



# **Planning for Catholic Funerals**

**St. Boniface/  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Parishes**

Revised: January 2019

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## INTRODUCTION

“Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just. The Mass, the memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral.

The Church through its funeral rites commends the dead to God’s merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins. At the funeral rites, especially at the celebration of the eucharistic sacrifice, the Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great communion of the saints. Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercession. At the rite of final commendation and farewell, the community acknowledges the reality of separation and commends the deceased to God. In this way it recognizes the spiritual bond that still exists between the living and the dead and proclaims its belief that all the faithful will be raised up and reunited in the new heavens and a new earth, where death will be no more.

The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. While proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and witnessing to Christian hope in the resurrection, the funeral rites also recall to all who take part in them God’s mercy and judgment and meet the human need to turn always to God in times of crisis.”

Order of Christian Funerals (OCF), nos. 5-7

## MUSIC

The music used in a Mass or liturgy is an important part of any funeral. The priest or another representative will be present to answer any questions you may have in the selection of music. Whatever you choose, it must be liturgical and be an expression of Christian faith in the death and resurrection of all. Popular music can warm the hearts of those mourning but it cannot be part of the liturgy of the Mass but can be used during the visitation, luncheon, or some other venue outside of the funeral or church. The priest or another representative will be available to help properly select the music or other questions one may have.

No recorded music of any kind may be played before or during the liturgy for any of the three parts of the “Order of Christian Funerals” (i.e. A) Vigil, B) Funeral Mass/Liturgy, C) Rite of Committal).

Avoid the title for the funeral Mass as a “Celebration of the Life of . . .” This is a popular phrase used for celebrity funerals. Every funeral Mass is a celebration of life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – a Eucharistic celebration. Through baptism, the deceased has shared in Christ’s life. We believe that God is faithful.

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## OBITUARY

An obituary is an important part of preparing for a funeral. It is important to speak about the deceased but it does not have to be a biography. It is simply an announcement of the death of a loved one, names of those most affected, a brief description of the fondest memories, and then the necessary details on the scheduled funeral rites so that many may attend. Lastly if there is a recommended organization to sponsor on behalf of the deceased loved one. The funeral home in charge should be noted for any pertinent questions that may arise.

An obituary, like the funeral homily, should avoid any statement which indicates that the deceased is already in heaven. With the sure and certain hope of a future resurrection, we plead for the mercy of God on the soul of the deceased. As part of our Profession of Faith, we believe in the resurrection of the body where our souls will be reunited with our glorified body.

When announcing the rites of the liturgy, kindly use the terminology of the Church such as "Funeral Mass". Terms such as "Mass of Resurrection", "Memorial Mass", "Mass of Christian Burial" should be avoided.

## THREE PARTS TO A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

There are three parts to any funeral for those who mourn to help them prepare spiritually and emotionally for that final goodbye. The main reason for any funeral is to pray for the loved one who has passed to prepare them on their journey to which they have already begun.

### The Vigil (Wake)

(OPTIONAL) The faithful gather the night before the funeral liturgy with the family for the mercy of God to heal not only the one who has passed but those who remain. The service usually occurs at the funeral home or mortuary. For unusually large funerals, a Vigil may occur in a chapel or church. A Vigil may include a rosary or scripture readings, a very brief homily, and a couple of prayers for the family and most of all for the deceased. Visitation usually precedes the Vigil (Wake) service.

### The Funeral Mass

The main part of a Catholic funeral is the celebration of the Mass. This may also be abbreviated as a funeral liturgy if the majority of the family is not Catholic. The eucharist is the source and summit of the Catholic faith celebrating the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our potential eternal salvation. There are songs, readings, prayers, and numerous other details that have to be selected. The Mass is usually celebrated on the day that the deceased is buried. There should be only one funeral Mass before the burial of the deceased. The funeral Mass is to be celebrated in the Church to symbolize bringing the deceased to the altar of God to take the individual to heaven.

