Son and believes
 John 6:37-40 in him may have eternal life and
 (1016-12) I shall raise him on the last day.

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

Jesus said to the crowds:

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

And this is the will of the one who sent me,
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,
but that I should raise it on the last day.
For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G16 Who ever eats this bread will live
John 6:51-59 forever, and I will raise them
(1016-13) up on the last day.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:
"I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give is my Flesh
for the life of the world."

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

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

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

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

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

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

This is the bread that came down from heaven.
Unlike your ancestors who are and still died,
whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G17 I am the resurrection and the life.

Long version: John 11:17-27
(1016-14)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus
had already been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.
Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary
to comfort them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,
she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.
Martha said to Jesus,
"Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.
But even now I know whatever you ask of God,
God will give you.
Jesus said to her,
"Your brother will rise."
Martha said to him,
"I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."
Jesus told her,
"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?"
She said to him, "Yes, Lord.
I have come to believe that you are Christ, the Son of God,
the one who is coming into the Word."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G18

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

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

Martha said to Jesus,

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

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

Jesus said to her,

“Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him,

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

Jesus told her,

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

Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

G19

Lazarus, come out!

John 11:32-45
(1016-15)

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

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

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

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

"Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."

But some of the said,

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

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

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

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

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

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

Jesus said to her,

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

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said,

"Father, I thank you for hearing me.

I know that you always hear me;

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

And when he had said this,

he cried out in a loud voice,

"Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out,

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

So Jesus said to the crowd,

"Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

G20 If it dies, it produces much fruit.

Long version: John 12:23-28
(1016-16)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

Amen, amen, I say to you,

unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,

it remains just a grain of wheat;

but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life will lose it

and whoever hates his life in this world

will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,

and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?

‘Father, save me from this hour?’

But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.

Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven,

“I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G21

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

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

Amen, amen, I say to you,

unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,

it remains just a grain of wheat;

but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life will lose it
 and whoever hates his life in this world
 will preserve it for eternal life.
 Whoever serves me must follow me,
 and where I am, there also will my servant be.
 The Father will honor whoever serves me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G22 In my Father's house there are many dwellings.

John 14:1-6
 (1016-17)

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

Jesus said to his disciples:
 "Do not let your hearts be troubled.
 You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
 If there were not,
 would I have told you that
 I am going to prepare a place for you?
 And if I go and prepare a place for you,
 I will come back again and take you to myself,
 so that where I am you may also be.
 Where I am going you know the way."
 Thomas said to him,
 "Master, we do not know where you are going;
 how can we know the way?"
 Jesus said to him, "I am the way the truth and the life.
 No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G23

I wish that where I am
they also may be with me.

John 17:24-26
(1016-18)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eye to heaven and said:

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

I wish that where I am they may also be with me,

that they may see my glory that you gave me,

because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world does not know you,

but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known,

that the love with which you loved me

may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G24

And bowing his head
he handed over his Spirit.

John 19:17-18, 25-39
(1016-19)

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull,

in Hebrew, Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others,

one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s

sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved,

he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son.”

Then he said to the disciple,

“Behold, your mother.”

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

After this, aware that everything was now finished,

in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled,
Jesus said, "I thirst."

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

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished."
And bowing his head, he handed over the Spirit.

Now since it was a preparation day,
in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross
on the sabbath,
for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,
the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and
they be taken down.

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

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;
he knows that he is speaking the truth,
so that you may also come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:
Not a bone of it will be broken.

And again another passage says:
They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

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

And Pilate permitted it.

So he came and took his Body.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

You may use one of the following formulas, combine parts of several together, adapt the material below to your circumstances, or compose your own.

If you chose to write your own, those given here can serve as helpful models. The various intentions should express the congregation's prayerful concern not only for those gathered for the funeral, but also for others in particular need throughout the world.

Record your choices on the selection form using the page number and the letter-number code on the left side of each heading.

H1

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

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

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For the mourners

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

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

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

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

H2

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

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

We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the mourners

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

We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

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

HYMN SELECTIONS

E—ENTRANCE O—OFFERTORY C—COMMUNION

M—MEDITATION R—RECESSIONAL

E O C	All is Well With My Soul
E O R	Amazing Grace
O C	As the Deer Longs
M	Ave Maria
E O C	Be Not Afraid
E O C R	Be Still My Soul
O C	Behold the Lamb of God
C M	Bread of Angels
O C	Christ be Our Light
E O C	Christians, Let Us Love One Another
O C M	Come to Me
E M R	Eternal Father, Strong to Save (for veterans)
O C	Eye Has Not Seen
E R	For All the Saints (outside Lent)
C	Gift of Finest Wheat
M R	Go in Peace
E O C	Here I Am, Lord
O C M	Holy Darkness
O C M	Hosea
E O R	How Great Thou Art
E C R	I am the Bread of Life
O C M	I Have Loved You
O C M	I Lift Up My Soul
E R	I Know that My Redeemer Lives

