



Funeral Liturgy Planning Guide

Celebrating a Funeral at Church of the Gesu



Updated June 2023

Dear Parishioners,

We would like to offer you our deepest condolences on the loss of your loved one. Please be assured that we are here to accompany you through the process of grieving the loss of your loved one and celebrating his or her life.

*This booklet has been created to assist you in the preparation of the Funeral Liturgy. You will find an overview of the various parts of the Church's Order of Christian Funerals followed by an outline of the Mass of Christian Burial which includes reading and music selections. Lastly there is a liturgy planning sheet on pages **43-44** that you can fill out on your own or with the assistance of the presider or member of the parish staff. You can finalize your selections when you meet with the presider.*

The thoughts and prayers of the entire Gesu community are with you and your loved one at this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office at 216-932-0617.

Peace Be With You,

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ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

All the baptized are entitled to the full rite of Christian burial supplied by the Catholic Church's *Order of Christian Funerals*. You and your family will experience the Church's funeral rites in three distinct and important parts:

Vigil for the Deceased (*Wake Service*)

The time for visitation is at the funeral home (not the church). The vigil service is part of the Order of Christian Burial. At this time someone from the family, or a friend, may wish to remember the deceased by playing a reflection song or poem, displaying pictures or by sharing personal memories. *This is the most appropriate time for sharing thoughts, memories and stories rather than the funeral Mass. Or you may offer these at the family gathering or luncheon after the funeral/burial.*

Funeral Liturgy

This is the most important part of the celebration of Christian Burial. This is almost always celebrated within a Mass. The bodily remains are honored by being brought to the Church. We celebrate the life of the deceased in the whole context of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a ritual of the Church, it follows a particular liturgical format that is described in this booklet.

There might be a time when a family might choose not to do a funeral Mass. Please discuss this with the priest before any decision like this is made.

Rite of Committal

Almost always, a member of the Gesu staff will accompany the remains and the family to the cemetery and conclude the funeral services with the prayers of Committal.

Cremation

Cremation is permitted by the Church. However, the Church does have two very strong guidelines surrounding cremation. First, the Church strongly recommends that cremation occur after the funeral liturgy thus allowing the fullness of the symbols of Christian burial to be expressed in the funeral liturgy. Second, 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. The cremated remains are to be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased is not in accord with what the church envisions. Whenever possible, appropriate means for recording with dignity the memory of the deceased should be adopted, such as a plaque or headstone which records the name of the deceased.

Words of Remembrance

Eulogies or words of remembrance are not part of the Catholic Rite of Funerals. However, there are times when a family member or friend may wish to speak in memory of a deceased one. This option is possible, but not necessary. When included, the remarks should be brief (*no longer than 5 minutes*). If you wish to include remarks of remembrance at Mass, please note this on the planning form and check with the presiding priest. *Our practice is that this takes place at the beginning of the funeral liturgy. It is limited to only one person speaking for no longer than 5 minutes.*

Ministers

Lectors (Readers): Family members or friends are encouraged to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture and offer the Universal Prayers (*petitions*) at the funeral Mass. Please try to choose individuals with clear speaking voices and who will be comfortable proclaiming the Word. The Scriptures are meant to bring comfort to those who have gathered to pray and the Universal Prayers are offered for the deceased and in consolation for those who mourn. It is helpful to give your chosen readers a copy of the scriptures and prayers before the liturgy so that they may prepare in advance. If you wish a parishioner or staff member to proclaim the scriptures and universal prayers, please indicate this on the planning sheet.

Gift Bearers: Family members or friends are also encouraged to offer the gifts of bread and wine in procession during the preparation of the altar and presentation of the gifts. Please select at least two people and indicate on the planning sheet.

Musicians and Servers: Our parish receptionist will contact both the music director and altar servers. In regard to music, an accompanist and a cantor are present for every funeral liturgy.

Visiting Priests: Visiting priests are welcome to concelebrate and take part in the Mass. Please inform the presiding priest, and ask the visiting priest to contact the parish as well.

