



**“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”**

*St. John 11:25*

**A Guide for Catholic Funerals in Oglesby, Illinois**

Dear Friends,

We thank you for deciding to honor your departed loved one with a Christian funeral and burial. Our parish community mourns with you and prays with you. We offer a special Mass each weekend for the intentions of all our parishioners, particularly those who have gone before us. I hope the information in the book will be helpful in planning the appropriate liturgy for your family.

When we offer a funeral service, and especially the funeral Mass, we are participating in the public and official prayer of the Church. Unlike a simple memorial service that a family may hold, when we join our prayer to the universal prayer of the Church, we enter into something wider and deeper than ourselves. This sacred reality is of great comfort, but it also means that we must respect the universal nature of these Holy Mysteries. It is good and appropriate to adapt various options to best suit and reflect our loved ones and their families, but I am sure you understand we also need to respect the character of the Sacred Liturgy that we are offering for their benefit.

Sometimes we hear it said that funerals are for the living, not the dead. This is not the case for us as Catholics. While we believe and hope that the Church's prayer will help us in our grief, the primary purpose of the funeral is to offer our prayers for the departed as they make their way back to God the Father. This is truly the very best and loving thing we can do for those we have lost.

Our parish families are blessed to be served by wonderful local funeral homes. They will be happy to help you make all necessary arrangements with the parish. Please feel free to reach out to me or the parish office directly if there is any way we can be of service to your family.

Often families would like to come to the parish office to visit and talk about the deceased and work on planning the liturgy in person. This can be helpful especially if you would like the priest to include some personal accounts in the homily, but it certainly isn't required. Let us know what will be best for you.

Prayers for you and your family,

Fr. Paul Carlson

# The Wake and Visitation

Sometimes our families choose to have a visitation immediately before the Mass in the back vestibule of the church. Other times the visitation will take place the night before in the funeral home. It is a commendable custom to have a short Vigil Service or Rosary at the beginning or end of this time of evening visitation. Your funeral director can help you make a decision here. A Fr. Carlson or another priest, deacon, or religious would be happy to assist whenever possible. If the decision is made to hold the visitation in the church, please be mindful of the sacred space. Food, drink, secular music, and loud voices cannot be present before the Blessed Sacrament.

# Christian Funeral at Mass and Outside of Mass

The funeral rites are generally celebrated in the context of the Eucharistic Liturgy in which the Church offers the greatest prayer possible for the soul of the deceased. For those occasions when the deceased, the family, or circumstances do not call for a full Mass, the funeral liturgy can be celebrated outside of Mass. In these cases the funeral liturgy can be celebrated in the parish church, at the funeral home, in a cemetery chapel, or even in the private home of the family.

# The Use of the American Flag

Our national flag is appropriately draped over the coffins of our veterans before and after the funeral liturgy. As the liturgy begins, the flag is removed as the coffin is sprinkled with holy water, clothed in white, and set before the paschal candle (all symbols of our eternal life in baptism). As the liturgy concludes, the national flag can be replaced over the coffin.

# Words of Remembrance

If a family member would like to offer some words about the deceased, this can be arranged at the visitation or at the reception luncheon. These words can also be offered at the church before the funeral begins, but the sacred setting brings with it additional considerations. Any words before the funeral Mass must be brief, no longer than 5 minutes. The statements must be completely respectful to the deceased, the family, our Catholic Faith, and be mindful of the reverence due to the sacred space in which they are made. The reflection should be written out word-for-word so it can be read even if an unexpected flood of emotion arises. The words should not canonize the departed—we serve our loved one's best by praying for them, not by declaring them without need of prayer. Finally, while it is fitting for the remarks to include light-hearted moments, the reflections made in church should not attempt comedy.

# Sacred Music

The music at a funeral liturgy can vary from simple organ interludes to a full choir and assortment of instruments. Your funeral director can discuss various options and help you make a decision. In Oglesby, your funeral director can also directly make the arrangements with the singers and musicians. Please remember that the music must be Sacred Music, written and composed for sacred use. Everything in God's house is to His glory. Meaningful and sentimental songs are best left for the visitation or for the luncheon. On occasion, our musicians have been able to artfully incorporate a nostalgic melody into an instrumental prelude or postlude to the funeral, but this accommodation is not always possible. Please see a recommended selection of hymns that are found in our current hymnal below.

# Funeral Readings

The Order of Christian Funerals includes many appropriate choices for the readings. The family is invited to choose the readings if they would like. While reading through the options, often a particular passage will jump out as especially appropriate, while sometimes families prefer to leave the choice to the priest. If you decide to pick out specific readings, please share this decision with the priest at least the evening before the funeral is offered.