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The Mass begins at the back of the church with the casket. After the procession, the pall is placed over the remains near the foot of the steps to the sanctuary before the altar. This is usually done by the family but the funeral director may respectfully do so if requested. The casket is rolled feet first into the church to symbolically represent the deceased facing the altar of God. The casket may be turned sideways or other modifications depending on room, size of the family, and other such situations. If there are ashes in an urn or a box, Mass will begin at the front of the church near the altar after a brief procession from the back. Whether it is a casket or with cremains, the funeral Mass is most appropriately suited with the deceased remains present to help with the grieving process of the family, loved ones, and friends.

Note that the positions such as lector, server, or Eucharistic minister should be fulfilled by practicing Catholics. The members of the family that are Catholic are encouraged to be part of the offertory procession. Practicing Catholic may receive communion under both species. Non-Catholics are not permitted to receive communion but may serve as pallbearers.

Casket is to remain closed during the Mass and covered with a funeral pall which symbolically represents baptism. The pall also emphasizes every Christians' equality before God. Apart from holy orders and civil dignitaries, no special honors should be made to any private person or class in the ceremony or other external displays.

Readings, suggested hymns, and other options are provided here on page . A planning sheet is also enclosed for your reference of what needs to be selected. If you do not have a preference, it is ok. The pastor or musician will gladly select an appropriate option for you and your loved ones while struggling through this most difficult moment in life.

Mass time is usually 10:30 or 11 a.m. from Monday through Saturday. A vigil is usually at 7:30 p.m. the night before unless there is a conflict in scheduling with the priest or deacon. This detail should be coordinated between the funeral director and the priest.

### **The Rite of Committal (Burial/Interment)**

Whenever possible, the body should be taken immediately from the funeral Mass or service to the graveside or tomb or cemetery committal chapel for burial. The priest and mourners accompany the remains from the Church to the grave site. Here the committal service is offered over the grave site and the remains of the deceased. Prayers are said which conclude the funeral Mass or service begun usually in the church. The loved one is then placed in the final resting place.

For those involved in a civic organization, military veterans, fraternal organizations, or other such affiliations, special services may be offered here by the pertinent organizations.

### **OTHER DETAILS:**

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## **Funeral liturgy outside of Mass**

Usually such liturgies are in a parish church/chapel but may be celebrated in the funeral home, or cemetery chapel. This is usually offered for those who are part of a mainly non-Catholic family or those not entitled to a Catholic funeral according to Catholic law. The body of the deceased should be present. If the body is not present, the services may be celebrated at another time not only for the grieving of the family but also for the repose of the deceased.

## **Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)**

If words of remembrance are given, they should be offered at the funeral home during visitation, following the Vigil, at the gravesite following the Rite of Committal, or at the funeral luncheon.

The Order of Christian Funerals does provide an exception for a friend or family member to speak about the deceased. This is done after the Prayer after Communion but before the Final Commendation in the Mass. The Diocese of Toledo prefers the following guidelines to be adhered when it comes to speaking about the deceased: A) Prior to the beginning of the Funeral Mass, B) no longer than three (3) minutes in length, and C) shared with the Pastor at least one day before the Funeral Mass.

## **Christian Symbol**

Only Christian symbols may rest or be placed on the casket during the funeral liturgy. “Any other symbols . . . have no place in the funeral liturgy.” (OCF, no. 38) “Any national flags or the flags or insignia of associations to which the deceased belonged are to be removed from the casket at the entrance of the church. They may be replaced after the casket has been taken from the church.” (OCF, no. 132)

## **Cremation**

*Ad resurgendum cum Christo* (2016) states that the Church has no doctrinal issues with cremation, “since cremation of the deceased’s body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased’s body to new life.” (4) “Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites” (OCF, no. 413) The Diocese of Toledo “encourages the celebration of the funeral Mass within a reasonable time after death, prior to cremation.” (Pastoral Policy 2011 of the Diocese of Toledo, no. 3283) If cremation is chosen “because of sanitation, economic or social considerations, this choice must never violate the explicitly-stated or the reasonably inferable wishes of the deceased faithful.” (*Ad resurgendum cum Christo*, no. 4)

