



PLANNING A FUNERAL

For

(Print Full Name)

(Date of Birth)-(Date of Death)

(Service Date & Time)

From the Burial Liturgy

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

-The Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 507

At the Time of Death

When a death occurs, we know that it can be a difficult, painful, and complicated time. Please contact Fr. Clayton in the event of a death in your family, or when a death is imminent. We are here to provide help and comfort in your difficult time, and to commend your loved one to God, our merciful redeemer.

Advanced Planning

This booklet can also help you make your plans well in advance of any anticipated service. When someone dies, there are so many decisions to be made. It is a gift and comfort to your loved ones to make your wishes known.

Upon completion, this will stay in the parish office and can be updated at any time.

A Funeral at St. Matthew's

In an effort to simplify the process of planning a funeral at St. Matthew's, we have created this booklet. Please read through it carefully. It is designed to help you think through the service and to consider what you want for this important service. It offers helpful guidelines – please reach out directly to Fr. Clayton with any questions you may have about the service.

Important Notes

- All funeral liturgies will follow the services found in the Book of Common Prayer. They may be Rite I (Traditional Language) or Rite II (Contemporary Language).
- It is customary for the body or cremated remains to be present in the church for the service. The casket or ashes are covered with a pall (cloth) before the service.
- It is customary to celebrate the Holy Eucharist as part of the funeral service, although for pastoral or other considerations, you may opt to have a funeral without Holy Communion.
- It is customary for a clergy person to offer a short sermon - proclaiming the hope of the Resurrection in the midst of the pain of the death of one we love. Up to two family members/friends may share a remembrance (eulogy) as part of the service. The total time for remembrances should be less than ten minutes. Additional remembrances may be given at the reception in Mathes Hall following the service.
- Please discuss military honors with the clergy prior to making arrangements. These are best held prior to the entrance into the church or at graveside.
- Burial or interment at St. Matthew's usually follows immediately after the service. This may be private (family only) at your discretion.
- A reception may be held in Mathes Hall following the service. Light fare will be provided without cost. If you desire hearty fare or a complete meal following the service, you are encouraged to contact a caterer of your choice.
- Please confirm funeral arrangements with St. Matthew's before publishing them in the obituary or sharing elsewhere.

The Funeral Service

Please make selections as completely as possible. The priest will make selections on your behalf when no preference is expressed below.

Name: _____

Rite:

- ☐ The Burial of the Dead: Rite I (*BCP*, 469) [Traditional Language]
- ☐ The Burial of the Dead: Rite II (*BCP*, 491) [Contemporary Language]

The Remembrance(s)

Up to two family members/friends may share a remembrance (eulogy) as part of the service. The total time for remembrances should be less than ten minutes.

- ☐ Speaker: _____
- ☐ Speaker: _____

The Liturgy of the Word

The service customarily includes a reading from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a New Testament reading, and a Gospel reading. You may choose to have fewer readings, with a minimum of one reading. A Gospel reading is always read by a clergy person, and is required if Holy Eucharist is celebrated. Readings below are suggestions (and are printed at the end of this document). Other readings may be selected, with the rector's approval. If you have a person you would like to read the lesson, please note their name.

Old Testament

Reader: _____

- ☐ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
- ☐ Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)
- ☐ Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)
- ☐ Wisdom 1:13-15 (God did not make death)
- ☐ Wisdom 3:1-5,9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)
- ☐ Job 14:7-9 (There is hope)
- ☐ Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)
- ☐ Other: _____

Psalm(s)

Reader: _____

- ☐ Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd)
- ☐ Psalm 27 (The Lord is my light and my salvation)
- ☐ Psalm 42:1-7 (As the deer longs for the water)
- ☐ Psalm 46 (God is our refuge and strength)
- ☐ Psalm 90:1-12 (Lord, you have been our refuge)
- ☐ Psalm 116 (I love the Lord, because he has heard)
- ☐ Psalm 121 (I lift up my eyes to the hills)
- ☐ Psalm 130 (Out of the depths have I called)
- ☐ Psalm 139:1-11 (Lord, you have searched me out and known me)
- ☐ Other: _____

New Testament (Epistle)

Reader: _____

- ☐ Romans 6:3-9 (10-11) (So we too might walk in newness of life)
- ☐ Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39 (Nothing can separate us from God's love)
- ☐ Romans 14:7-9 (And if we die, we die to the Lord)
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, [35-38,42-44,53-58] (Death will be destroyed)
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (Death has been swallowed up in victory)
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (We walk by faith, not by sight)
- ☐ 1 Peter 1:3-9 (He has given us a new birth into a living hope)
- ☐ 1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
- ☐ Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
- ☐ Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)
- ☐ Other: _____

Gospel

- ☐ Matthew 11:25-30 (Come to me, all you that are weary)
- ☐ John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
- ☐ John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you)
- ☐ John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
- ☐ John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
- ☐ John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)
- ☐ John 20:11-18 (Mary Magdalene encounters the risen Christ)
- ☐ Other: _____

The Prayers of the People

Reader: _____

The Prayers are appropriately read by a friend or family member. A clergy person may lead them, if you wish.

The Holy Eucharist

It is customary to celebrate the Holy Eucharist as part of the funeral service, although you may opt to have a funeral without Holy Communion. Please select a Eucharistic Prayer, or note your desire not to have communion.