Stipends

All parishioners are entitled to our ministries without charge. We also would not exclude anyone who is not formally registered or hasn't been able to contribute financially to the parish. However, it is customary that the family provide an offering to the Church. Typically, a portion of the fees paid to the funeral director is used to cover the services of the Cantor, the Church, and the primary musician. (\$375.) Again, these are not required in order to receive a Christian burial. A stipend or offering for one of our priests (\$150, suggested) would be made out to the John Carroll Jesuit Community. *If a family is not working with a funeral director, the family is responsible for all of these.*

Mass Cards for the intentions of the deceased can be requested from our parish or any parish church. The general offering/stipend for these Masses is \$10.

Memorial Offerings

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to donate to the Church of the Gesu or Gesu School.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

When a family meets with someone at the parish to plan for the funeral, you will discuss having the funeral in the Church or the Marian Chapel.

For the details below, there is some adjusting considering the location.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

The priest, ministers and the assembly greet the body at the entrance of the Church/Chapel.

Entrance Hymn

The body or cremains are carried to the front of the church near the Paschal Candle and Baptismal font, the sign of the light of Christ and the eternal life into which we are born and die with him. The gathering hymn is sung during the entrance procession. Please select a hymn from the selections found on [page 41](#) and indicate your choice on the planning sheet at the end of this booklet.

Sprinkling with Holy Water

At the baptismal font, the body or cremains are blessed with holy water by the presider as a reminder of the saving waters of baptism.

Placing of the Pall

When a casket is present, a white cloth or “pall” is unfolded and placed on the casket. This cloth symbolizes the baptismal garment of our Catholic faith. Family members are encouraged to take part in this ritual at the liturgy.

**** For a funeral taking place in the Marian Chapel, the sprinkling and placing of the pall happens in the narthex/vestibule.*

Words of Remembrance (optional)

This is an opportunity for a member of the family to speak on behalf of the all those present sharing a brief (no more than 5 minutes) reflection about the deceased and offering thanks for the care and concern of those gathered to celebrate. This is entirely optional. This is limited to only one person offering these words for no more than 5 minutes.

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Scripture Reading

Proclaimed by a family member or friend. Please choose one reading from the selections on pages 9-13 and indicate your choice on the planning sheet at the end of this booklet.

Psalm

Sung by the cantor / choir. Please choose one musical setting of the Psalm from the selections on pages 14-15 and indicate your choice on the planning sheet at the end of this booklet.

Second Scripture Reading

Proclaimed by a family member or friend. Please choose one reading from the selections on pages 16-26 and indicate your choice on the planning sheet at the end of this booklet.

Gospel Reading

Proclaimed by the Priest or Deacon. Please choose one Gospel reading from the selections on pages 27-38 and indicate your choice on the planning sheet at the end of this booklet.

Homily

Given by the Presider

Universal Prayers

Offered by a family member or friend. These can be found on page 39.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar and Presentation of the Gifts /

Preparation Hymn

The gifts of bread and wine are offered by family members or friends (at least 2 people). The preparation hymn is sung or played during this time. Please select a hymn from the selections found on page 41 and indicate your choice on the planning sheet at the end of this booklet.

Eucharistic Prayer and Acclamations (Holy, Mystery of Faith and Amen)

The Lord's Prayer

Exchange of Peace**Fraction of the Bread** (*Lamb of God*)**Distribution of Holy Communion / Communion Hymn**

If you have any family members or friends who are commissioned Eucharistic Ministers, please indicate to the presider and on the planning sheet. Please select a hymn from the selections found on page 41 and indicate your choice on the planning sheet at the end of this booklet.

Prayer After Communion**Final Commendation****Invitation to Prayer /****Song of Farewell**

This song is sung as the body is being incensed: a sign of our prayers, thoughts, and petitions rising up to God and an acknowledgment of the sacred nature of the human body.