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## Disposition of the Ashes

One cannot keep the ashes of a loved one on the mantel or spread them over a geographic feature such as an ocean, lake, or mountain. Cremated ashes are meant to be laid to rest in a grave site. They “must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority.” (Ad resurgendum cum Christo, no. 5) “The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition.” (OCF, no. 417) Ashes are not allowed to be separated, distributed, or conserved in a residence and/or scattered “in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in momentos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects.” (Ad resurgendum cum Christo, nos. 6-7)

## Flowers

Generally flowers are provided by generous friends who send them to the funeral home as an expression of condolence. “Fresh flowers, used in moderation, can enhance the setting of the funeral rites.” (OCF, no. 38) During Lent, flowers are forbidden to decorate the altar. (GIRM, no. 305) There is an exception for Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts. Whenever flowers are placed near the altar, they should not impede the celebrant or priest from incensing the altar. Flowers brought inside the church to decorate the altar are generally left to remain there after the funeral liturgy as a gift.

## Rosary and other Devotionals

A vigil is the principal rite offered the evening before a funeral Mass and should not be replaced by any devotional including the rosary. If the deceased had a particular devotion to the Blessed Virgin, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a particular Saint, and requested a particular devotion such as the Rosary or Divine Mercy be said, they may be offered before or after the vigil or prior to the funeral Mass.

## Choice of Day

A funeral Mass may be “celebrated on **any day except for Solemnities that are Holydays of Obligation, Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday), the Paschal Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter**, with due regard also for all the other requirements of the norm of the law.” (GIRM, no. 380)

The text for the Responsorial Psalm must be the given biblical text in the Lectionary for Mass. One may not paraphrase the hymns or texts as a substitute for the sung Word of God. Before the Gospel, the acclamation and verse comes from the choices provided by the Lectionary for Mass, Masses for the Dead.

## Homily

A homily is not a eulogy or series of remembrances or stories. The liturgy exist to glorify God and should carefully avoid any statements that imply that the deceased is already in heaven because that is the concern of the deceased and God. The Church with a certain and sure hope of a future rising, pleads for the mercy of God for our friend and loved one.

### **VARIOUS REQUESTED FEES** (January 2019)

ORGANIST	\$100
RENTAL	\$150 (\$75 for utilities + \$75 for cleaning)
STIPEND	\$100
PRIEST DONATION	OPTIONAL

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## FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET

Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Funeral:     Funeral Home     Church     Cemetery

### PART 1:      VIGIL (WAKE)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Vigil:       Funeral Home     Church

Eulogy will be offered:     Yes     No

If yes, name of presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

A Vigil liturgy is recommended at the end of the visitation.

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### PART 2: FUNERAL AND/OR MEMORIAL SERVICE IN CHURCH

Opening Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

First Reading (Old Testament): \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm (Sung) \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading (New Testament) \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Eulogy will be offered:     Yes     No

If yes, name of presenter: \_\_\_\_\_





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## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS FOR FUNERAL MASS

(Circle 5 and include at least one from each area)

### A. For the Church, the World and its Leaders:

1. That the leaders of our Church and country be open to the Spirit to guide their people both for this life and the life to come, we pray to the Lord.
2. That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given strength to express in action the word they proclaim, we pray to the Lord.
3. That those in public office may value life and promote laws safeguarding life from conception to death, we pray to the Lord.
4. That the Church, its representatives and its liturgies be a source of comfort and strength for those who mourn, we pray to the Lord.
5. That the Church always stand as a living witness to Christ's victory over sin and death, we pray to the Lord.
6. That all members of the Church remember death not as an end but as a door to life in glory, we pray to the Lord.
7. That all people who mourn find consolation and peace through those around them, we pray to the Lord.
8. That the Holy Spirit guide our Pope, our bishop, all priests, religious, and all the people of God to live the Gospel, we pray to the Lord.
9. That civil and government leaders throughout the world work for lasting peace and justice for all people, we pray to the Lord.
10. May peace come to all parts of our troubled world and may all people welcome God into their lives and live together in peace, we pray to the Lord.
11. May the leaders of the Church share in the passion, death, and resurrection, and show forth the saving power of God, we pray to the Lord.
12. May world leaders strive for lasting peace and justice, and heal the wounds of division among all people, we pray to the Lord.

