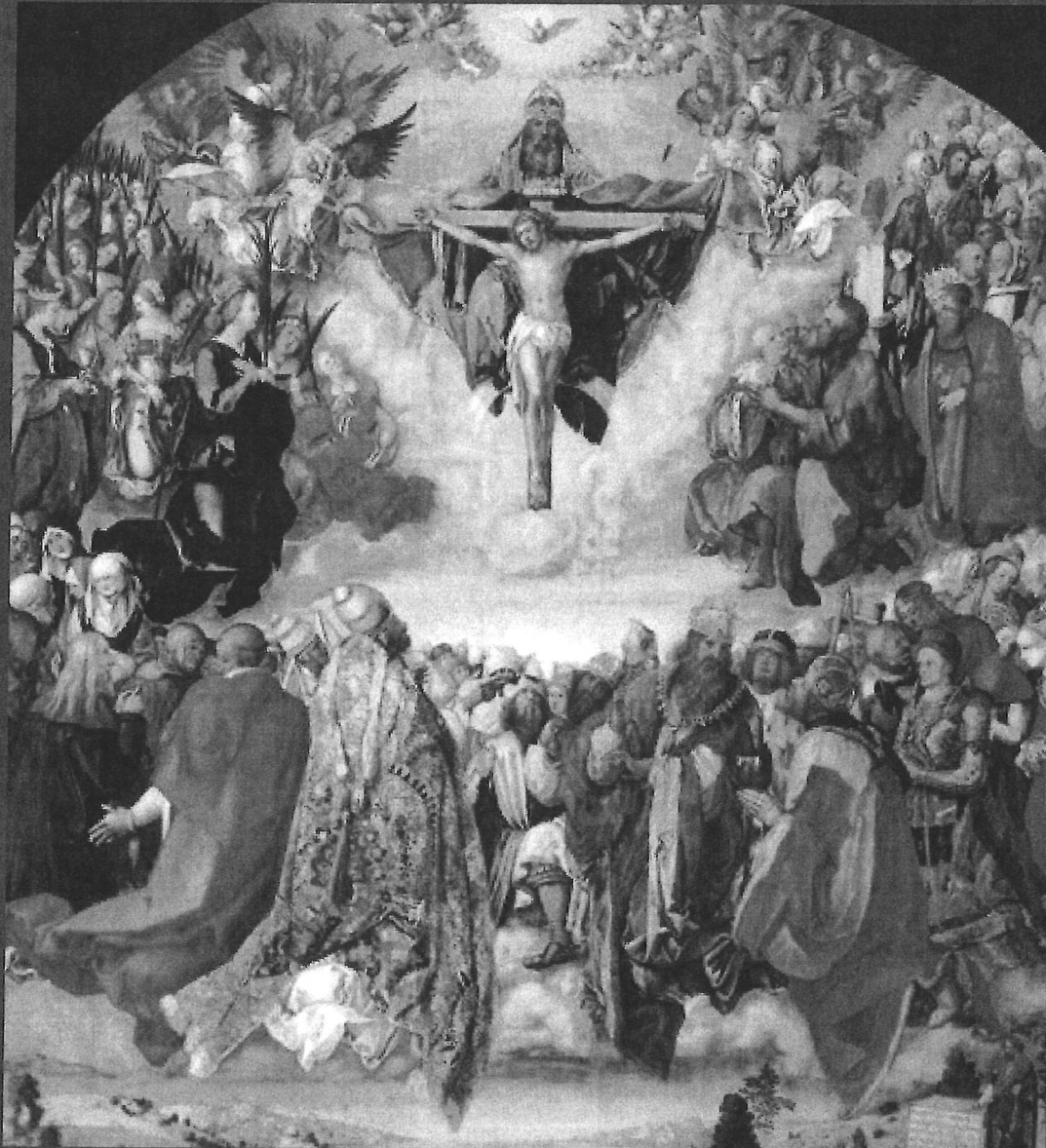


CATHOLIC FUNERALS



FUNERAL PREPARATION WORKBOOK

Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota

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INTRODUCTION

Greetings in Christ Jesus, the Risen Lord.

