



Planning for Catholic Funerals at St. Boniface Church

Revised: August 2026

INTRODUCTION

“When a member of Christ’s Body dies, the faithful are called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of one whom they love. The Church calls each member of Christ’s Body – priest, deacon, and layperson – to participate in the ministry of consolation: to care for the dying, to pray for the dead, to comfort those who mourn. The community’s principal involvement in the ministry of consolation is expressed in its active participation in the celebration of the funeral rites, particularly the vigil for the deceased, the funeral liturgy, and the rite of committal. For this reason these rites should be scheduled at times that permit as many of the community as possible to be present” (*Order of Christian Funerals* 8).

Thus, the Funeral Liturgy of the Catholic Church is not the personal prayer of the deceased or of the family of the deceased. As with every liturgy of the Church, the Funeral Liturgy is an official, public prayer of the Church. It is the Church’s prayer for the immortal soul of the deceased and for the consolation of loved ones left behind. The prayers, readings, intercessions, and musical selections should represent the prayer of the Church and still be universal in nature.

MINISTERIAL ROLES

In the celebration of the funeral rites, the laity may serve as readers, musicians, ushers, pallbearers, and, if they are already commissioned to do so, as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The family is encouraged to assist the parish ministers in planning the funeral rites: in the choice of readings from the prescribed scriptural texts, the selection of music appropriate for the rites, and in the designation of liturgical ministers, such as servers and readers.

MUSIC

Sacred music is an integral part to the celebration of the funeral liturgy. Music should come from approved Catholic liturgical hymnals just as it does at any Mass. This ensures that what is sung reflects our Catholic faith, especially our hope in the Resurrection and God’s mercy. Carefully chosen sacred music helps lift our hearts in prayer and expresses the faith of the Church.

While some secular or personal songs may be meaningful, they are not used during the Mass itself or during the other funeral rituals since the liturgy is prayer addressed to God. Such music is better suited to be played during the visitation or during the luncheon, if applicable.

Every effort must be made to accompany the funeral rites with appropriate hymns, responses, and acclamations. The Director of Worship and Pastor will assist and guide the family in appropriate musical selections for the Liturgy. The Director of Worship and the parish Funeral Choir will help foster the full and active participation of the assembly in the Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass.

No recorded music of any kind will be permitted immediately before or during any of the three formal parts of the Order of Christian Funerals (Vigil, Funeral Mass/Liturgy, or Rite of Committal).

THREE PARTS TO A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

In the three sequential rites of Christian burial, the Church provides a sacred path for the grieving to prepare spiritually and emotionally to say their final goodbyes. Increasingly, however, some Catholics are choosing to omit one or more of these rites. Except in truly extraordinary circumstances, this should not occur.

The burial of the body or of the cremated remains should take place within a reasonable time after death. The Church's prayer during this period is a timely and grace-filled way to commend the deceased to God and to support the mourners. Delaying the Rites of Christian Burial merely for convenience is not appropriate, as it diminishes both the spiritual purpose of the rites and the reverence owed to the deceased.

1. The Vigil

The visitation (or wake) and Vigil are two related but distinct parts of the Catholic funeral rites, each serving an important purpose in accompanying the deceased and comforting the family.

- At the Vigil, the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ's presence. **The Catholic Vigil is the Church's official prayer for the deceased and is usually held the evening before the Funeral Mass**, often during the visitation period, and is an integral part of the Order of Christian Funerals. While the *Rosary* or other devotions may be prayed, they do not replace the Vigil, though they may be included alongside it.
- **The Vigil may be celebrated with or without the presence of the family.** When possible, it is led by a priest, deacon, or parish representative on behalf of the Church, continuing the Church's prayer for the deceased even if loved ones are unable to attend.
- **The Vigil is not held on the morning of the Funeral Mass.** Its purpose reflects the idea of "keeping watch," rooted in the tradition of staying close to the body of the deceased in prayer and remembrance. Holding it the evening before also gives more time for family, friends, and the community to offer their condolences and prayers.
- The visitation and Vigil are most commonly held at the funeral home, where the setting best accommodates gathering and visiting. In some cases (especially if many people are expected), the Vigil may be held in the church/chapel with the pastor's permission. The body or cremated remains are not left on parish property overnight.
- The Vigil includes scripture readings, a homily, and prayer for both the deceased and the grieving family. Words of Remembrance may be read after the Vigil. Visitation usually follows the Vigil.

