



# Funeral Liturgy Planning Guide

**St. Louis Catholic Church**

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# ***Table of Contents***

*This packet contains examples of readings suitable for funerals. You are not limited to these readings.*

Funeral Liturgy Guidelines .....	1
Music and Audio/Visual Guidelines .....	2
Old Testament Readings.....	4
Responsorial Psalms .....	9
New Testament Readings .....	12
Gospel Readings.....	18
Notes for Lectors .....	25
Notes for Gift Bearers .....	25
Funeral Preparation Checklist .....	26



# Funeral Liturgy at St. Louis Church

Through prayer, scripture and music we are able to express our faith during the funeral liturgy. We invite you to make several choices when planning the funeral liturgy by choosing the Old and New Testament readings, the psalm, and hymns. We invite others to assist in the ministerial roles of Lector and Gift Bearer.

**READINGS:** This packet contains examples of readings suitable for funerals. You are not limited to these readings.

**Old Testament Readings:** Choose one of the readings C-1 through C-7 unless it is during the Easter season. During the Easter season, one of the readings C-8 through C-11 may be chosen instead of a passage from the Old Testament.

**Responsorial Psalms:** Psalms should be sung. Our staff will help you with your psalm selection.

**New Testament Readings:** Choose one of these readings E-1 through E15.

## Gospel Readings

The priest celebrating the Funeral Mass usually chooses the Gospel Reading. Please let him know if you have a Gospel Reading you would prefer to use.

**LECTORS:** You may choose one or two people to read the Old and New Testament Readings. Please let our staff know whether or not you will have lectors. We have volunteer lectors we can contact if necessary.

**GIFT BEARERS:** You may choose two or more people to carry the gifts of bread and wine in procession during Preparation of the Gifts (Offertory). Please let our staff know whether or not you will have gift bearers.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** St. Louis Church will provide altar servers for the funeral.

**PROGRAMS:** St. Louis Church will provide a folded program listing the parts of the mass, hymns and hymns numbers.

**FLOWERS:** You may provide flowers for the altar for your funeral. Please check with our staff—at times we can use the flowers from the weekend. We cannot receive flowers from the funeral home, but small arrangements placed by the sign-in books are appropriate.

**VIGIL SERVICE/ROSARY:** One of our St. Louis priests or deacons will be available to conduct a Vigil Service and/or Rosary the evening before the funeral liturgy. During this service at the funeral home, eulogies, words of remembrance, and secular music are most welcomed. We are happy to assist you in the preparation of this service.

**EULOGIES:** The inclusion of eulogies is not allowed within the framework of the Mass. The primary focus of the Catholic funeral liturgy is on the worship of God, the offering of the Eucharist, and the prayers for the deceased. It is appropriate for a eulogy to be given at the visitation or reception.

## MUSIC & AUDIO/VISUAL

Music is an integral part of the funeral liturgy. Music helps to console, to pray, to remember, to praise, and to worship. At difficult times such as this, music is often able to express that which is inexpressible.

In accordance with the Order of Christian Funerals (#31), "The texts of the songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death, and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from scripture." We are happy to work with you to make musical selections that are both meaningful and appropriate for the celebration, and you can find many musical suggestions on the next page.

Please know that neither pre-recorded music nor secular music is permissible for the Catholic funeral liturgy. Also, not all contemporary Christian music reflects Catholic theology and will be permitted only on a case-by-case basis. That said, in consultation with the clergy and staff, you are welcome to use music of this type for any visitation or reception that you may wish to have.

It is the responsibility of Dr. Scott Elsholz, Director of Music, to provide the liturgical musical needs of our parish, including funerals. An organist/pianist and cantor will be provided for the funeral. The stipend amounts are \$200 for the organist/pianist and \$100 for the cantor.

Our parish has a Resurrection Choir. This choir is made up of dedicated volunteers who provide support to the cantor and congregation when singing hymns and Mass parts. Dr. Elsholz will contact the members of this ministry to determine their availability to serve at the funeral.

We are able to livestream the funeral on our parish Facebook and YouTube pages. If you would like to use this service, please inform our staff. This recording will be broadcast to all who subscribe to our social media outlets and will remain available to be viewed indefinitely. We do not have the capability to create a private recording.

If you desire outside musicians and/or cantors for a funeral, that request will be considered by the Pastor and the Director of Music.

Please call Jan O'Donnell at **255-1954 (office) or 488-4675 (cell)** for assistance in planning the funeral liturgy. You may also email Jan at [jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org](mailto:jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org).