Typically, there is a first reading from the Old Testament, a responsorial Psalm, a second reading from the New Testament, and a Gospel. If only one reading is chosen, it can be from either the Old or New Testament. Often the Psalm will be sung by the choir or cantor and this choice needs to be coordinated with the musicians. There are different sets of reading options for the funerals of children.

Sometimes members of the family would like to proclaim the readings at the Mass. Reading at Mass is, however, a liturgical role. If you are choosing readers, please choose those who are Actively Practicing Catholics. The priest is certainly able to do the readings if the family prefers. The priest always reads the Gospel.

# Gift Bearers

Bringing the bread and wine to the altar is a beautiful symbol of our participation in the gift of the Eucharistic offering. Family members often like to present these gifts during the offertory of the funeral Mass. It is helpful if we know how many people will be gift bearers so we can prepare enough items for everyone. The funeral director can help advise you in the use of gift bearers.

# Final Committal and Burial

After the funeral, all are invited to the cemetery for the burial. Sometimes the burial needs to be delayed for various reasons, but a final burial or entombment is absolutely necessary. As Christians we do not believe the body to be just an “empty shell.” The body is an important part of our human nature and identity. We believe at the resurrection of the dead on the last day that we will again have our bodies. Our Christian faith requires the body be treated with reverence and respect.

In times past, cremation was used by non-Catholics to emphasize their belief that the body will not be resurrected. Thus, it was at one point not permitted for Christians to cremate the bodies of the faithfully departed. Today, while the Church still prefers and recommends bodily burial, cremation is permitted. If possible, cremation should take place after the funeral in the church. Cremated remains must still be treated respectfully. It is a sacrilege against the dignity of the deceased to scatter the ashes, divide them, or retain them as keepsakes. Just as for a body, the cremated remains must be buried or entombed.

It is certainly recommended that Catholics be buried in a Catholic cemetery that has been consecrated by the bishop. Doing so reinforces our belief of our common resurrection in Christ. However, burials are permitted in public or non-Catholic cemeteries. In these cases, it is especially appropriate for a priest or deacon to bless the gravesite.

# Payments and Fees

The parishes do not charge anything for the use of the church for a visitation or for the funeral Mass. Your funeral home will provide a stipend for the priest and altar servers. Musicians’ payment will be the responsibility of the family; however, often the funeral home may facilitate those payments as well. Donations and memorials for the upkeep of the parish church are always very warmly appreciated.

# After the Funeral

The funeral and other arrangements make the time after a loved one’s death very busy. When things calm down, please contact the parish and priest if anyone would like to talk and pray. The mourning process is unique to each of us, and we want to be sure that everyone begins to move towards healing.

# First Reading Options

## **2 Maccabees 12:43-46**

*He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.*

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,

took up a collection among all his soldiers,  
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,  
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,  
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;  
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,  
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward  
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,  
it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead  
that they might be freed from this sin.

The word of the Lord.

## **Job 19:1, 23-27a**

*I know that my Vindicator lives.*

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead  
they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,  
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him;

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.  
The word of the Lord.

**Wisdom 3:1-9 (short form, 3:1-6, 9)**

*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

*Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.*

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

[In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the LORD shall be their King forever.]

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

**Wisdom 4:7-15**

*An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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

**Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

***He will destroy death forever.***

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.

### **Lamentations 3:17-26**

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

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.

### **Daniel 12:1-3**

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

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

Please note, there are some New Testament readings that can be read as a first reading when we are in the Easter Season. These readings from Acts and the Book of Revelation are listed below and available on this website: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/>

**Acts 10:34-43 (short form, 10:34-36, 42-43)**

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

**Revelation 14:13**

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

**Revelation 20:11—21:1**

*The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

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

*There shall be no more death.*

# The Responsorial Psalm

Typically this is sung by the cantor or choir and any choice other than the 23rd Psalm will need to be discussed with them. If the Psalm is being recited by a reader one of the following can be chosen. For the full text, please see <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/>

**Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6**

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

**Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21**

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

**Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14**

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

**Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5**

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

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

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

**Psalm 103:8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18**

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

**Psalm 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac**

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

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

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

**Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8**

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

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

*O Lord, hear my prayer.*

# Second Reading Options

## **Romans 5:5-11**

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,

because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,

died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,

though perhaps for a good person  
one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us

in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,

will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies,

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

Not only that,

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

The word of the Lord.

## **Romans 5:17-21**

*Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of the one,

death came to reign through that one,

how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace  
and of the gift of justification  
come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

**Romans 6:3-9 (short form, 6:3-4, 8-9)**

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

*Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,  
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
we too might live in newness of life.

