

Catholic Funeral  
Planning Guide

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

St. Catherine of Siena Parish  
Horsham, PA

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## **ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS**

At the funeral liturgy, the community gathers with family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over death, to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the paschal mystery. What we celebrate in Church is the hope Christ's death and resurrection holds for all of us and especially the fullness of life promised to the one who has died.

That belief finds its expression in word (Scripture and prayer), in song and symbol ( holy water, which recalls Baptism; the Easter candle, sign of Christ's risen presence; incense to honor the holiness of the body and symbolizes prayer ascending to God).

When the scriptures are read, it is the priest's privilege to reflect on them and share the hope they offer, the story of Jesus and the promise of eternal life. Confronted with the mystery of death, human words are totally inadequate. It is the role of the Church to let the word of God speak and allow it to offer hope and comfort.

## PLANNING THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

**After reviewing this guide contact the Parish Services Director, Keith McClain, to plan the funeral: 215 672-2881, or [psd@stcatherineschurch.org](mailto:psd@stcatherineschurch.org)**

**After reviewing the accompanying Music Planning Guide, “Sacred Music During the Liturgy”, contact the Assitant Music Director, Ria Choi, to plan the music for the Mass: 267 250-1716, or [music2@stcatherineschurch.org](mailto:music2@stcatherineschurch.org)**

The rite offers many readings and prayers. Choose those which speak to your needs and memories. From the Church’s wealth of scripture, hymns and songs, pick those which speak to your heart.

### Word of God—the Readings

In every celebration, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the Word of God. The readings proclaim to the assembly the paschal mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being together again in God’s kingdom and encourage the witness of Christian life. A careful selection and use of the readings will provide the family and the community with an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears and hopes.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalms are rich in imagery, feeling and symbolism. They powerfully express the suffering and pain, the hope and trust of people of every age and culture. Above all, the psalms sing of faith in God, of revelation and redemption.

### Music

Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love. The music at funerals should support, console and uplift the participants and should help create in them a spirit of hope in Christ’s victory over death and in the Christian’s share in that victory. Therefore, all music should be liturgical in nature, not secular.

## **Mass of Christian Burial Family Planning Information**

**Readings:** You may choose the following:

- 1 Old Testament Reading\* – selection begin on the next page
- 1 Responsorial Psalm – sung by the cantor
- 1 New Testament Reading\*
- 1 Gospel Reading – read by the deacon or priest

\* During the Easter season, both readings are from the New Testament.  
See the instructions with the New Testament readings

You may choose readers for the Old and New Testament Readings.  
Readers should be Catholic. If you are unable to find readers, the parish  
will have a trained lector do the readings.

**General Intercessions:** Choose Form A or B, on page 30-31; may be read by the priest  
or deacon, or a family member/friend

**Gift Bearers:** You may choose people to bring up the gifts, usually 2 people

**Words of Remembrance:** Not required; if included, the words should be about 2-3  
minutes in length. This occurs before Mass begins after everyone is seated.

**Music:**

See the Accompanying music planning guide, “Sacred Music During the  
Liturgy” for options regarding music.

After reading through the guide, contact Assistant Music Director Ria Choi  
at 267 250-1716 to plan the music for the funeral

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

*(Please choose one reading)*

### **1. A reading from the book of Job 19:1, 23-27**

*I know my Redeemer lives*

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 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.

### **2. A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-9**

*He accepted them as a holocaust*

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,  
as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself  
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;  
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the Lord shall be their King forever.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,

and the faithful shall abide with him in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

*Shorter Form*

**A reading from the Book of Wisdom** **3:1-6, 9**

*He accepted them as a holocaust*

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.  
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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,  
as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.  
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

3. **A reading from the book of Wisdom** **4:7-15**

*A blameless life is a ripe old age.*

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.  
For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing  
of time,  
nor can it be measured in terms of years.  
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,  
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;  
he who lived among sinners was transported—  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind

or deceit beguile his soul;  
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right  
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the  
fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

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

The word of the Lord.

**4. A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**  
*The Lord God will destroy death forever*

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 saved us!”