Prayer of Commendation**Procession to the Place of Committal / Recessional Hymn**

The hymn is sung as the procession exits the Church. Please select a hymn from the selections found on page 41 and indicate your choice on the planning sheet at the end of this booklet.

SELECTIONS for the LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The **FIRST READING** is taken from the Hebrew Scriptures or the “Old” Testament. Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your choice by letter and number (Ex: OT1) on the planning sheet. Typically a family member or friend of the deceased would serve as reader; however, if no one is able, someone from the parish can do this.*

OT1 – Job 19: 1, 23-27a

“I know that my Vindicator lives”

A reading from the Book of Job

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! As for me, I know that my vindicator lives, and that the Lord will at last stand forth upon the dust. This will happen when my skin has been stripped off, and from my flesh I will see God: I will see for myself, my own eyes, not another’s, will behold God: my inmost being is consumed with longing.”

The Word of the Lord.

OT2a –Wisdom 3:1-9 (Longer version) “The souls of the just are in the hand of God”

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 the world, 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, God proved them, and as sacrificial offerings God took them to God’s self.

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 the Lord shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with God in love: because grace and mercy are with the holy ones, and God’s care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OT2b – Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (*Shorter version*) *“The souls of the just are in the hand of God”*

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 the world, 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, God proved them, and as sacrificial offerings God took them to God's self.

Those who trust in the Lord shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with God in love: because grace and mercy are with the holy ones, and God's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OT3 – Wisdom 4:7-15 *“The righteous one*

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

But the righteous one, though they 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 passes for gray hair, and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age. The one who pleased God was loved, living among sinners, was transported—Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert their mind or deceit beguile their 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, they reached the fullness of a long career; for their soul was pleasing to the LORD, therefore God sped them out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take that consideration into account.

The Word of the Lord.

OT4 – Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 *“God will destroy death forever.”*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain, the Lord will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; God will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of God’s people will be removed 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.

OT5 – Lamentations 3:17-26 *“My portion is the Lord, says my soul; I will hope in God.”*

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My life is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; My enduring hope, I said, has perished before the LORD. The thought of my wretched homelessness is wormwood and poison; Remembering it over and over, my soul is downcast. But this I will call to mind; therefore I will hope: The LORD’s acts of mercy are not exhausted, God’s compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning—great is your faithfulness!

The LORD is my portion, I tell myself, therefore I will hope in God. The LORD is good to those who trust, to the one that seeks God; It is good to hope in silence for the LORD’s deliverance.

The Word of the Lord.

OT6 – Daniel 12:1-3 *“Those who sleep will awake to everlasting life.”*

A reading from the Book of Daniel

At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since the nation 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 to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting disgrace. But those with insight 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.

OT7 – Maccabees 12:43-46 *“He acted in an excellent and noble way.”*

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 in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. 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 absolved from their sin.

The Word of the Lord.

OT8 – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11 *“God has made everything appropriate to its time.”*

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to give birth, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

OT9 – Proverbs 31:10-20, 25-31 *“Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.”*

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband too, extols her: “Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.” Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM

*The responsorial Psalm is taken from the Book of Psalms in the Hebrew Scriptures or the “Old” Testament. Psalm literally translates to **Song and is proclaimed by the cantor**. Please choose one of the following and indicate your choice by letter and number (Ex: **Ps23**) on the planning sheet:*

Ps23 Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name, Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Ps25 Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you, I lift me soul.

Lord. Make me know your ways, teach me your paths and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my Savior.

For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander, gently leading the poor and the humble.

To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God’s word, who live God’s love, God will always be near, and will show them mercy.

Ps63 Psalm 63

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

O God, you are my God, and I will always praise you. In the shadow of your wings I cling to you and you hold me high.

Through the day you walk with me; all the night your love surrounds me. To the glory of your name I lift my hands, I sing your praise.

I will never be afraid, for I will not be abandoned. Even when the road grows long and weary your love will rescue me.