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**B. For the one who has died:**

1. That \_\_\_\_\_ and all who have died may enjoy the vision of God with those in heaven, we pray to the Lord.
2. That \_\_\_\_\_, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, be admitted to the company of the saints, we pray to the Lord.
3. We are gathered here in faith and love to pray for our (brother/sister) \_\_\_\_\_. Strengthen our hope that we may live as a Spirit filled people, we pray to the Lord.
4. That our (brother/sister) \_\_\_\_\_ who was nourished at the table of the Lord be welcomed into the halls of the heavenly banquet, we pray to the Lord.
5. That God may call \_\_\_\_\_ to happiness, light and peace in the company of all the saints, we pray to the Lord.
6. As Baptism celebrated \_\_\_\_\_'s entry into the Christian community, so today we celebrate his/her entry into the kingdom of heaven, we pray to the Lord.
7. As each of us feels richer because of how \_\_\_\_\_'s life has touched us, so may we be encouraged to use the life and gifts God has given us to reach out to others in need, we pray to the Lord.
8. As \_\_\_\_\_ loved his/her family so dearly and through his/her example helped them to be better Christians, so may we continue to follow Christ, we pray to the Lord.
9. For all who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_, may the crosses they have carried in this life become crowns of glory in eternal life, we pray to the Lord.

**C. For Family and Friends who have died:**

1. That our deceased relatives and friends and all who have helped us may be rewarded for their goodness, we pray to the Lord.
2. That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have been born to eternal life, we remember \_\_\_\_\_, we pray to the Lord.
3. That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed, we pray to the Lord.
4. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us marked with the sign of their faith. We Remember \_\_\_\_\_, grant them all an everlasting home with your Son, we pray to the Lord.
5. That all who have died may come into the merciful presence of God and live there forever, we pray to the Lord.
6. May all who have died be gathered into God's kingdom, especially \_\_\_\_\_, and know the mercy and love of God, we pray to the Lord.
7. For all who have died, that they may follow Jesus into the kingdom of light and peace, we pray to the Lord.

**D. For the Community:**

1. That all assembled here to worship in faith be gathered together in God's kingdom, we pray to the Lord.
2. That the family of \_\_\_\_\_ receive comfort and healing through Christ's love, we pray to the Lord.
3. That we who gather here today stay ready to comfort all who suffer grief and loss, we pray to the Lord.
4. That all of us here present may one day enjoy eternal life in the company of our brother/sister and all the saints, we pray to the Lord.
5. That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God, we pray to the Lord.
6. That all who are sick, especially those near death, rejoice in the hope of the resurrection, we pray to the Lord.
7. That the memories of loved ones who have died lighten the sorrow of their passing, we pray to the Lord.
8. That the family of \_\_\_\_\_, knowing and loving him/her so well in life, be comforted by the hope of being with him/her forever in the kingdom of God, we pray to the Lord.
9. That all who suffer from terminal diseases may receive the courage and serenity of heart they need, we pray to the Lord.
10. That those who care for the sick, doctors, nurses, caregivers and families may reveal Christ's infinite patience and compassion, we pray to the Lord.
11. That all of us, still making the journey which \_\_\_\_\_ has now completed, remain faithful to God, the giver of all life, we pray to the Lord.
12. That through the Eucharist we may find strength and consolation to endure great suffering and trials in our lives, we pray to the Lord.
13. That we unite our choices with the will of God, and there find our true freedom and fulfillment, we pray to the Lord.