The word of the Lord.

**5. A reading from the book of Lamentations 3:17-26**  
*It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.*

My soul is deprived of peace,  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
I tell myself my fortune 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.

**6. A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel 12:1-3**  
*Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake*

( 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 the 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 firmament,  
And those who lead the many to justice  
shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord.

**7. A reading from the second book of Maccabees 12:43-46**  
*It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.*



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.

### **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS**

*(Please choose one reading)*

*During the Easter Season, reading 1,17,18 or 19 is used as the first reading instead of a reading from the Old Testament*

1. **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43**  
*God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead*

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

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

The word of the Lord.

*Shorter form*

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-36,42-43**

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.

The word of the Lord.

2. **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 5: 5-11**

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

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 the 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 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.

3. **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 5: 17-21**

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more*

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

The Word of the Lord.

#### Longer form

#### 4. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 6:3-9

*Let us walk in newness of life*

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

The word of the Lord.

#### Shorter form

#### A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9

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 all 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.

5. **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8: 14-23**  
*We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies*

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 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.

6. **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39**  
*Who can come between us and the love of Christ*

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 creatures will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Longer form**

**7. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul  
to the Corinthians 15: 20-23, 24b-28**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits 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. 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 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 in all.

The Word of the Lord.

**Shorter form**

**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul  
to the Corinthians 15: 20-23**

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

The Word of the Lord.

**8. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul  
to the Corinthians 15: 51-57**

*Death is swallowed up in victory*

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 which is corruptible clothes

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

“Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death is your sting?”

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

The Word of the Lord.

9. **A reading from the second letter of St. Paul  
to the Corinthians 4:14--5:1**

*What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal*

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, but eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

10. **A reading from the second letter of St. Paul  
to the Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

*We have an everlasting home in heaven.*

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made by hands, but 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.

11. **A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians 3: 20-21**

*Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like his glorious body.*

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

12. **A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4: 13-18**

*We shall stay with the Lord for ever.*

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 who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

13. **A reading from the second letter of St. Paul  
to Timothy 2: 8-13**

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

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him  
we shall also live with him;  
if we persevere  
we shall also reign with him.  
But if we deny him  
he will deny us.  
If we are unfaithful  
he remains faithful,  
for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

14. **A reading from the first letter of John 3: 1-2**

*We shall see God as he really is.*

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

15. **A reading from the first letter of John 3: 14-16**

*We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.*

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

The Word of the Lord.



**16. A reading from the book of Revelation 14:13**

*Happy are those who die in the Lord.*

I 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.

**17. A reading from the book of Revelation 20:11—21:1**

*The dead have been judged according to their works.*

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and 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 all 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.

**18. A reading from the book of Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7**

*There will be no more death.*

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. 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 will 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 live-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.

### **Gospel Readings**

*(Please choose one reading)*

#### **1. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:25-30**

At that time Jesus answered:

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

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

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

No one knows the Son except the Father,  
and no one knows the Father except the Son  
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

“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.

## **2. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12a**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **3. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-16, 28-35**

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,  
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.

#### **4. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:37-40**

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.

#### **5. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:51-59**

Jesus said to the crowds:  
“I am the living bread that came down from heaven;  
whoever eats this bread will live forever;  
and the bread that I will give is my Flesh  
for the life of the world.”  
The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,  
“How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?”  
Jesus said to them,  
“Amen, amen, I say to you,

unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood,  
you do not have life within you.  
Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood  
has eternal life,  
and I will raise him on the last day.  
For my Flesh is true food,  
and my Blood is true drink.  
Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood  
remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me  
and I have life because of the Father,  
so also the one who feeds on me  
will have life because of me.  
This is the bread that came down from heaven.  
Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,  
whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### **6. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:21-27**

Martha said to Jesus,  
“Lord, if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died.  
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,  
God will give you.”  
Jesus said to her,  
“Your brother will rise.”  
Martha said to him,  
“I know he will rise,  
in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her,  
“I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.  
Do you believe this?”  
She said to him, “Yes, Lord.  
I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,  
the one who is coming into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**7. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 12:23-26**

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.