2. The Funeral Mass

At the heart of the Catholic funeral liturgy is the Mass. The Eucharist—our celebration of Christ's death and resurrection—stands at the center of the Church's faith and therefore at the center of our prayer for the deceased. Scripture, prayer, sacred music, and a brief homily all help proclaim the Christian hope of eternal life.

As the memorial of Christ's Paschal Mystery, the Mass is the Church's primary way of commending the deceased to God. While the liturgy follows the Church's ritual, the family may help choose the music, readings, vestment color, and general focus of the homily. These choices should also reflect the communal nature of our faith—a bond that endures even in death.

- The Funeral Mass is usually celebrated on the day of burial. Sometimes, for pastoral reasons, it may be held the evening before. In every case, only one Funeral Mass is offered.
- Since the proper setting for Mass is a sacred place, Mass is not to be celebrated in a funeral home or similar facility. The body of the deceased should be present in church for the Funeral Mass or liturgy.
- Keeping in mind that liturgical roles are to be fulfilled by Catholics, members of the family who are Catholic are encouraged to assume the role of readers and assist in the offertory procession. Practicing Catholics who are in a state of grace may receive Holy Communion under both species. In accordance with the Church's teaching, Holy Communion is not given to non-Catholics, but they may serve as pallbearers.
- The casket remains closed during the Funeral Mass and is covered with a white pall in remembrance of the baptismal garment. In addition to its liturgical significance, the pall avoids ostentation, prevents possible embarrassment of the poor, and emphasizes Christians' equality before God.
- Aside from distinctions based on sacred orders and the honor due to civic dignitaries, no special honors are paid to any private person or class of persons, whether in the ceremony or by external display.
- We do not refer to the Funeral Mass as "The Celebration of the Life of..." or "Mass of Resurrection," but rather as the Mass of Christian Burial. While families naturally want to honor the life of their loved one, the focus of the Funeral Mass is the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this sacred liturgy, we remember the deceased as someone who shared in Christ's life through baptism, and we entrust them to God's mercy and the promise of eternal life.

3. The Rite of Committal (Burial/Interment)

In the Catholic faith, the human body is treated with deep respect. The Church teaches that the body is a "temple of the Lord" and that, at the end of time, God will raise the body to new life. The Rite of Committal at the cemetery is the final act of farewell in which the Christian community honors one of its members before the body is buried or entombed. Accompanied by the priest and mourners, the Rite of Committal is celebrated at the graveside, mausoleum, or in a cemetery committal chapel.

Members of the Catholic community are encouraged to be buried in a Catholic cemetery. These cemeteries are sacred places of hope where the body rests in anticipation of the Resurrection promised by Christ. A Catholic cemetery also provides a quiet place for families to visit, pray, and remain connected to their loved one. Most importantly, those buried in Catholic cemeteries are remembered in the prayers of the Church, especially at

Mass, offering the assurance that they are continually commended to God's mercy as they await the fullness of eternal life.

- When a Catholic is to be interred in other than a Catholic cemetery, the priest will bless the individual space and then follow the usual ritual.
- When a non-Catholic is to be buried in a Catholic cemetery, the minister of the deceased's faith community may conduct the burial service according to the minister's own ritual. If the family of the non-Catholic deceased person requests a Catholic priest to conduct the burial service, the priest will celebrate a rite which is appropriate.
- For those involved in civic organizations and those with additional affiliations, patriotic or fraternal services may also be conducted following the burial rite.

OTHER DETAILS

Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass

The Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church or chapel, but it may also take place in the home of the deceased, a funeral home, or a cemetery chapel, when appropriate. Mass is generally not included in the funeral rites for those not entitled to a Catholic funeral. After considering the deceased's relationship with the Church, the needs of the family, and the attitude of the community, the pastor may determine that a Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass is the most suitable option. This rite may also be used when no members of the family actively practice the faith. The body of the deceased should be present for the service.

Even when Mass is not part of the funeral rites, a Mass may be offered at another time for the repose of the soul of the deceased and for the spiritual support of family and friends.

Ecumenical Considerations

When requested by the Catholic relatives of a deceased baptized non-Catholic, a priest may conduct a prayer service for the non-Catholic in a funeral home. In particular circumstances where the deceased non-Catholic was well disposed to the Church and the family requests a Mass, it may be celebrated with the body present in church.

Cremation

The Church permits cremation, though burial of the body is still preferred because it more clearly reflects the Christian belief in the Resurrection of the body. At St. Boniface Parish, the Pastor and/or Deacon, for pastoral reasons, may permit the Funeral Mass to be celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains. However, the following should always be observed:

- The body is ideally present for the Vigil and Funeral Mass before cremation.
- Cremated remains are to be treated with the same dignity as the body.
- They must be placed in a worthy vessel and buried or entombed in a cemetery. Cremated remains may not be placed in a keepsake or jewelry.

- They may not be scattered, divided, or kept in the home.
- Burial should take place normally within 30 days.
- A white cloth should *not* be used to cover the cremated remains, as this mimics the practice of draping the funeral pall upon the body which clearly connects the body to baptism.

The Church reveres the human body as a temple of the Holy Spirit and destined for resurrection glory in Christ.

Readings

Readings are provided in the *Order of Christian Funerals* to give grieving families an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their fears and in their sorrows, offering hope in the midst of their pain.

- The biblical readings may never be replaced by non-biblical readings. The Word proclaimed is God's way of speaking to us and can never be replaced by conventional wisdom or poetry.
- If the family wishes to use additional readings that are not contained within the *Order of Christian Funerals*, they can do so at the conclusion of the Vigil, at the conclusion of the Rite of Committal, or during the luncheon.
- Two readings may be selected for use during the Funeral Mass or Liturgy. These readings are to be chosen from the *Order of Christian Funerals*. The first reading is taken from the Old Testament and the second is selected from the New Testament options.
- The responsorial psalm should always be sung. The psalm should never be replaced by a regular hymn which contains no psalmody.
- The Gospel will be selected by the Presider. The Gospel may only be proclaimed by a priest or deacon. Only those priests or deacons in good standing and who have been granted faculties by the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois may celebrate, concelebrate, or preach at a funeral liturgy.

General Intercessions

The General Intercessions are to be taken from the *Order of Christian Funerals*. There may be an addition of one or two personal petitions to the prescribed set, if approved by the Pastor prior to the day of the funeral.

Visitation (or Wake)

The practice of viewing the body is highly encouraged because it helps remove doubts that the loved one has truly died. The body should be viewed at the funeral home following the Vigil. However, visitation may take place in the church/chapel or lobby of the church on the morning of the Funeral Mass. In this situation, the Vigil must still take place the evening before the Funeral Mass.

Funeral Mass and Vigil Times

Visitation is usually held from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. the day before the funeral with the Vigil service taking place beforehand. Funeral Masses generally begin at 10:30 a.m., Monday - Saturday. This should be coordinated with the funeral director and the pastor. No funeral Masses may be scheduled for Sundays or holydays.

Words of Remembrance

A eulogy is not part of the Catholic Funeral Liturgy. However, brief words of remembrance may be permitted.

- They should focus on the person's faith and relationship with God.
- They must be written in advance and approved by the pastor or deacon.
- They should be brief (approximately 250-350 words).
- They are read by a priest or deacon.