COM	Let There Be Peace on Earth
OC	Look Beyond
OC	The Lord is My Light
OCM	Loving and Forgiving
ER	O God Beyond All Praising
MR	O Loving God
ER	On Eagle's Wings
OC	One Bread, One Body
C	One Love Released
OCM	Only in God
OCM	Panis Angelicus
OC	Prayer of St. Francis
ER	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
OCM	Sacred Silence
OC	Servant Song
OR	Sing with All the Saints in Glory
C	The Supper of the Lord
ER	The Strife is O'er (Outside Lent)
C	Take and Eat
C	Taste and See
OC	We Remember
ER	Worth is the Lamb
OC	You Are Near

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Word of Remembrance

Cremation

Reasons for Burying the Dead

Symbols of Christian Burial

Frequently Asked Questions

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

What should we do first?

Call the Funeral Home. They will help you in making the arrangements and will contact the Parish to schedule the Funeral Mass. Then, share this booklet with your family and read it in its entirety *before* making any decisions regarding the liturgy. Also, be sure to contact the priest or deacon so that you can talk with him about your loved one and the choices you have made in remembering him or her.

How can family members be involved in the Funeral Mass?

There are many ways to participate, from placing the pall on the casket at the beginning of Mass to

proclaiming Scripture and presenting the Gifts at the Offertory.

Are we limited to Scripture choices presented in this booklet?

This booklet provides Scriptures that are most often chosen; we ask you to choose from the ones within the booklet.

Can we request secular music for the Mass?

The Mass is really a time for liturgical music. Secular music may be more appropriately played at a wake or gathering after Mass.

What about a eulogy or a personal remembrance at Mass?

Please read the following page regarding spoken remembrance of the deceased.

What does the Church teach about cremation?

When cremation is chosen for a good reason, the full course of the Order of Christian Funerals should still be celebrated, including the Wake, the Funeral Liturgy, and the Committal. More information regarding cremation can be found on page 71.

Words of Remembrance

A Guide for Speakers at the Funeral Liturgy

Following the prayer after communion, a member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased.

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

During the Catholic funeral, we gather to pray for the repose

of the soul of the one who has died, and to ask that God will strengthen and console family and friends. The priest is the principal presider of this sacred action between God and humanity, as we pray for the beloved departed and for ourselves. The Funeral Mass is offered in intercession for the deceased person because we believe that God hears our prayers for the forgiveness of the sins of our deceased loved ones. We know that we are not alone, but are supported by God's grace, by the community here on earth and by the communion of saints.

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

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

Here are few guidelines to follow:

- * Only one person is allowed to offer words of remembrance.
- * The spoken remembrance may not be more than five minutes in length.
- * Prepare your remembrance in writing. One page of text generally represents a minute of speaking time.
- * Remember that you are speaking to some people whom

you know well, and others that you have never met; therefore, refrain from using “inside jokes.”

- * Use your own words. Speak from the heart.
- * Always read your words of remembrance. This will help you to not lose your train of thought.
- * You should arrive at the church 30 minutes before the service is to begin so that you may practice hearing your voice on the St. David audio system.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Rectory Office at (215) 657-0252.

Cremation in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

The traditional teaching of the Catholic Church with regard to the proper burial of the sacred remains of the deceased and the resurrection of the body on the last day requires periodic catechesis. This is especially so today with the ever-increasing number of Catholics choosing cremation.

While interment of the body remains the preference of the Church, after the manner of the burial of the Lord Jesus, the use of cremation is allowed according to the following norms. These norms promote the faith and practice of the Church with regard to the burial of a Christian. For the most part, these are already in force according to current liturgical law and the liturgical books. Thus, respect for the remains of the cremated body, as befits the dignity of a baptized person, is ensured. It is the duty of the pastor, with other priests and deacons, to communicate these norms to parishioners, bereavement ministers and funeral directors as part of a periodic catechesis on the reverent and proper burial of the dead.

Christian Symbols Used in the Funeral Mass

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

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

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

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

SELECTION SHEET

Funeral Mass for _____

Date _____ **Time** _____

Presiding Priest _____

Church _____

Words of Remembrance: _____

Liturgy of the Word

Reading I: pages 9-18 No. _____

Read by: _____

Reading II: pages 19-30 No. _____

Read by: _____

Gospel Reading: pages 31-51 No. _____

Read by the priest or deacon.

General Intercessions: pages 52-54 No. _____

Read by: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts by: _____

Hymns: pages 50-51

Entrance: _____

Offertory: _____

Communion: _____

Meditation: _____

Recessional: _____

*Eternal Rest Grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon Them.*

May they rest in peace.

*May the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.*

Amen