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

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

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.]

If, then, we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we shall also live with him.  
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;  
death no longer has power over him.  
The word of the Lord.

### **Romans 8:14-23**

*We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.  
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,  
but you received a spirit of adoption,  
through which we cry, Abba, "Father!"

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

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

**Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

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

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

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

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly

through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12**

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself,

and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,

and if we die, we die for the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.  
For this is why Christ died and came to life,  
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.  
Why then do you judge your brother?  
Or you, why do you look down on your brother?  
For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;  
for it is written:  
As I live, says the Lord, every knee  
shall bend before me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.  
So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.  
The word of the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (short form, 15:20-23)**

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

*Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.*

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

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,

the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,

the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die,

so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,

but each one in proper order:

Christ the firstfruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

[then comes the end,

when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death,

for "he subjected everything under his feet."

But when it says that everything has been subjected,

it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.



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

The word of the Lord.

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

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

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

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

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

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

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

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?

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

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

The word of the Lord.

### **2 Corinthians 4:14—5:1**

*What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.*

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

Brothers and sisters:

Knowing 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.

## **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

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

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

Therefore, we aspire to please him,  
whether we are at home or away.  
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,  
so that each may receive recompense,  
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.  
The word of the Lord.

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

*He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians  
Brothers and sisters:  
Our citizenship is in heaven,  
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will change our lowly body  
to conform with his glorified Body  
by the power that enables him also  
to bring all things into subjection to himself.  
The word of the Lord.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians  
We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
about those who have fallen asleep,  
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.  
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,  
so too will God, through Jesus,  
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.  
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,  
that we who are alive,  
who are left until the coming of the Lord,  
will surely 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.

## **2 Timothy 2:8-13**

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

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

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

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

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen,

so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,  
together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

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

if we persevere  
we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him  
he will deny us.

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

The word of the Lord.

### **1 John 3:1-2**

*We shall see him as he is.*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

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

Yet so we are.

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

### **1 John 3:14-16**

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

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

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

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,  
and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.

The way we came to know love  
was that he laid down his life for us;  
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.

# Gospel Reading Options

## **Matthew 5:1-12a**

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
When 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.

## **Matthew 11:25-30**

*Come to me and I will give you rest.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus answered:

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

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

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

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

"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.

### **Matthew 25:1-13**

***Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

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

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,  
brought no oil with them,  
but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.

Since the bridegroom was long delayed,  
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry,  
'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise,

'Give us some of your oil,

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

### **Matthew 25:31-46**

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

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.

**Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 (short form, 15:33-39)**

***Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.***

*Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.*

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.

**Luke 7:11-17*****Young man, I tell you, arise!***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain,  
and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.  
As he drew near to the gate of the city,  
a man who had died was being carried out,  
the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.  
A large crowd from the city was with her.  
When the Lord saw her,  
he was moved with pity for her and said to her,  
"Do not weep."  
He stepped forward and touched the coffin;  
at this the bearers halted,  
and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!"  
The dead man sat up and began to speak,  
and Jesus gave him to his mother.  
Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming,  
"A great prophet has arisen in our midst,"  
and "God has visited his people."  
This report about him spread through the whole of Judea  
and in all the surrounding region.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Luke 12:35-40*****You also must be prepared.***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
Jesus said to his disciples:  
"Gird your loins and light your lamps  
and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding,  
ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.  
Blessed are those servants  
whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.  
Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,

have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.  
And should he come in the second or third watch  
and find them prepared in this way,  
blessed are those servants.  
Be sure of this:  
if the master of the house had known the hour  
when the thief was coming,  
he would not have let his house be broken into.  
You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,  
the Son of Man will come."  
The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Luke 23:33, 39-43**

*Today you will be with me in Paradise.*

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

**Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a (short form, 23:44-46, 50, 52-53)**

***Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.***

*Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land

until three in the afternoon

because of an eclipse of the sun.

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

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit";

and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who,

though he was a member of the council,

went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus.

After he had taken the Body down,

he wrapped it in a linen cloth

and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb

in which no one had yet been buried.

[At daybreak on the first day of the week

the women took the spices they had prepared

and went to the tomb.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;

but when they entered,

they did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold,

two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.

They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them,

"Why do you seek the living one among the dead?

He is not here, but he has been raised."]

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Luke 24:13-35 (short form, 24:13-16, 28-35)**

***Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?***

*Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
That very day, the first day of the week,  
two of the disciples of Jesus were going  
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,  
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,  
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,  
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

[He asked them,  
"What are you discussing as you walk along?"

They stopped, looking downcast.