Personal stories and memories are best shared at the visitation, family gatherings, or the luncheon, where there is more freedom and time.

Luncheon

You may choose to have the luncheon after the funeral and burial in the Oak Room (large room) or Acorn Room (small room). Both are located in the lower level of the church. Elevators are located in the main lobby for those with difficulties climbing stairs. Additional restrooms are also located in the lower level just outside the Oak Room.

Church Stipend and Fees

Most funeral directors itemize all costs within their billings. This is something that should be discussed with them. Included should be payments for the following:

Church Stipend	\$100
Priest/Deacon	\$150
Choir	\$75
Organist	\$125
Cantor	\$75+ <i>(may vary depending on cantor requested)</i>

FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET

Name of Deceased: _____

Date of Death: _____

Funeral Date _____ Time: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Relationship: _____

Contact Phone(s): _____

Funeral Home: _____

Place of Funeral: ☐ Funeral Home ☐ Church ☐ Cemetery

PART 1: THE VIGIL SERVICE

Date: _____ Time: _____

Place of Vigil: ☐ Funeral Home ☐ Church

Words of Remembrance will be offered: ☐ Yes ☐ No

The Vigil Prayer Service will begin **prior** to the beginning of the visitation when held in the evening.

PART 2: FUNERAL MASS / FUNERAL LITURGY OUTSIDE OF MASS

Opening Hymn: _____

First Reading (Old Testament): _____

Reader (*Please list name of reader*): _____

Responsorial Psalm (Sung by Cantor): _____

Second Reading (New Testament): _____

Reader (*Please list name of reader*): _____

Gospel Reading: _____

Words of Remembrance will be offered: ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Continued on next page)

FOR FUNERAL MASSES ONLY

Offertory Hymn: _____

Gift bearers: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, list names: 1.) _____

2.) _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Ministers of Holy Communion: ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Please Note: Ministers of Holy Communion must be practicing Catholics who have been commissioned by their local bishop to minister in this capacity.)

If yes, list names: 1.) _____

2.) _____

Closing Hymn: _____

Funeral Times

- Traditional Funeral Time: 10:30 a.m. Monday – Saturday
Burial usually follows immediately afterwards
- Evening Funerals are welcome: after 4:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday
Burial follows the next morning

Funeral Luncheon

As a courtesy, a Funeral Luncheon may be held in the Oak Room (large room) or Acorn Room (small room). Both rooms are located in the lower level of the Church.

A funeral luncheon will be held at St. Boniface:

☐ No ☐ Yes *If yes, approximate number of guests: _____*

Please contact the Parish Office at 618.656.6450 for more information.

Suggested Hymns

Music selections are not limited to these suggestions; however, all music must be liturgically appropriate and approved by the Pastor or Director of Music.

GATHERING SONGS

Abide with Me
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (*except during Lent*)
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Christ, Be Our Light
Come to the Water
Give Me Jesus
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
Lord of All Hopefulness
Nearer, My God, to Thee
On Eagle's Wings
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Psalm 23: *The Lord is My Shepherd*
Psalm 23: *Shepherd Me, O God*
Psalm 27: *The Lord is My Light*
Psalm 34: *Taste and See* (Moore)

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Abide with Me
Ave Maria (Schubert)
Be Not Afraid
Be Thou My Vision
Because the Lord is My Shepherd
Christ, Be Our Light
Come to the Water
Eye Has Not Seen
Give Me Jesus
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman
Here I Am, Lord
Hosea (Come Back to Me)
How Can I Keep from Singing
I Have Loved You
Keep in Mind
Like a Shepherd
Lord of All Hopefulness
O God, You Search Me
On Eagle's Wings

Only in God
Only This I Want
Prayer of St. Francis (Make Me a Channel of Your Peace)
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Softly and Tenderly
The King of Love My Shepherd is
The Strife Is O'er (*except during Lent*)
We Walk by Faith
What Wondrous Love is This
With the Lord
You Are Near