Ps103 Psalm 103

The Lord is kind and merciful, the Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my being bless God's name; bless the Lord and forget not God's benefits.

God pardons all your iniquities, and comforts your sorrows, redeems your life from destruction and crowns you with kindness.

Merciful, merciful, and gracious is our God; slow to anger, abounding in kindness.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING:

The second reading is taken from the Christian Scriptures or the "New Testament" which are the stories of the early Church and give for us an example of Christian living. Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your choice by letter and number (Ex: NT5) on the planning sheet. Typically a family member or friend of the deceased would offer these prayers. If you would prefer one of our pastoral staff to do so instead, please indicate that as well.

NT1a – Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (Longer Version) *"Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT1b – Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43 (*Shorter Version*) *"Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT2 – Romans 5:5-11 *"God's love for us has been proven in Christ's sacrifice."*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Sisters and brothers: 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 God's 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 God's 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.

NT3 – Romans 5:17-21 *“Though we are sinners, God’s grace brings us to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Sisters and brothers: For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

NT4a – Romans 6:3-9 (Longer Version) *“If then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.”*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Are you unaware, sisters and brothers, 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 Creator, 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.

NT4b – Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 (*Shorter Version*) *"If then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Are you unaware, sisters and brothers, 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 Creator, we too might live in newness of life. 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.

NT5 – Romans 8:14-23 *"We are children of God and joint heirs with Christ."*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT6 – Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 *“Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Sisters and brothers: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

NT7 – Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12 *“Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Sisters and brothers: 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 sister or brother? Or you, why do you look down on your sister or 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 account of ourselves to God.

The Word of the Lord.

NT8a – 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (*Longer Version*) "*So, too, in Christ shall all be brought to life.*"

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT8b – 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (*Shorter Version*)

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

Sisters and brothers: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

NT9 – 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 *“Death is swallowed up in victory: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”*

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

Sisters and brothers: 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.

NT10 – 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1 *“We are not discouraged”*

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

Sisters and brothers: 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.

NT11 – 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 *“We have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.”*

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT12 – Philippians 3:20-21 *“Our citizenship is in heaven.”*

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Sisters and Brothers: 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 thing into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

NT13 – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *“Thus we shall always be with the Lord.”*

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring to life 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, 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.

NT14 – 2 Timothy 2:8-13 *“If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.”*

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

NT 14b 2 Timothy 4:6-8

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

NT15 – 1 John 3:1-2 *“We are God’s children.”*

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God. 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 God for we shall see God as God is.

The Word of the Lord.

NT16 – 1 John 3:14-16 *“We ought to lay down our lives for one another.”*

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT17 – Revelation 14:13 *“Let them find rest from their labors.”*

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” said the Spirit, “let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them.”*

The Word of the Lord.

NT18 – Revelation 20:11-21:1 *“The dead were judged according to their deeds.”*

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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.

NT19 – Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 *“God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.”*

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. God will dwell with them and they will be God’s people and God will always be with them as their God.

God will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.” The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then it was said to me, “Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true. They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be their God, and they will be my children.”

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING:

The Gospel reading can be taken from any one of the four Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These New Testament books recount Jesus' earthly life, his ministry and teachings, his Passion, death and Resurrection. Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your choice by letter and number (Ex: G4) on the planning sheet. The presider or Deacon proclaims the Gospel reading.

G1 – Matthew 5:1-12a *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G2 – Matthew 11:25-30 *"Come to me, all who labor and are burdened."*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said "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 Father except the Son and anyone 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.

G3 – Matthew 25:1-13 *Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: "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 hours."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G4 – Matthew 25:31-40 *"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son 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 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 sisters or brothers of mine, you did for me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G5a – Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 *Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*

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 sabachtani?" 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 brought 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.

G5b – Mark 15:33-39 *Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*

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 sabachtani?" 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G6 – Luke 7:11-17 *Young man, I say to you, arise.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

G7 – Luke 12:35-40 *Be prepared.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

G8 – Luke 23:33, 39-43 *Today you will be with me in paradise*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When they 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 Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for this 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.