**8. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6**

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.

**9. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 7:11-17**

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.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

### 1. **Psalm 23**

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

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

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

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

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

2. **Psalm 25**

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

Remember that your compassion, O Lord,  
and your kindness are from of old.  
In your kindness remember me,  
because of your kindness O, Lord. *R.*

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

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

3. **Psalm 27**

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?  
The Lord is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid? *R.*

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

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



Your presence, O Lord, I seek.  
Hide not your face from me. *R*

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

#### 4. **Psalm 42 and 43**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 5. **Psalm 63**

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

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

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary  
to see your power and your glory.

For your kindness is a greater good than life;  
my lips shall glorify you. *R.*

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

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

**6. Psalm 103**

*R. The Lord is kind and merciful.*

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

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

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

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

**7. Psalm 116**

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

Gracious is the Lord and just;  
yes, our God is merciful.  
The Lord keeps the little ones;  
I was brought low and he saved me. *R.*

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

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

**8. Psalm 122**

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

I rejoiced because they said to me,  
“We will go up to the house of the Lord.”  
And now we have set foot  
within your gates, O Jerusalem *R.*

Jerusalem, built as a city  
with compact unity.  
To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord. *R.*

According to the decree for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.  
In it are set up judgment seats,  
seats for the house of David. *R.*

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
May those who love you prosper!  
May peace be within your walls,  
prosperity in your buildings. *R.*

Because of my relatives and friends  
I will say, "Peace be within you!"  
Because of the house of the Lord, our God.  
I will pray for your good. *R.*

**9. Psalm 130**

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

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

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

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

For with the Lord is kindness  
and with him is plenteous redemption;  
And he will redeem Israel  
from all their iniquities. *R.*

**10. Psalm 143**

*R.* **O Lord, hear my prayer**

O Lord, hear my prayer;  
hearken to my pleading in your faithfulness;  
in your justice answer me.  
And enter not into judgment with your servant,  
and before you no living man is just. *R.*

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

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

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

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

One of the following intercessions may be used or adapted to the circumstances or new intercessions may be composed.

### Form A

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

*Reader* *The response will be : hear our prayer*

In baptism (*name*) received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. Lord in your mercy.... *R. hear our prayer*

Our brother/sister (*name*) was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Lord in your mercy....*R. 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....*R. 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..... *R. hear our prayer*

Those who trust 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..... *R. hear our prayer*

The family and friends of (*name*) seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness of doubt that come from grief...Lord in your mercy..... *R. hear our prayer*

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister (*name*). Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. Lord in your mercy..... *R. 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 fall asleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### Form B

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

*Reader* The response will be: *Lord, hear our prayer*

For *(name)* who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.....*R. Lord hear our prayer*

For our brother/sister who ate the Body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.....*R. Lord hear our prayer*

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.....*R. Lord hear our prayer*

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.  
*R. Lord hear our prayer.*

For the family and friends of our brother/sister *(name)* that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend, Lazarus. We pray to the Lord. *R. Lord hear our prayer*

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord. *R. Lord hear our prayer.*

*Priest* Lord, 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.

**Order of the Mass of Christian Burial**  
*(if planning a Mass booklet)*

**Words of Remembrance**(optional)

Delivered by:

**Introductory Rites**

Greeting  
Sprinkling With Holy Water  
Placing of the Pall (Omitted in the case of cremains)  
Entrance Hymn  
Opening Prayer

**Liturgy of the Word**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
    Proclaimed by  
Responsorial Psalm (sung)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
    Proclaimed by  
Gospel Acclamation  
Gospel  
Homily  
General Intercessions

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Presentation of the Gifts Hymn  
    Gift Bearers:  
Holy, Holy, Holy (sung)  
Mystery of Faith (sung)  
Great Amen (sung)

**Communion Rite**

The Lord's Prayer  
Sign of Peace  
Lamb of God (sung)  
Communion Hymn  
Communion Meditation Hymn

**Final Commendation**

Invitation to Prayer  
Prayer of Commendation  
Procession to Place of Committal  
Recessional Hymn