COMMUNION SONGS

Bread of Life
Center of My Life
Come to Me
Eat This Bread
Eye Has Not Seen
Gift of Finest Wheat
How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place
I Am the Bread of Life
I Have Loved You
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
I Know that My Redeemer Lives
In Every Age
Like a Shepherd
On Eagle's Wings
One Bread, One Body
Panis Angelicus
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Shepherd Me, O God
Take and Eat
Taste and See (Moore)
The Lord is My Light
The Supper of the Lord
Unless A Grain of Wheat
We Remember
You Are Near

Suggested Hymns - Continued

CLOSING/RECESSIONAL SONGS

Abide with Me
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid (Dufford)
Be Still, My Soul
Canticle of the Sun
Eternal Father, Strong to Save
For All the Saints
From All That Dwells Below the Skies
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
How Can I Keep from Singing
How Great Thou Art
I Know That My Redeemer Lives (DUKE STREET)
I Know That My Redeemer Lives (Soper)
Lead Me, Lord (Becker)
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
Now Thank We All Our God
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Sing with All the Saints in Glory (Tune: *Ode to Joy*)
Soon and Very Soon
The Strife is O'er
To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King
We Walk by Faith
Ye Watcher and Ye Holy Ones

The following songs are NOT permitted:

- You Are Mine
- Blest Are They
- Lord, You Have Come to the Seashore
- We Are Called
- Any music or song written by David Haas

Funeral Readings - FIRST READING (select one)

FIRST READING #1.

It Is Good and Holy to Think of the Dead Rising Again

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel, then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING #2.

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

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

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING #3.

He Accepted Them as a Holocaust

Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But 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.

FIRST READING #4.*A Blameless Life Is a Ripe Old Age*

Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But the just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported--snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; for the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account. Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING #5.*The Lord God Will Destroy Death Forever*

Isaiah 25: 6. 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.

FIRST READING #6.*It Is Good to Wait in Silence for the Lord God to Save*

Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations

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

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING #7.

Of Those Who Lie Sleeping in the Dust of the Earth, Many Will Awake Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

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

The Word of the Lord.

Funeral Readings - SECOND READING (select one)

SECOND READING #1.

Having Been Justified by His Blood, We Will Be Saved from God's Anger Through Him
Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him 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.

SECOND READING #2.

Where Sin Increased, There Grace Abounded All the More Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For if, by the transgression of one person, 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 person 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 one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of 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.

SECOND READING #3.

Let Us Walk in Newness of Life Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

SECOND READING #4.

We Groan While We Wait for the Redemption of Our Bodies

Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs 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.

SECOND READING #5.

Who Can Ever Come Between Us and the Love of Christ?

Romans 8:31-35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING #6.*Whether Alive or Dead, We Belong to the Lord*

Romans 14:7-9. 10-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

None of us 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. 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 account of himself (to God).
The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING #7.*All People Will Be Brought to Life Through Christ*

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. 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 d and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. 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.

SECOND READING #8.*Death Is Swallowed Up In Victory*

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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.

SECOND READING #9.

What Is Seen Is Transitory; What Is Unseen Is Eternal

2 Corinthians 4:14 -5:1

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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.

SECOND READING #10.

We Have An Everlasting Home In Heaven

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING #11.

Jesus Will Transfigure These Wretched Bodies of Ours to Be Like His Glorious Body:
Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

But 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.

SECOND READING #12.*We Shall Stay with the Lord for Ever*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING #13.*If We Have Died with Him, Then We Shall Live with Him*

2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

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.

SECOND READING #14.*We Shall See God as He Really Is*

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John

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.

SECOND READING #15.

We Have Passed from Death to Life, Because We Love Our Brothers and Sisters

1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first letter of John

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.

Funeral Readings - GOSPEL READING (select one)

GOSPEL READING #1.