G9a – Luke 23:14-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a *Father, I put my life in your hands.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, he 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.

But 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 among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G9b Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53 *Father, I put my life in your hands*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, he 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G10a Luke 24:13-35 *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now that very day the first day of the week two of the disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us,

for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?” So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G10b Luke 24:13-16, 28-35 *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now that very day the first day of the week two of the disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?” So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G11 John 5:24-29 *Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews:

“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrections of condemnation.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G12 – John 6:37-40 *“All who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day.”*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds: “Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who come 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 was given 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 them on the last day.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G13 – John 6:51-58 *“Whoever eats this bread will live forever.”*

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. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son 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 them 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 them. 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. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G14a – John 11:17-27 *“I am the resurrection and the life”*

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. 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 they die, 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.

G14b – John 11:21-27 *“I am the resurrection and the life”*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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 they die, 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.

G15 – John 11:32-35 *Lazarus, come out*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how much 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 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 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.

G16a – John 12:23-28 *"If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest."*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son 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 their life will lose it, and whoever hates their 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.

G16b – John 12:23-26 *"Where I am, there also will my servant be."*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son 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 their life will lose it, and whoever hates their life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me."
The Gospel of the Lord.

G17 – John 14:1-6 *"In my Father's house there are many dwellings."*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may also 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 come to the Father except through me."
The Gospel of the Lord.

G18 – John 17:24-26 *Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Father, my disciples 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.

G19 – John 19:17-18, 25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus carrying the cross himself went out to that is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that house 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 this 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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

The Universal Prayers (also known as the General Intercessions or Prayers of the Faithful) are offered after the homily. You may use all of the prayers below, select several of them or write your own. Typically a family member or friend of the deceased would offer these prayers. If you would prefer one of our pastoral staff to do so instead, please indicate on the planning sheet.

Our response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In baptism _____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead *her / him* over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Our *sister / brother* _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome *her / him* into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

The family and friends of _____ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our *sister / brother* _____. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all of us assembled here who worship in faith, and for those members of our families who have died, (*especially...you may list the names of the deceased family and friends*), that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

SELECTIONS for the LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR / PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*We offer the gift of our lives and the work of our hands, the bread and wine, to God and ask that by the working of the Holy Spirit, God may graciously transform our offering into the Body and Blood of Christ. The gifts may be offered by family members or friends. **Please choose at least 2 people** who, at the conclusion of the Universal Prayers (petitions), will carry the pitcher of wine and the vessel of hosts and come forward to present the gifts to the presider.*

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is distributed to the assembly under both forms, bread and wine (The Body and Blood of Christ.) If you have family members or friends who are commissioned Ministers of Holy Communion and they would like to serve during the distribution of Communion at the funeral liturgy, please indicate this on the planning sheet so the presider can plan accordingly.

FUNERAL LUNCHEON

If available, the use of McAuley Hall for a reception after the funeral may be arranged. If you are planning to use this space, arrangements are made through the parish office. Be mindful that this space is not always available because of other church or school activities.

MUSIC PLANNING

Please refer to this list of hymns as suggestions for funeral liturgies. If there are pieces that you do not see below, you may still list them on your planning guide, and the music director at the funeral will see that it is included, if appropriate. Generally, there are four hymns at a funeral liturgy: Entrance, Offertory, Communion and Recessional. Offertory may be instrumental if you wish to choose only three hymns. Offertory (when gifts are brought forward) is also the ideal time for a sacred solo piece, such as *Ave Maria*. Italicized selections tend to be most common or “favorites”. The Catholic Mass is not the appropriate place for prerecorded or secular music. If this is desired, you may consider the wake or luncheon as a time to utilize such selections.

<i>Amazing Grace</i> #645	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You #614
<i>Be Not Afraid</i> #638	We Remember #681
Christ Be Our Light #590	Open My Eyes #651
<i>On Eagle's Wings</i> #691	O God beyond All Praising #598
Come to the Water #584	Turn to the Living God #485
<i>Here I Am, Lord</i> #777	Seek Ye First #658
City of God #766	Holy God, We Praise Thy Name #615
<i>I am the Bread of Life</i> #945	Lift High the Cross #881
<i>Sing With All the Saints in Glory</i> #539	These Alone Are Enough #650
<i>How Great Thou Art</i> #578	Behold the Lamb #939
Lord of All Hopefulness #663	How Can I Keep From Singing #685
<i>Hosea (Come Back to Me)</i> #484	Only This I Want #782
<i>Make Me a Channel of Your Peace</i> #828	In the Arms of God #714

Each funeral liturgy will have an organist/pianist (both instruments may be used, depending on the selections), and a cantor (singer). If you would like to have other instruments (violin, quartet, trumpet) in addition to the organ and piano, please consult the music director who will make the appropriate arrangements with professional musicians. Outside musicians are not permitted. Additional fees will be needed for additional instruments.

Music Director: Mark Ehrbar - mehrbar@churchofthegesu.org

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LITURGY NOTES –

Liturgy of the Word:

Please choose a reader who is comfortable speaking or reading in public, and suggest s/he check out the microphone before Mass.

- *The presider invites everyone to be seated for our readings. The **1st lector** reverences (bows to) the altar and goes to the ambo (lectern) to proclaim the 1st reading. After the 1st reading the lector returns to his/her seat.*
- *The cantor sings the Responsorial Psalm*
- *After the Psalm, the **2nd lector** reverences (bows to) the altar and goes to the ambo to proclaim the 2nd reading. After the 2nd reading the lector returns to his/her seat.*
- *After the Homily, the assembly stands and the presider will invite the person(s) offering the General Intercessions (Universal Prayers) to come forward. The reader reverences (bows to) the altar and goes to the ambo to offer the prayers. After the prayers are offered, the reader returns to his/her seat.*

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

- *After the General Intercessions (Universal Prayers) are offered, everyone will be invited to take their seats. At this time, those presenting the gifts of bread and wine will bring the gifts to the presider then return to their seats.*
- *If there are commissioned Eucharist Ministers who will be assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion, they come forward to the altar during the singing of the Lamb of God.*

FUNERAL LITURGY PLANNING SHEET

Name of the Deceased _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Date and Time of Funeral Liturgy _____

Presider _____

Family Member Contact Information *(Name, Relationship to the deceased, Phone #, Email, etc.)*

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Greeting - Sprinkling with Holy Water

Entrance Procession /

Placing of the Pall

Words of Remembrance: *(optional) This is limited to only one person, and lasting no more than 5 minutes.*

Offered by: _____

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Scripture Reading: _____

(Selections found on pages 9-13)

Proclaimed by (Lector): _____

Psalm: _____

*(Music selections found on pages 14-15. Proclaimed in **song** by a cantor.*

2nd Scripture Reading: _____

(Selections found on pages 16-26)

Proclaimed by (Lector): _____

Gospel Reading: _____
(Selections found on pages 27-38) Proclaimed by the Presider or Deacon.

Homily

Universal Prayers: (Selections found on page 39)

Read by: _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar

Gifts presented by: _____

Eucharistic Prayer and Acclamations (*Holy, Holy, Mystery of Faith, Amen*)

The Lord's Prayer

Exchange of Peace

Breaking of the Bread (*Lamb of God*)

Distribution of Holy Communion

Eucharistic Ministers (optional): _____

FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer

Hymns (4) We will place them in proper places within the mass. If you have specified requests for where they would be sung, please note that next to the hymn selection:

(Music selections found on page 41)

Additional notes about the liturgy: _____

of Worship Aids to print: _____

Luncheon: (yes or no?) _____ (estimated # of guests) _____



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Website: www.churchofthegesu.org

Mass Schedule Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 11:30 am