After you speak with Jan, please feel free to contact our Director of Music should you have any questions about musical selections:

Dr. Scott Elsholz  
[scottelsholz@gmail.com](mailto:scottelsholz@gmail.com)  
255-1982 (office)  
574-0754 (cell)

## **Musical Suggestions**

Here is a list of suggested hymns for the funeral liturgy. This is certainly not an exhaustive list and please don't hesitate to ask about other hymns or songs that hold special meaning for you and your family.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus  
Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er  
Amazing Grace  
Ave Maria (vocal solo)  
Be Not Afraid  
Crown Him with Many Crowns  
For All the Saints  
Grant Them Eternal Rest  
Here I Am, Lord  
How Can I Keep from Singing?  
How Great Thou Art  
Humbly We Adore You  
I Am the Bread of Life  
Jerusalem, My Happy Home  
Jesus, Remember Me  
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You  
Lead Me, Guide Me  
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
Make Me A Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)  
O God, Our Help in Ages Past  
On Eagle's Wings  
One Bread, One Body  
Panis Angelicus (vocal solo)  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
Seek Ye First  
Shall We Gather at the River  
Shepherd Me, O God  
Soon and Very Soon  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
The Summons  
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones  
You Are Near  
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

You may also wish to choose a specific musical setting of the Mass, Familiar settings at St. Louis Church include:

Missa Simplex (our default Mass setting)  
Mass of Creation  
Mass of St. Frances Cabrini  
Mass of St. Ann  
Wondrous Love Mass (during Lent)

# Old Testament Readings

Choose one of these readings C-1 through C-7 unless it is during the Easter season. During the Easter season, one of the readings C-8 through C-11 may be chosen instead of a passage from the Old Testament.

## Outside Easter Time: Old Testament

**C1**     *He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.*

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

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas [the ruler of Israel] then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The word of the Lord.

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**C2**     *I know that my Vindicator lives.*

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

A reading from the book of Job.

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

The word of the Lord

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**C3**     *As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

Long version: **Wisdom 3, 1-9**

A reading from the book of Wisdom



The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

The word of the Lord

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**C3**    *As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

Short version: Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. 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

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**C4**    *An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*

**Wisdom 4:7-14**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

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

The word of the Lord

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**C5**     *He will destroy death forever.*

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

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

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

The word of the Lord.

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**C6**     *It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.*

**Lamentations 3:17-26**

A reading from the book of Lamentations

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

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**C7**     *Many of those who sleep on the dust of the earth shall awake.*

**Daniel 12:1-3**

A reading from the book of prophet Daniel

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

The word of the Lord.

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## **During Easter Time: New Testament**

*(Note: During the Easter season one of the following four readings is used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.)*

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**C8**     *He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.*

Long Version: **Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel 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

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**C8**     *He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.*

Short Version:         Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel 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.

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**C9**     *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*

**Revelation 14:13**

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.

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**C10**     *The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

**Revelation 20:11-21:1**

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.

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**C11**     *There shall be no more death.*

**Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7** 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. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there 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." 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 his God, and he will be my son.

The word of the Lord.

# ***Responsorial Psalms***

Psalms should be sung.

## **D1 Psalm 23**

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

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;

Beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul. **R.**

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil;

for you are at my side

with your rod and your staff that give me courage. **R.**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come. **R.**

## **D2 Psalm 27**

**Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?

The Lord is my life's refuge;

of whom should I be afraid? **R.**

One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate his temple. **R.**

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

Your presence, O Lord, I seek.

Hide not your face from me. **R.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord with courage;

be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. **R.**

### **D3 Psalm 46**

**Refrain: Be still and know that I am God.**

God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in distress. **R.**

Thus we do not fear, though earth be shaken  
and mountains quake to the depths of the sea,  
though its waters rage and foam  
and the mountains totter at its surging. **R.**

“Be still and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth.”  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
our stronghold is the God of Jacob. **R.**

### **D4 Psalm 63**

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

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

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory,  
For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you. **R.**

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

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

## **D5 Psalm 103**

**Refrain: The Lord is kind and merciful.**

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

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

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

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

## **D6 Psalm 143**

**Refrain: O Lord, hear my prayer.**

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

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

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

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

# New Testament Readings

Choose one of these readings E-1 through E15.

**E1**     *Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.*

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

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit 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.

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**E2**     *Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.*

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

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one 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.

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**E3**     *We too might live in newness of life.*

## Long Version: **Romans 6:3-9**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was



raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

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Short Version: **Romans 6:3-4, 8-9**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. 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.

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**E4**     *We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*

**Romans 8:14-23**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: 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.

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**E5**     *What will separate us from the love of Christ?*

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

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

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, 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.

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**E6**     *Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*

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

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

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

The word of the Lord.

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**E7**     *So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.*

**1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a 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 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, 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.

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**E8**     *Death is swallowed up in victory.*

**1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

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

The word of the Lord.

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**E9**     *What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.*

**2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1**

A reading from the second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

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.

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**E10**     *We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.*

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

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

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

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**E11** *He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.*

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

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

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

The word of the Lord.

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**E12** *Thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

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

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

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.

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**E13** *If we have died with him we shall also live with him.*

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

A reading from the second letter of St. 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.

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**E14**    *We shall see him as he is.*

**1 John 3:1-2**

A reading from the first letter of John

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

The word of the Lord.

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**E15**    *We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.*

**1 John 3:14-16**

A reading from the first letter of John

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

The word of the Lord.

# ***Gospel Readings***

Choose one of these readings G1 through G19.

**G1**     *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

When he 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. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**G2**     *Come to me and I will give you rest.*

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus answered: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**G3**     *Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!*

**Matthew 25:1-13**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**G4**     *Come, you who are blessed by my Father.*

**Matthew 25:31-46**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

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**G5**     *Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed His last.*

**Mark 15:33-39; 16, 1-6**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**G5**     *Short version*

**Mark 15:33-39**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.



**G6**     *Young man, I tell you, arise!*

**Luke 7:11-17**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Soon afterward he 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.

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**G7**     *You also must be prepared.*

**Luke 12:35-40**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**G8** *Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day.*

**John 6:37-40**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

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.

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**G9** *Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.*

**John 6:51-59**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:

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

This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**G10** *I am the resurrection and the life.*

**John 11:17-27**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived, 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 Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**G10** *Short version*

**John 11:21-27**

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 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 Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**G11** *Lazarus, come out!*

**John 11:32-45**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

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

**G12** *If it dies, it produces much fruit.*

**John 12:23-38**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus answered them,

"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 loses 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.

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**G12** *Short version*

**John 12:23-26**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus answered them, "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 loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**G13** *In my Father's house there are many dwellings.*

**John 14:1-6**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

# ***Notes to Lectors***

*These instructions are for lectors seated on the right side of Church with the family.*

## **FIRST READING**

- After the Processional Hymn and Opening Prayer everyone will sit down.
- Lector will leave pew and go in front of the casket and bow to the altar/tabernacle.
- Lector will go to the pulpit and read.
- When Lector has finished reading, he/she walks to center and bows in front of the altar/tabernacle and returns to pew.

*\*Note: If you are sitting on the left hand side of the Church (statue of the Blessed Mother on the left hand side): please sit to the left, near the door. After the Opening Prayer you will go directly forward up to the pulpit. After you read, walk directly back to your pew. You do not have to bow since you are not crossing in front of the tabernacle.*

*Note: If the same person proclaims both readings, please step away from the pulpit while the cantor is singing the psalm.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM will be sung by the cantor.**

## **SECOND READING**

- After the psalm is sung by the cantor/soloist, the second reader will:
- Lector will leave pew and go in front of the casket and bow to the altar/tabernacle.
- Lector will go to the pulpit and read.
- When Lector has finished reading, he/she walks to center and bows in front of the altar/tabernacle and returns to pew.

# ***Notes to Gift Bearers***

Perhaps some of the grandchildren, family or friends would like to carry the gifts of bread and wine forward. They will be set up at the back of the church.

Procedure: After we have completed the Prayer of the Faithful (Lord, hear our prayer), the celebrant and the congregation will sit down and the Preparation of the Gifts will begin.

- The Altar Servers will pick up the Processional Candles. They will walk down the center aisle and the Gift Bearers will follow them down the center aisle to the back of the church.
- The Gift Bearers will pick up the gifts and follow the Altar Servers back to the front of the church and hand the gifts to the celebrant. The celebrant will be standing at the center aisle waiting to accept these gifts. Gift Bearers will then return to their seats.
- Just remember: Follow the SERVERS down the aisle and back up the aisle.

# ***Funeral Preparation Checklist***

- ☐ Old Testament Reading \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ New Testament Reading \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Gospel \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Lectors (1 or 2)
- ☐ Gift Bearers (please inform us of number of gift bearers) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Flowers
- ☐ Music:
  - ☐ Processional \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Psalm \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Preparation of the Gifts and Altar \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Communion \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Recessional \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Livestream (please indicate yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_