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

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

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him,

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

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

it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:

they were at the tomb early in the morning  
and did not find his Body;  
they came back and reported  
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels  
who announced that he was alive.

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

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!

How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things  
and enter into his glory?"

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

As they approached the village to which they were going,  
Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther.

But they urged him, "Stay with us,  
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.

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

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

Then they said to each other,

"Were not our hearts burning within us  
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem  
where they found gathered together  
the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **John 5:24-29**

*Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

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

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

For just as the Father has life in himself,  
so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself.  
And he gave him power to exercise judgment,  
because he is the Son of Man.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **John 6:37-40**

*Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
Jesus said to the crowds:

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

And this is the will of the one who sent me,  
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,  
but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,  
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him  
may have eternal life,  
and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.



**John 6:51-58**

*Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the 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.

**John 11:17-27 (short form, 11:21-27)**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

*Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

### **John 11:32-45**

#### ***Lazarus, come out!***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,  
she fell at his feet and said to him,  
"Lord, if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping,  
he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,  
"Where have you laid him?"  
They said to him, "Sir, come and see."  
And Jesus wept.  
So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."  
But some of them said,  
"Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man  
have done something so that this man would not have died?"  
So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.  
It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.  
Jesus said, "Take away the stone."  
Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him,  
"Lord, by now there will be a stench;  
he has been dead for four days."  
Jesus said to her,  
"Did I not tell you that if you believe  
you will see the glory of God?"  
So they took away the stone.  
And Jesus raised his eyes and said,  
"Father, I thank you for hearing me.  
I know that you always hear me;  
but because of the crowd here I have said this,  
that they may believe that you sent me."  
And when he had said this,  
he cried out in a loud voice,  
"Lazarus, come out!"  
The dead man came out,  
tied hand and foot with burial bands,  
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.  
So Jesus said to the crowd,  
"Untie him and let him go."  
Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary  
and seen what he had done began to believe in him.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**John 12:23-28 (short form, 12:23-26)**

***If it dies, it produces much fruit.***

*Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

Amen, amen, I say to you,

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

it remains just a grain of wheat;

but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life will lose it,

and whoever hates his life in this world

will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,

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

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

["I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?

'Father, save me from this hour'?

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

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it and will glorify it again."]

The Gospel of the Lord.

**John 14:1-6**

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

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.

### **John 17:24-26**

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

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

### **John 19:17-18, 25-39**

*And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself,  
he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull,  
in Hebrew, Golgotha.  
There they crucified him, and with him two others,  
one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother  
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved,  
he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple,  
"Behold, your mother."

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

After this, aware that everything was now finished,  
in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled,  
Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine.

So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop  
and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,  
"It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the Spirit.

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

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first  
and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,  
they did not break his legs,  
but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,  
and immediately Blood and water flowed out.

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

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

And again another passage says:

They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea,  
secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews,

asked Pilate if he could remove the Body of Jesus.  
And Pilate permitted it.  
So he came and took his Body.  
Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night,  
also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes  
weighing about one hundred pounds.  
The Gospel of the Lord.



# Music for the Funeral Liturgy

The selections below may serve as helpful recommendations from our current hymnal. Other music from our hymnal or a different source is also acceptable. Please talk to your musician for details. The notes above for more information on choosing music for the funeral liturgy.

## Recommendations for Opening and Closing Hymns

All Creatures of Our God and King	How Great Thou Art
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name	I Know That My Redeemer Lives
All You Who Seek a Comfort Sure	Immaculate Mary
At the Name of Jesus	Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Attende Domine	Jesus Christ is Risen Today
Be Not Afraid	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Be Thou My Vision	O God Beyond All Praising
Christ, the Lord, is Risen Today	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
For All the Saints	On Eagle's Wings
God, We Praise You	Parce Domine
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	Salve Regina

## Recommendations for Offertory and Communion Hymns

Adoramus Te Domine	Jesus, Remember Me
Adoro te Devote	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Ave Maria	Lord Jesus, Think on Me
Ave Verum Corpus	Lord of All Hopefulness
Be Thou My Vision	O Jesus, We Adore Thee
Blest are They	O Sanctissima
Come Down, O Love Divine	Of the Father's Love Begotten
Draw Near and Take the Body of Thy Lord	On Eagles' Wings
Eat This Bread	Only-Begotten, Word of God Eternal
Gift of Finest Wheat	Panis Angelicus
Godhead Here in Hiding	Prayer of Saint Francis
Here I Am, Lord	Shepherd Me, O God
I Am the Bread of Life	The King of Love
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	Ubi Caritas
Jesu Dulcis Memoria	What Wondrous Love?
Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross