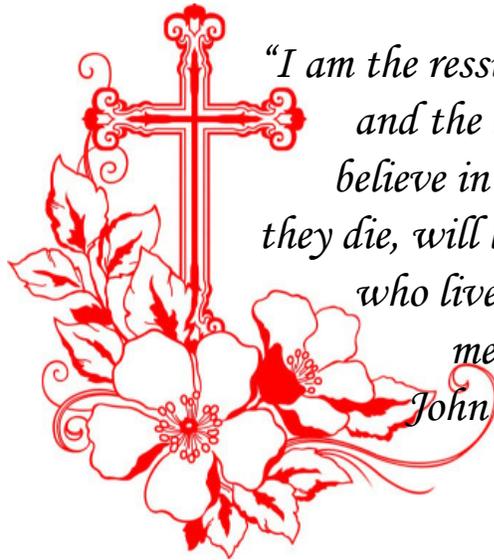


COMMITTED TOGETHER FOR THE KINGDOM



# CHRIST THE KING CHURCH



*“I am the resurrection  
and the life. Those who  
believe in me, even though  
they die, will live, and everyone  
who lives and believes in  
me will never die.”*

*John 11: 25-26*

## FUNERAL PREPARATION GUIDE

# CONDOLENCES FROM OUR PARISH FAMILY

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We, at Christ the King, understand that you have just experienced the death of a loved one. Depending upon the circumstances, you may be feeling confused, sad, stunned, or even overwhelmed by your loss. Each death is unique and brings forth a variety of emotions. The language of love speaks with particular depth at the time of death. We are here to offer prayers, sympathy, support and hope for the future.

Catholics believe that death has been conquered by the love of Christ and is a passageway to a more abundant, happy and perfect life that God has prepared for those who love Him. Though it is terribly hard to say goodbye to the goodness of life in this world, death is the necessary passage to the place where the ultimate desires of every human person can be completely fulfilled. Death marks a new beginning, made possible by the Resurrection of Jesus, to intimate and eternal union with God himself.

The faith of the Church cannot erase the pain of losing a loved one but can give some solace and strength. Death is a time when our faith in God is purified, as is our relationship with Him. The most important things, and the things that endure, are brought to the surface in a powerful way. It is a time for us to support and console one another, and to manifest that love that is stronger than death. When death occurs, Christians respond with greater prayer, both for those who have died and for those who are experiencing the death of a loved one.

The Church manifests the suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus in the funeral liturgy. The readings and prayers do not minimize human suffering and death but show how they have been conquered by love. There is celebration and joy alongside sympathy and grief. For a baptized Catholic, the Mass of Christian burial is the customary ritual of prayer.

In this booklet are resources to help you plan a funeral celebration for yourself or a loved one. If you are preparing for death or for a funeral of one who has recently passed, we are here to answer your questions and to assist you. We want your funeral liturgy to reflect your life of faith, hope and love.

Most often you will meet with a funeral director and the priest who will celebrate the funeral rites. These resources are provided to help you prepare for these meetings. Customs surrounding death change over time. The information here is trustworthy as it faithfully represents the Catholic Church's Order of Catholic Funerals approved by the Vatican in 1989.

Please provide a copy of the selections you have made to other family members, to the parish and to the funeral home so that everyone may respect your wishes. Please know that we are here praying for you and are privileged to accompany you as you trust in God's will and abandon yourself to His merciful love at this profound time.

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

*Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!*

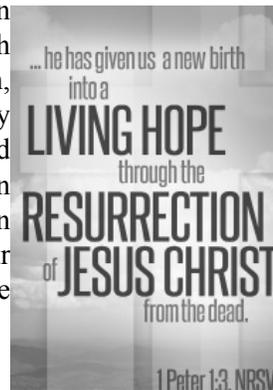
The Catholic funeral rites will celebrate the paschal mystery of our Lord Jesus - his suffering, death and Resurrection. Through Baptism we enter into this mystery personally. Jesus Himself accomplishes this saving mystery in His mystical body the Church, particularly in the life of each Christian who permits the Lord to do so. In a sense, the funeral liturgy is a completion of the rite of baptism, when we entered into the death of Christ in order to rise with Him to new and eternal life.