If Rite I:

- ☐ Eucharistic Prayer I (*BCP*, 333)
- ☐ Eucharistic Prayer II (*BCP*, 340)

If Rite II*:

- ☐ Eucharistic Prayer A (*BCP*, 333)
- ☐ Eucharistic Prayer B (*BCP*, 340)
- ☐ Eucharistic Prayer C (*BCP*, 333)
- ☐ Eucharistic Prayer D (*BCP*, 340)
- ☐ Eucharist, but no preference regarding Eucharistic Prayer
- ☐ No Eucharist

**(Prayer A or Prayer B are customary for Rite II)*

Music

Funeral services commonly include hymns and other music. All music played in the church must be sacred, and any music selections not from authorized Episcopal resources must be approved by the rector. The parish musician is normally the musician for the funeral, but additional musicians may be included. The clergy will assist in arranging music, however, if music is desired at the funeral, it is the responsibility of the family to pay the musician(s) directly at their set fee. A list of suggested hymns can be found on the next page.

- ☐ Processional Hymn: _____
 - ☐ Or Priest speaks Processional - "I am the Resurrection" (*BCP*, 469 or 491)
- ☐ Hymn before Gospel: _____
- ☐ Presentation Hymn (before Communion): _____
- ☐ Closing Hymn: _____
- ☐ Additional Music: _____

Hymn Suggestions

8 Morning has broken	482 Lord of all hopefulness
24 The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended	490 I want to walk as a child of the light
180 He is risen	494 Crown him with many crowns
208 The strife is o'er	517 How lovely is thy dwelling place
209 We walk by faith, and not by sight	618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
210 The day of resurrection	620 Jerusalem, my happy home
286 Who are these like stars appearing	623 O what their joy and their glory must be
287 For all the saints	625 Ye holy angels bright
296 We know that Christ is raised	636/637 How firm a foundation
376 Joyful, joyful we adore thee	645 The King of love my shepherd is
390 Praise to the Lord	657 Love divine, all loves excelling
410 Praise, my soul, the king of heaven	658 As longs the deer for cooling streams
427 When morning gilds the skies	662 Abide with me
429 I'll praise my Maker while I've breath	664 My Shepherd will supply my need
439 What wondrous love is this	671 Amazing grace
441 In the cross of Christ I glory	680 O God, our help in ages past
448 O Love how deep, how broad, how high	685 Rock of ages
450 All hail the power of Jesus' Name	686 Come, thou fount of every blessing
460 Alleluia, sing to Jesus	688 A mighty fortress is our God
473 Lift high the cross	690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Flowers

Flowers in the church are limited to those placed at the altar. These flowers will be provided by the church. If you have specific flower requests, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate them. You may provide your own flowers, via a florist, but they must fit inside our brass vase.

Other flower arrangements are generally discouraged, but if sent to the church, they will be brought to Mathes Hall for the reception.

Flower Notes: _____

Reception

A reception may be held in Mathes Hall following the service. Light fare will be provided without cost. If you desire hearty fare or a complete meal following the service, you are encouraged to contact a caterer of your choice.

- ☐ Reception with light fare provided by the parish
- ☐ Reception with catering provided by family
- ☐ No reception

Cemetery, Columbarium, and Burial

There are several options for burial:

- (1) Burial in the parish cemetery by purchasing a plot (if available) for \$_____.
- (2) Interment in the columbarium in the cemetery. Each niche is \$1500.
- (3) Interment in the columbarium memorial garden. Fee for the nameplate is \$_____.
- (4) Burial at another location.

- ☐ Cemetery Burial
- ☐ Columbarium Interment
- ☐ Offsite Burial/Interment at _____ with St. Matthew's clergy
- ☐ Other: _____

Memorials

In lieu of flower gifts, you may wish for memorial donations to be made to St. Matthew's, as a Memorial Gift. These can be designated by you for a specific purpose, or to be used at the discretion of the Vestry and Rector, usually for special purposes. If you wish to do so, please note that below.

Funeral Service Fees

There is no charge for a funeral at St. Matthew's, except for the musician's fee as described above.

NOTES: _____

Suggested Funeral Readings

Suggested Readings from the Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9 [He will swallow up death forever]

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 61:1-3 [To comfort those who mourn]

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 [The Lord is good to those who wait for him]

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom 1:13-15 [God did not make death]

God did not make death, and he does not delight in the destruction of the living. For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For righteousness is immortal.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 [The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God]

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Job 14:7-9 [There is hope]

For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grows old in the earth and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant.

Job 19:21-27a [I know that my Redeemer lives]

Job answered, "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

Suggested Psalms

Psalms may be found in the Book of Common Prayer, starting on page 585.

Suggested Readings from the New Testament

Romans 6:3-9 (10-11) [So we too might walk in newness of life]

Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. [We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.]

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 [The glory that shall be revealed]

All 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 have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 14:7-9 [And if we die, we die to the Lord]

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 [Death will be destroyed]

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own 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 God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler 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. But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been 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. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 [We walk by faith and not by sight]

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though 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. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

1 Peter 1:3-9 [He has given us a new birth into a living hope]

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 John 3:1-2 [We shall be like him]

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what 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 will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Revelation 7:9-17 [God will wipe away every tear]

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 21:2-7 [Behold, I make all things new]

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

Suggested Readings from the Gospels

Matthew 11:25-30 [Come to me, all you that are weary]

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

John 5:24-27 [He who believes has everlasting life]

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. Very truly, I tell 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 he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.”

John 6:37-40 [All that the Father gives me will come to me]

Jesus said, “Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

John 10:11-16 [I am the good shepherd]

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

John 11:21-27 [I am the resurrection and the life]

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

John 14:1-6 [In my Father's house are many rooms]

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, 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."

John 20:11-18 [Mary Magdalene encounters the risen Christ]

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