**SUGGESTED HYMNS:****GATHERING SONGS**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus **458**  
 Amazing Grace **680**  
 Be Not Afraid **673**  
 Christ, Be Our Light **824**  
 Come to the Water **626**  
 Give Me Jesus **554**  
 I Heard the Voice of Jesus **692**  
 Lord of All Hopefulness **647**  
 On Eagle's Wings **671**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALMS**

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

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

Ave Maria (solo)  
 Be Not Afraid **673**  
 Be Thou My Vision **646**  
 Because the Lord is My Shepherd **697**  
 Christ, Be Our Light **824**  
 Come to the Water **626**  
 Give Me Jesus **554**  
 Hail Mary: Gentle Woman **481**  
 Hosea (Come Back to Me) **529**  
 I Have Loved You **623**  
 Keep in Mind **559**  
 Like a Shepherd **622**  
 Lord of All Hopefulness **647**  
 O God, You Search Me **678**  
 On Eagle's Wings **671**  
 Only in God **679**  
 Only This I Want **732**  
 Prayer of St. Francis **702**  
 Precious Lord, Take My Hand **548**  
 Shelter Me, O God **689**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is **690**  
 The Lord is My Light **557**  
 The Strife Is O'er **408**  
 This Alone **652**  
 We Will Rise Again **681**  
 What Wondrous Love is This **719**  
 With the Lord **361**  
 You are Near **687**

**COMMUNION SONGS**

Center of My Life **665**  
 Come to Me **695**  
 Come to the Water **626**  
 Gift of Finest Wheat (You Satisfy the Hungry Heart) **791**  
 How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place **551**  
 I Have Loved You **623**  
 I Heard the Voice of Jesus **692**  
 I Know that My Redeemer Lives **556**  
 In Every Age **696**  
 Like a Shepherd **622**  
 On Eagle's Wings **671**  
 Panis (Angelicus) (solo) **836**  
 Precious Lord, Take My Hand **548**  
 Shelter Me, O God **689**  
 Taste and See **782**  
 The Lord is My Light **557**  
 The Supper of the Lord **774**  
 Unless a Grain of Wheat **725**  
 We Will Rise Again **681**  
 With the Lord **361**  
 You are Near **687**

**CLOSING/RECESSIONAL SONGS**

Amazing Grace **680**  
 For All the Saints **504**  
 From All that Dwells below the Skies **569**  
 How Can I Keep from Singing **686**

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**SUGGESTED HYMNS - Continued**

How Great Thou Art **614**

Lead Me, Lord **733**

Let There Be Peace on Earth **703**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past **672**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand **548**

Sing with All the Saints in Glory (Tune: *Ode to Joy*) **759**

Soon and Very Soon **755**

The Strife is O'er **408**

To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King **468**

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones **505**

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**FUNERAL READINGS : FIRST READING (select one)****FIRST READING #1.** It Is Good And Holy to Think Of The Dead Rising Again: 2

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

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

The Word of the Lord.

**FIRST READING #2.** I Know That My Redeemer Lives: Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

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

The Word of the Lord.

**FIRST READING #3.** He Accepted Them As A Holocaust: Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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.



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**FIRST READING #4.** A Blameless Life Is A Ripe Old Age: Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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

The Word of the Lord.

**FIRST READING #5.** The Lord God Will Destroy Death Forever: Isaiah 25: 6. 7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

**FIRST READING #6.** It is Good To Wait In Silence For The Lord God To Save: Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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

The Word of the Lord.

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**FIRST READING #7.** Of Those Who Lie Sleeping In The Dust Of The Earth Many Will Awake: Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

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.

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**FUNERAL READINGS :: SECOND READING (select one)**

**SECOND READING #1.** Having Been Justified By His Blood, We Will Be Saved From God's Anger Through Him: Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of 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.