A Christian welcomes death throughout his life. His many acts of piety and sacrificial charity are motivated ultimately by a desire to live forever in full communion of eternal life with the beloved Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This final destiny and happiness is only possible through the passageway of death. A Christian thus approaches death with courage and confidence, for Christ has conquered death by love, and He who loses His life saves it for eternal life! Death is filled with the love of Christ's presence. Death in Christ thus leads to a life of greater abundance. This new life, like a seed, was planted in us at Baptism, flowered during our lifetime, and at death yields a rich harvest.

The Church through its funeral rites commends the dead to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins. This great celebration brings hope and consolation for those who are living as well.

In celebrating a funeral Mass, we are reminded that it is our one heart, one mind, one flesh union with Christ, actualized in its completeness as we receive His body and blood, that is the means of our salvation. Jesus said this most plainly "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life within you, but whoever eats my flesh and eats my blood has eternal life." *John 6:53*. The Eucharistic celebration which unites us as the Church visible and invisible is a great source of hope, and a communion with those who have gone before us.

We affirm and express the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great communion of saints with the funeral rite. Though separated from us now by sight, we are still united with the dead by faith, and we celebrate the great hope that our beloved will journey safely, aided by our prayers and sufferings for them, to their eternal place of peace. The dead can greatly benefit from the prayers of the Church below and the intercession of the angels and saints. It is a sacred duty to pray for them, not only in the funeral liturgy, but also as often as we can going forward. We offer our prayers most of all through the person of Christ using the perfect sacrifice and prayer that He left us, the Eucharist.



# THE FUNERAL RITES OF THE CHURCH

The Church provides at the time of death three distinct rites through which the Church intercedes, consoles, offers thanksgiving and expresses the Christian faith in eternal life and in the communion of saints. Those rites are described below with additional commentary.

## ~ THE VIGIL SERVICE ~

This is commonly referred to as the wake service. It is a remembrance of the deceased and a preparation for the funeral Mass. It is most often celebrated at a funeral home, but other locations, including the Church, may be available. Please ask.

Oftentimes it is the family tradition to replace the vigil service, especially for a family or loved one who has a devotion to our blessed Mother, with the saying of the rosary. This can be especially appropriate and consoling. Mary leads us unfailingly to Jesus, and was present at our Lord's suffering and death, and so accompanies Her children with sorrowful hearts, and leads us fruitfully to the saving mysteries of her son. The rosary might be led by a family member or by a priest, deacon, seminarian or other parish member.

The vigil service or the rosary is selected, not both. Traditionally, the visitation or wake is done the evening before the funeral Mass. On occasion, the vigil service immediately precedes the funeral Mass itself.

At the vigil service or rosary, the family is invited to share remembrances of the deceased. This is most appropriately done at this service, not at the funeral Mass itself. Should a family member or friend need to share remarks at the funeral Mass, this is done immediately preceding the funeral. There is no provision for eulogies in the funeral Mass itself.

Every effort will be made for the priest celebrant of your funeral to be present at the Vigil service. Sometimes he must delegate this to others. We will try to work this out with you in advance so the best decision can be made. Because of other pastoral demands, the priest may ask that his responsibilities be scheduled at the best time during the hours of vigil, usually at the beginning.



Here is an outline of the Vigil Service if you choose.

Greeting and Welcome  
Opening Prayer  
First Reading  
Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel Reading  
Brief Remarks  
Prayers of the Faithful  
Lord's Prayer  
Blessing  
Sharing of Memories by Family/Friends

### ∞ FUNERAL LITURGY ∞

**N**ormally, the funeral Mass is celebrated where the deceased received the grace-filled sacraments of the Church. It is a privilege to celebrate the funeral in the parish Church. On occasion, the parish priest may be able to celebrate the funeral Mass in another parish church of special significance. Please ask if special accommodations are needed.

Family members and/or closest friends are invited to read the first and second readings for the Mass, to cover the casket with a pall when the body of the deceased is present, to present the gifts of bread and wine that will be consecrated, and to help select hymns. Altar servers from the family are welcome. Extraordinary ministers are invited to help with the distribution of communion when more than 100 are expected to receive. If the family does not want to, or is unable, to fill the roles just described, parishioners will be asked to fill these roles.

One of the parish priests will celebrate the Mass. Other priests and deacons in good standing are welcome to assist and/or concelebrate. The pastor generally gives permission when requested for a family member or close friend who is a priest to celebrate the Mass when requested, but may withhold permission for good reason. Former priests from Christ the King may be asked to return for the funeral, but please understand that they cannot return for everyone, and that their primary responsibility is to be available for their current parish.

The homily for the funeral Mass will remember the deceased but will emphasize above all the paschal mystery of Jesus. The homilist will often use the life of the deceased to help everyone reflect on how to love more deeply and sacrificially and will challenge all to bear the fruit God has given us to bear with our lives.

Again, eulogies are most appropriately shared at the vigil service, not at the funeral Mass. On occasion, a brief eulogy, which is a remembrance of the deceased, may be permitted immediately preceding the funeral liturgy. If before Mass, no individual eulogy should be more than five minutes, and the sum of all eulogies should not exceed ten minutes. Those wishing to speak about the deceased who cannot attend the vigil service might also be invited to speak at the luncheon or gathering following the funeral liturgy.

### ∞ RITE OF COMMITTAL ∞

The rite of committal is celebrated at the place of internment or inurnment. It is important that the body or remains of our loved ones be placed in a cemetery, for our graves are signs of hope that promise Resurrection even as they claim our mortal bodies. Proper commitment at a cemetery ensures that the Church's firm faith in a bodily Resurrection is fostered and deepened.

The Rite of Committal takes place immediately following the funeral, before any luncheons or gatherings commence. The Rite of Committal is of great importance and is to take precedence. If the committal takes place at a cemetery far away, then of course it may be delayed to an appropriate time.

### ∞ FUNERAL RITES FOR NON-PRACTICING CATHOLICS, NON-CATHOLICS AND NON-MEMBERS ∞

The parish priests of Christ the King will treat all the deceased with reverence and will try to provide pastoral care and prayers whenever asked. Prayers at a funeral home and/or a cemetery can be provided for non-practicing Catholics, non-Catholics and non-members of Christ the King if requested and if a funeral Mass is not appropriate. Do not hesitate to ask how we might serve.

# CEMETERIES AND CREMATION



## ≈ CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ≈

The Church has always set aside ground that is consecrated to provide Christians with a dignified place to await the final coming of Jesus and the bodily Resurrection. Please consider a Catholic cemetery where the Church's original and constant faith in the Resurrection of our bodies is most secure. Catholic Cemeteries are special places of hope that await the consummation of the world.

## ≈ WHO CAN BE BURIED IN A CATHOLIC CEMETERY? ≈

Catholic cemeteries are sacred ground. All are welcome to be buried or interred there. Please have your funeral director make arrangements with them. The Catholic Cemetery in Topeka is Mt. Calvary.

## ≈ IS CREMATION ALLOWED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? ≈

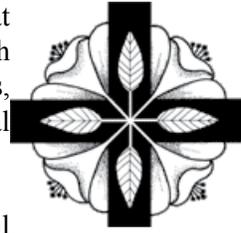
The Church strongly recommends the burial of a body, in imitation of our Lord whose body spent three days in a tomb. However, the Church recognizes the prevalence of cremation, and permits Catholics to be cremated insofar as cremation does not deny the truth of the Resurrection of the Body. The Church recommends, but does not require that the cremation take place after the funeral Mass. This allows the full funeral rites to be celebrated in the presence of a body. There is great meaning as well in family members and friends being able to see and honor the body of their loved one at the time of visitation. It can aid those who are grieving immensely.

In those instances where the cremation precedes the funeral Mass, the cremains will be placed at the front of the Church near the paschal candle and the adaptations will be made. Cremains must always be buried in a cemetery, not on private land nor kept in a private home. For military burials, the urn may be buried at sea. Cremains are not to be scattered over sea or over land. This does not give due respect to the remains of the deceased.

Internment or inurnment in a cemetery allows all the faithful to visit the deceased Christian in a holy place. It provides a place to offer prayers and to remember those who have gone before us. The graves are a sign of hope that promise Resurrection.

## ~ CELEBRATION OF THE FUNERAL LITURGY ~

It is important that the family meet with the parish priest who will celebrate the funeral rites as soon as possible after death. The parish priest may or may not know the deceased and may or may not have been able to be present with last rites or prayers for the deceased at the time of passing. The family and friends should make every effort to inform the parish so that the last sacraments and prayers may be offered. In the case of sudden death or the unavailability of the priest, this might not be possible. In these cases, the family should not hesitate to release the body of their beloved to a funeral home, and then to meet with the parish priest as soon as possible afterwards.



It is best if this meeting take place before planning meetings with the funeral home. The parish priest will be ultimately responsible for the scheduling and executing of the funeral rites. However, many local funeral homes are also familiar with funerals at Christ the King and it is permissible on occasion to meet with them first and the parish later.

When you meet with the priest, scripture and music selections will be made, scheduling will be done, participation in the liturgies will be assigned, and a chance to pray for the deceased and to remember them will take place.

## ~ MUSIC ~

Music leads us beyond mere words to the deeper expressions of the heart. Music can provide great consolation and hope during the funeral liturgy. All music in the Church must be sacred and liturgical. Most often, it is an explicit expression of sacred scripture and/or the Church's symbol of faith. Secular or recorded music is not appropriate in church. It may be used at the vigil service.

Christ the King will provide the highest quality musicians for your funeral. If you have family members or friends who sing, they may be permitted to offer a song before Mass or to assist the parish musicians. To ensure that all our funeral liturgies are celebrated with the utmost dignity and integrity, parish musicians who are familiar with Christ the King liturgies are always used.

We will do our best to accommodate the songs you request, provided they are sacred and liturgical. We hope the list provided here provides excellent choices for you. We can ultimately only be responsible for knowing music that is in our Breaking Bread hymnal.

## ❧ THE RITE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH ❧

If there is a body, the priest will gather with family members at the back of Church to bless the body and to place the pall (the white baptismal cloth that covers the casket during the funeral liturgy) before the opening procession. You will need to decide who will place the pall. The family and friends will then follow the ministers and casket to the front of the Church during the opening song to the pews reserved for them.

If cremains, the sprinkling of the urn with holy water will take place at the front of Church after everyone has been seated.

## ❧ THE READINGS ❧

The family is asked to choose a first reading from the Old Testament and a second reading from the New Testament. Different selections are available and appropriate during the 8 week Easter season. The priest celebrant usually chooses the Gospel he finds most appropriate, although he will listen to requests. Please provide family members or friends with these readings. If the reader gets emotional and is unable to finish a reading, please have someone may go up to the ambo to help or to finish, or the priest will also help. If there are no readers provided, there are members of the parish who are honored to be asked to read at funerals.

## ❧ HOMILY ❧

Normally the homily is given by the priest. It may also be delegated to a priest concelebrant or to a deacon.

## ❧ PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ❧

These follow the homily. Please provide family members or friends to read these if you wish. The traditional petitions are beautiful, but please let us know if there a particular person or intention you would like mentioned.

## ❧ PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS ❧

Two people are generally needed to present the gifts but more can be included. This is a particularly good time to include children in the liturgy. You will be invited to make a song selection at this time.

## ❧ THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER ❧

This ancient prayer will unite the Church visible and invisible most perfectly with the suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus, through union with the body and blood of Christ. The means of salvation for all Christians will be celebrated at its highest point through this prayer.

## ❧ THE LORD'S PRAYER AND COMMUNION ❧

Generally, the precious blood is not distributed at funerals. Extraordinary ministers of holy communion are needed, one for every 100 persons beyond the initial hundred who can be communicated by the priest alone. You may invite people to do this or extraordinary ministers can be provided by the parish for large funerals.

At funerals it is customary for the priest to invite only those Catholics who are properly disposed to receive holy communion to come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ. Others who choose to come forward will receive a prayer of blessing from the priest, or a gesture of welcome from any extraordinary minister. The Catholic Church does not have open communion. It is an expression of unity for those who believe and practice the entirety of the Catholic faith and moral tradition, and who have properly prepared themselves to receive communion. You are invited to choose a Eucharistic song to deepen the celebration of the communion rite.

## ❧ FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL ❧

The funeral liturgy ends with a final commendation and the incensing of the body or cremains, accompanied by a sacred song of farewell. The casket or cremains are then led out of Church, followed by family and friends.

## ❧ RITE OF COMMITTAL ❧

Those going to the cemetery for the rite of committal are invited to proceed directly to their cars and to save visiting with loved ones until after the deceased has reached the final place of rest. This can be an especially difficult, final and profound moment as final farewell prayers are said at the place of burial. Although the prayers are brief, please take the time you need at the cemetery.

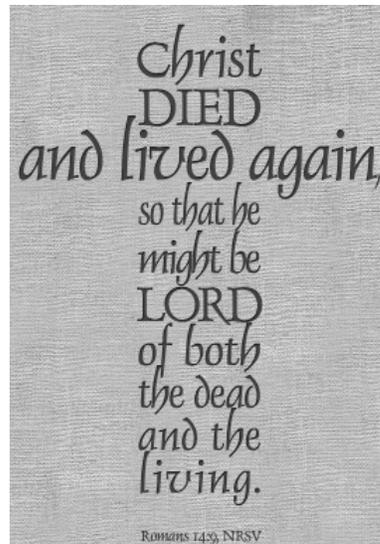
## ❧ FUNERAL LUNCHEON ❧

Christ the King is privileged to have a bereavement ministry that includes the providing of a luncheon in our parish hall following the funeral rites. Please let us know if we can serve your family in this way. This luncheon usually takes place after the rite of committal at a cemetery. However, other adaptations of food and timing can be made. We will do everything we can to serve you and to provide a place where family and friends can gather and offer condolences and remembrances. This luncheon is often a time when those in need of support can be filled with the faith, hope and love of others.

Christ the King maintains a busy schedule and will do everything to clear the parish hall for this luncheon. Sometimes, other spaces will need to be used, and we regret if this happens. You will be asked to estimate the number of people who might attend the luncheon so we can be prepared. This estimate can be hard, but necessary. Thank you for providing this.

## ❧ FEES AND STIPENDS ❧

If you are using a funeral home, the local funeral homes will have a schedule of appropriate stipends and will facilitate this discussion with you. If you would like to discuss this with us directly or if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. We do not want financial considerations to ever be a deterrent or a hardship at a time of vulnerability for the family and friends of the deceased.



❧ SUGGESTED SONGS ❧

OPENING & CLOSING HYMNS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alleluia! Sing to Jesus             | <input type="checkbox"/> Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amazing Grace                       | <input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love My Shepherd Is   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid-Dufford               | <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings-Joncas           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God of Day and God of Darkness      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing With All the Saints in Glory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Am the Bread of Life-Toolan       | <input type="checkbox"/> Christ the Lord, Is Risen Today   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Know That My Redeemer Lives-Soper | <input type="checkbox"/> For All the Saints                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Heard the Voice of Jesus          | <input type="checkbox"/> The Day of Resurrection           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem My Happy Home             |  |

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (choose one)

- Shepherd Me, O God (Psalm 23) by Marty Haugen  
"Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life."
- The Goodness of the Lord (Psalm 27) by Scott Soper  
"I believe, I believe, I shall see the goodness of the Lord, in the land, in the land of the living."
- I Thirst For You ( Psalm 42) by David Haas  
"As a deer craves running water, I thirst for you my God; I thirst for God, the living God. When will I see your face?"
- In the Land of the Living ( Psalm 116) by David Haas  
"In the land of the living, I will walk with God all my days."

PREPARATION OF GIFTS: (choose one)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because the Lord is My Shepherd-Walker | <input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Silence-Booth& Pixler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastures of the Lord-Stephan           | <input type="checkbox"/> Servant Song-McCargill       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Has Not Seen-Haugen                | <input type="checkbox"/> Softly and Tenderly-Thompson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Like a Bird-Canedo                 | <input type="checkbox"/> We Will Rise Again-Haas      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Give Me Jesus                          | <input type="checkbox"/> You Are Mine-Haas            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Here I Am, Lord-Schutte                | <input type="checkbox"/> Only in God-Talbot           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer of St. Francis                  | <input type="checkbox"/> The Lord is My Light-Walker  |

COMMUNION SONG: (choose one)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because the Lord is My Shepherd-Walker | <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings-Joncas        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid-Dufford                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Taste and See-Moore            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blest Are They-Haas                    | <input type="checkbox"/> The Supper of the Lord-Rosania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Here I Am, Lord-Schutte                | <input type="checkbox"/> We Remember-Haugen             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Am the Living Bread-Haas             | <input type="checkbox"/> You Are Mine-Haas              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Now We Remain-Haas                     |   |

❧ OLD TESTAMENT READINGS ❧

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.....3:1-9

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 in the eyes of 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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.....25:6, 7-9

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.

A reading from the Book of Lamentations.....3:17-26  
 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.

❧ NEW TESTAMENT READINGS ❧

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.....5:5-11  
 Brothers and sisters:  
 Hope does not disappoint,  
     because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts  
     through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.  
 For Christ, while we were still helpless,  
     yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly.  
 Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,  
     though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.  
 But God proves his love for us  
     in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.  
 How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood,  
     will we be saved through him from the wrath.  
 Indeed, if, while we were enemies,  
     we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,  
     how much more, once reconciled,  
     will we be saved by his life.  
 Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
     through whom we have now received reconciliation.  
 The Word of the Lord.

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

If 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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.....8:14-23

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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.....8:31-35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters:

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

He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all,  
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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.....14:7-9, 10-12

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,  
and if we die, we die for the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,  
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.....15:20-28

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 a 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.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.....4:14-5:1

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

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

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 one may receive recompense,  
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.....4:13-18

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

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

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,  
that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord,  
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

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

Then we who are alive, who are left,  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.....2:8-13

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.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.....3:1-2

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.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.....3:14-16

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.

A reading from the Book of Revelation.....20:11-21:1

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.  
The earth and the sky fled from his presence  
and there was no place for them.  
I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne,  
and scrolls were opened.  
Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.  
The dead were judged according to their deeds,  
by what was written in the scrolls.  
The sea gave up its dead;  
then Death and Hades gave up their dead.  
All the dead were judged according to their deeds.  
Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.  
This pool of fire is the second death.  
Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life  
was thrown into the pool of fire.  
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.  
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

❧ GOSPEL READINGS ❧

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.....5:1-12

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.

✘ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.....11:25-30

At that time Jesus answered,

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

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

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

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

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

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am meek and humble of heart;  
and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.

The Gospel of the Lord.

✘ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.....25:31-46

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.

✘ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.....15:33-39; 16:1-6

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.

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

✘ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.....23:44-46, 50, 52-53 24:1-6  
 It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land  
 until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.  
 Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.  
 Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
 “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”;  
 and when he had said this he breathed his last.  
 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.

✘ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.....5:24-29

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 his Son the possession of life in himself.

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

✘A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.....6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowds:

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.....6:51-59

Jesus said to the crowds:

I am the living bread that came down from heaven;  
whoever eats this bread will live forever;  
and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,

“How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them,

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.

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

For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.

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

This is the bread that came down from heaven.

Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,  
whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.....11:17-27

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.

And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus,

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

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

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him,

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

Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life;

whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to him,

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.....11:32-45

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

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

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

“Where have you laid him?”

They said to him,

“Sir, come and see.”

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.”

But some of them said,

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

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

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

Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

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

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

Jesus said to her,

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

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said,

“Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me;  
but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.”

And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice,

“Lazarus, come out!”

The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands,  
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.

So Jesus said to them,

“Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen  
what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

✘ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.....12:23-28

Jesus said to the 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.

✘ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.....12:23-28

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.

## PETITIONS

1. In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. Lord, in your mercy:
2. N. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy:
3. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. Lord, in your mercy.....
4. Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. Lord, in your mercy:
5. Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. Lord, in your mercy:
6. The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. Lord, in your mercy:
7. We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for N. Strengthen our hope that we may live in the hope of Jesus' return. Lord, in your mercy:

☞FUNERAL MASS - ORDER OF WORSHIP ☞

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

Date of Funeral \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

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

Information on person filling out this form:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Immediate survivors: (Names and relationships to the deceased)

\_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home/Location \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation at funeral home      Yes  No  Visitation hours \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Vigil/Service            Yes  No  Time \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation in church  
(prior to Funeral Liturgy)      Yes  No  Visitation hours \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Mass                        Yes  No  Time \_\_\_\_\_

Bereavement Meal                Yes  No  If yes, approximate # \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Meal Arrangements \_\_\_\_\_

Interment: Name of Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Mausoleum \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Contributions to be designated to \_\_\_\_\_

❧ FUNERAL MASS - ORDER OF WORSHIP ❧

*See lists provided to choose recommended readings and songs.*

Blessing of Body with Holy Water

Funeral Pall placed on casket by family (Presider/Deacon assists)

Opening Song \_\_\_\_\_

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Lector \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm Response \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Lector \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Acclamation

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

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Lector \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation of Gifts \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Gift Bearers (Optional) Minimum of 2 would be needed.

\_\_\_\_\_

Song for Preparation of Gifts \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Song \_\_\_\_\_

Incensing/Final Commendation

Closing Song \_\_\_\_\_

Pallbearers for Mass \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

D