Jesus Christ has conquered death and given new life. These words can bring consolation to us when experiencing the uncertainties of the death of a loved one. The Church's funeral liturgy further presents us a path to finding hope, peace, and consolation during these challenges. It responds to the truths found in the Sacred Scriptures, so that we may "*look to what lies ahead*" (Philippians 3:13), beyond the vale that separates this world from the next.

The Church recalls a few important truths found in the Scriptures. First, the funeral liturgy aims to assist the deceased. God's Word teaches that it is good to pray for the dead (cf. 2 Maccabees 12:38-46). We believe that God hears our prayers for our deceased loved ones, and He blesses them because of our offerings. This prayer is hopeful. Through it we recognize that our lives here pass quickly, but our true goal is eternal life. In charity, we beg God to swiftly bring those we love to the glory of Heaven.

Second, the funeral liturgy brings us who remain on earth consolation in our sorrow. While we have sadness in this time, the liturgy allows us to feel the closeness of God. We recall how God gave His only Son to repair the damage of sin. Jesus then rose from the dead, and gives us the opportunity to rise with Him. Each of us must repeat the pattern of our Lord: we die in order to rise. We also experience the loving presence of the Mother of God, who witnessed the death of her only Son. Now, as a mother to all those reborn in Baptism, she comforts us. The liturgy also brings us into the presence of the Saints in Heaven, who endured the sorrows and losses of earthly life until they received their reward. Now they help us by their presence and prayers.

With these truths in mind, we begin to prepare for the funeral liturgy. This guide is meant to provide easy access to the readings to choose for the funeral rites. The priest you work with can point you to the appropriate sections to choose the readings. May God's Word fill you with the joy of His presence here on earth, and the hope for eternal life to come.

**FIRST READING FROM THE OLD
TESTAMENT**

◇◇◇◇◇ (from the Lectionary for Mass No. 1011) ◇◇◇◇◇

1. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

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

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

2. Job 19:1, 23-27a

I know that my Vindicator lives

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.

3.

Wisdom 3:1-9

Long Form

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be
dead;

and their passing away was thought an
affliction

and their going forth from us, utter
destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them

and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,

and as sacrificial offerings he took them to
himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through
stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy
ones,

and his care is with his elect.

Or Short Form

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be

dead;
 and their passing away was thought an
 affliction
 and their going forth from us, utter
 destruction.
 But they are in peace.
 For if in the eyes of men, indeed they be
 punished,
 yet is their hope full of immortality;
 Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
 because God tried them
 and found them worthy of himself.
 As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
 and as sacrificial offerings he took them to
 himself.
 Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
 and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
 Because grace and mercy are with his holy
 ones,
 and his care is with his elect.

4.

Wisdom 4:7-15

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

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.

5.

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

He will destroy death forever.

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!”

6.

Lamentations 3:17-26

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

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

**FIRST READING FROM THE NEW
TESTAMENT DURING THE SEASON OF
EASTER**

◇◇◇◇ (from the Lectionary for Mass No. 1012) ◇◇◇◇

1.

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

Long Form

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

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."

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.

7.

Daniel 12:1-3

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

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.

Or Short Form

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

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

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."

2.

Revelation 14:13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

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."

3.

Revelation 20:11-21:1

The dead were judged according to their deeds.

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.

4.

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

There shall be no more death.

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."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

◇◇◇◇◇ (from the Lectionary for Mass No. 1013) ◇◇◇◇◇

1. Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or:

R. (4ab) Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

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

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.

2. Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21

R. (1) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

or:

R. (3a) No one who waits for you, O LORD, will ever be put to shame.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,

because of your goodness, O LORD. R.

Relieve the troubles of my heart;
and bring me out of my distress.
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins. R.

Preserve my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge
in you.

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
because I wait for you, O LORD. R.

3. Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14

R. (1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

or:

R. (13) I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

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.

4. Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5

R. (42:3) My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face.

As the hind longs for the running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God. R.

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God?
R.

I went with the throng and led them in
procession
to the house of God.
Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival. R.

Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
And bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling-place. R.

Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
O God, my God! R.

Why are you so downcast, O my soul?
Why do you sigh within me?
Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking
him,
in the presence of my savior and my God. R.

5. Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

R. (2b) 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.

6. Psalm 103:8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

R. (8a) The LORD is kind and merciful.
or:

R. (37:39a) The salvation of the just comes
from the LORD.

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.

7. Psalm 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac

R. (9) I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Gracious is the LORD and just;
yes, our God is merciful. R.

The LORD keeps the little ones;
I was brought low, and he saved me. R.

I believed, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
I said in my alarm,
"No man is dependable." R.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
O LORD, I am your servant,
you have loosed my bonds. R.

8. Psalm 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. (1) I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us
go to the house of the LORD.

or:

R. (see 1) Let us go rejoicing to the house of
the LORD.

I rejoiced because they said to me,
"We will go up to the house of the LORD."
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.

To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD.
According to the decree for Israel,

to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David. R.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings. R.

Because of my relatives and friends
I will say "Peace be within you!"
Because of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will pray for your good. R.

9. Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8

R. (1) Out of the depths, I cry to you, LORD.

or:

R. (see 50) I hope in the LORD, I trust in his
word.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication. R.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered. R.

I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the LORD
more than the sentinels wait for the dawn.
R.

More than the sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the LORD,
For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption. R.

And he will redeem Israel

from all their iniquities. R.

10. Psalm 143:1-2, 5-6, 7ab and 8ab, 10

R. (1a) 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.

**SECOND READING FROM THE NEW
TESTAMENT**

◇◇◇◇ (from the Lectionary for Mass No. 1014) ◇◇◇◇

1.

Romans 5:5-11

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

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

2.

Romans 5:17-21

Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.

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 Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the

disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3.

Romans 6:3-9

Long Form

We too might live in newness of life.

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

Or Short Form

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

We too might live in newness of life.

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

4.

Romans 8:14-23

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

Brothers and sisters: Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “*Abba, Father!*” The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

5.

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

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

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

6.

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

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

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written:

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.*

So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

7.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Long Form

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

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

Or Short Form

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

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

8.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Death is swallowed up in victory.

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.

9.

2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

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

Brothers and sisters: Knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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

10.

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

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

We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

11.

Philippians 3:20-21

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

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.

12.

Thessalonians 4:13-18

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

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

and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

13. **2 Timothy 2:8-13**

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

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.

14. **1 John 3:1-2**

We shall see him as he is.

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.

15. **1 John 3:14-16**

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

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.

**ALLELUIA VERSE AND VERSE BEFORE
 THE GOSPEL**

◇◇◇◇ (from the Lectionary for Mass No. 1015) ◇◇◇◇

1. **See Matthew 11:25**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
 you have revealed to the childlike the mysteries of the Kingdom.

2. **Matthew 25:34**

Come, you who are blessed by my Father, says the Lord;
 inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

3.

John 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

4.

John 6:39

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord,
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me,
and that I should raise it upon the last day.

5.

John 6:40

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

6.

John 6:51

I am the living bread that came down from heaven,
says the Lord
whoever eats this bread will live forever.

7.

John 11:25a, 26

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.

8.

See Philippians 3:20

Our true home is in heaven,
and Jesus Christ, whose return we long for,
will come from heaven to save us.

9.

2 Timothy 2:11-12a

If we die with Christ, we shall live with him,
and if we persevere we shall also reign with him.

10.

Revelation 1:5a, 6b

Jesus Christ is the firstborn from the dead;
glory and power be his forever and ever.
Amen.

11.

Revelation 14:13

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them.

GOSPEL

◇◇◇◇ (from the Lectionary for Mass No. 1016) ◇◇◇◇

1.

Matthew 5:1-12a

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

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."

2.

Matthew 11:25-30

Come to me and I will give you rest.

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."

3.

Matthew 25:1-13

Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!

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."

4.

Matthew 25:31-46

Come, you who are blessed by my Father.

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.”

5.

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

Long Form

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

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.”

Or Short Form

Mark 15:33-39

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

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!”

6.

Luke 7:11-17

Young man, I tell you, arise!

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.

7.

Luke 12:35-40

You also must be prepared.

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."

8.

Luke 23:33, 39-43

Today you will be with me in Paradise.

When the soldiers came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other man, however,

rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

9.

Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a

Long Form

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus. After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

At daybreak on the first day of the week the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."