**SECOND READING #2.** Where Sin Increased, There Grace Abounded All The More: Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: For 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

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more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

**SECOND READING #3.** Let Us Walk In Newness Of Life: Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of 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.

**SECOND READING #4.** We Groan While We Wait For The Redemption Of Our Bodies: Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, "Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

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**SECOND READING #5.** Who Can Ever Come Between Us and The Love of Christ?: Romans 8:31-35. 37-39

A reading from the Letter of 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.

**SECOND READING #6.** Whether Alive Or Dead, We Belong To The Lord: Romans 14: 7-9. 10-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So (then) each of us shall give an accounting of himself (to God).

The Word of the Lord.

**SECOND READING #7.** All People Will Be Brought To Life Through Christ: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

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

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

**SECOND READING #8.** Death Is Swallowed Up In Victory: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

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

Brothers and sisters: Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**SECOND READING #9.** What Is Seen Is Transitory; What Is Unseen Is Eternal: 2 Corinthians 4:14 -5:1

A reading from the second Letter of 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

**SECOND READING #10.** We Have An Everlasting Home In Heaven: 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

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

Brothers and sisters: We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

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**SECOND READING #11.** Jesus Will Transfigure These Wretched Bodies Of Ours To Be Like His Glorious Body: Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of 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.

**SECOND READING #12.** We Shall Stay With The Lord For Ever: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

**READING #13.** If We Have Died With Him, Then We Shall Live With Him: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second Letter of 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.

**SECOND READING #14.** We Shall See God As He Really Is: 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John

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

The Word of the Lord

**SECOND READING #15.** We Have Passed From Death To Life, Because We Love Our Brothers and Sisters: 1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first letter of John

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

The Word of the Lord

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**FUNERAL READINGS :: GOSPEL READING (select one)****READING #1.** Rejoice and Be Glad, For Your Reward Will Be Great In Heaven: Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord

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**GOSPEL READING #2.** Come To Me...And I Will Give you Rest: Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus 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

**GOSPEL READING #3.** Look The Bridegroom Comes. Go Out To Meet Him: Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord

**GOSPEL READING #4.** Come, You Whom My Father Has Blessed: Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when



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did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord

**GOSPEL READING #5.** Jesus Gave A Loud Cry and Breathed His Last: Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him."

The Gospel of the Lord

**GOSPEL READING #6.** Young Man, I Say To You, Arise: Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and

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he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord

**GOSPEL READING #7.** Be Prepared: Luke 12:35-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Jesus 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

**GOSPEL READING #8.** Today You Will Be With Me In Paradise: Luke 23:33, 39-43

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

When 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

**GOSPEL READING #9.** Father, I Put My Life Into Your Hands: Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

It was 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

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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.

**GOSPEL READING #10.** Was It Not Necessary That The Christ Should Suffer And So enter Into His Glory?  
Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

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.

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**GOSPEL READING #11.** Whoever Hears My Word And Believes Has Passed From Death To Life: John 5:24-29

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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

**GOSPEL READING #12.** All Who Believe In The Son Will Have Eternal Life And I Will Raise Them To Life Again On the Last Day: John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to the 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.

**GOSPEL READING #13.** All Who Eat This Bread Will Live Forever And I Will Raise Them Up On the Last Day: John 6:51-59

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL READING #14.** I Am The Resurrection And The Life: John 11:17-27

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived 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.

**GOSPEL READING #15.** Lazarus, Come Out: John 11:32-45

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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

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**GOSPEL READING #16.** If A Grain Of Wheat Falls On The Ground And Dies, It Yields A Rich Harvest:  
John 12:23-28

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus 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

**GOSPEL READING #17:** There Are Many Rooms In My Father's House: John 14:1-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**GOSPEL READING #18:** Father, I Want Those You Have Given Me To Be With Me Where I Am:  
John 17:24-26

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "Father, 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.

**GOSPEL READING #19.** Jesus Bowed His Head And Gave Up His Spirit: John 19:17-18, 25-30

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.