Rejoice and Be Glad, for Your Reward Will Be Great in Heaven

Matthew 5:1-12

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 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. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING #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 said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING #3.

Look the Bridegroom Comes. Go Out to Meet Him

Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up

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

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING #4.

Come, You Whom My Father Has Blessed

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.

GOSPEL READING #5.

Jesus Gave a Loud Cry and Breathed His Last

Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is

translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" 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.

GOSPEL READING #6.

Young Man, I Say to 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.

GOSPEL READING #7.

Be Prepared

Luke 12:35-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

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

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

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #8.

Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise

Luke 23:33, 39-43

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

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

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING #9.

Father, I Put My Life into Your Hands

Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt." When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events. But at daybreak on the first day of the week they 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

GOSPEL READING #10.

Was It Not Necessary That the Christ Should Suffer and So Enter into His Glory?

Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING #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

"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 his Son the possession of life in himself. and he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING #12.

All Who Believe in the Son Will Have Eternal Life and I Will Raise Them to Life Again on the Last Day

John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it (on) the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day."

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #13.

All Who Eat This Bread Will Live for Ever and I Will Raise Them Up on the Last Day:

John 6:51-59

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus told the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have

life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."
The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #14.

I Am the Resurrection and The Life

John 11:17-27

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #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 them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING #16.

If A Grain of Wheat Falls on the Ground and Dies, It Yields a Rich Harvest
John 12:23-28

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus told his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING #17.

There Are Many Rooms in My Father's House

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

GOSPEL READING #18.

Father, I Want Those You Have Given Me to Be with Me Where I Am

John 17:24-26

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING #19.

Jesus Bowed His Head and Gave Up His Spirit

John 19:17-18, 25-30

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus carrying the cross himself went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

The gospel of the Lord

Funeral Mass – GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (Select ONE SET)

INTERCESSIONS #1.

Priest:

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

In baptism _____ 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.**

Our sister/brother, _____ 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.**

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.**

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.**

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.

Lord, in your mercy / **Hear our prayer.**

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister _____. 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.

INTERCESSIONS #2:

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:

For _____, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

Lord, in your mercy / **Hear our prayer.**

For _____, who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day.

Lord, in your mercy / **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.

Lord, in your mercy / **Hear our prayer.**

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

Lord, in your mercy / **Hear our prayer.**

For the family and friends of _____, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend, Lazarus.

Lord, in your mercy / **Hear our prayer.**

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

Lord, in your mercy / **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.

INTERCESSIONS #3:

Priest:

My dear friends, let us join with one another in praying to God, not only for our departed sister/brother, but also for the Church, for peace in the world, and for ourselves.

That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the word they proclaim.

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

That those in public office may promote justice and peace.

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

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God.

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

That God may deliver the soul of his servant _____ from punishment and from the powers of darkness.

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

That God in his mercy may blot out all his/her offenses.

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

That God may establish him/her in light and peace.

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

That God may call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints.

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

That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life.

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

That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed.

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

Priest:

O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of your departed servants release from all their sins. Hear our prayers for those we love and give them the pardon they have always desired. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

INTERCESSIONS #4:

Priest:

Let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence and faith in the power of his cross and resurrection

Risen Lord, pattern of our life forever, Lord, have mercy. / **Lord, have mercy.**

Promise and image of what we shall be, Lord, have mercy. / **Lord, have mercy.**

Son of God who came to take away sin and death, Lord, have mercy. / **Lord, have mercy.**

Word of God who delivered us from the fear of death, Lord, have mercy. / **Lord, have mercy.**

Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory, Lord, have mercy. / **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd who brings rest to our souls, give peace to us forever, Lord, have mercy. / **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain. Bless ____'s family and friends who gather around her/him today, Lord, have mercy. / **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest:

Lord God, you entrusted to us and now you embrace ____ in your love. Take him/her into your arms together with all those who have died. Comfort us, your servants, who seek to do your will and to know your peace. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.