

The Rite of Christian Burial

Scripture Readings
And
Liturgy Planner

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Holy Apostles Church
Office of the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Holy Mother Church prays with faith for her children who pass from this life to the life to come. For the faithful soul this is a moment of triumph and the fulfillment of all that has been promised. Our liturgy and our prayers should reflect that same hope in eternal life and our faith and trust in the loving guidance of the church. Our thoughts go beyond the things of this world to the vision of that eternity to which we are all called. We invite the family to participate in the Rite of Christian Burial.

Enclosed in this booklet are passages from scripture which most properly reflect the same faith and hope. Members of the family may contribute to the Funeral Rite by doing the first two readings. Also, the family may read the prayer of the faithful and select the Sacred songs for the Mass. Other members may bring up the gifts of Bread and Wine which will become the saving Body and Blood of Christ our Lord.

The General Introduction in the Roman Ritual of the Order of Christian Funerals states: "A brief homily based on the Readings is always given after the Gospel Reading at the Funeral Liturgy. Attentive to the grief of those present, the homilist should dwell on God's compassionate love and on the paschal mystery of the Lord, as proclaimed in the Scripture Readings." We encourage the family of the deceased to assist the Celebrant by sharing with him the life of faith of the deceased. Eulogies are not permitted in the Church during the Funeral Liturgy.

At a Funeral Liturgy we pray for our beloved dead and ask the Lord to forgive their sins and bring them into His Kingdom. It is not a time of raising anyone to the "Communion of Saints." We leave that in the loving hands of our merciful Lord.

With prayers for you and your family,
The Parish Staff of Holy Apostles

Church Readings



The selection of readings for a funeral liturgy should be seen as a comfort rather than a burden. If at any time you find it burdensome or overwhelming, please contact the rectory and we will assist you or if you wish, we may choose the readings for you. Please select one reading from the Old Testament (this will be the first reading) and one reading from the New Testament (this will be the second reading.)

First Readings

Old Testament

(1)

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

I, Daniel, mourned and I 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.

(2)

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 His elect.
The Word of the Lord.

(3)

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.

(4)

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.

The Responsorial Psalm will be sung by the Organist (Soloist) after the First Reading.

Second Readings

New Testament

(1)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

(2)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 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.

(3)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

(4)

A reading from the first letter of
Paul to the Corinthians

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 that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, 0 death, is your victory? Where, 0 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.

(5)

A reading from the second letter of
Paul to the Corinthians

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.

(6)

A reading from the first letter of
Paul to the Thessalonians

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

(7)

A reading from the book of Revelation

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. 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.

Prayer of the Faithful for Funerals

CELEBRANT: God the almighty Father raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead.

READER:
For who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal
life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints,

We pray to the Lord.

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day,

We pray to the Lord.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness,

We pray to the Lord.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face,

We pray to the Lord.

For the family and friends of our brother/sister_____that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of this friend Lazarus.

We pray to the Lord.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom,

We pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT: God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord God, whose days are without end and whose mercies beyond counting, keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown. Let your Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice that we may serve you in union with the whole Church, sure in faith, strong in hope, perfect in love. And when our earthly journey is ended, lead us rejoicing into your kingdom, where you live for ever and ever. Amen.

Music for Mass of Christian Burial

Holy Apostles Church, Cranston
Cookie Rodi & Mark Colozzi

Please choose (4) Hymns

All I Ask of You
Amazing Grace
Ave Maria
Be Not Afraid
Eye Have Not Seen
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Here I am Lord
Hosea
How Great thou Art
I Am the Bread of Life
In the Garden
Let There Be Peace On Earth
On Eagles Wings
Panis Angelicus
Pie Jesu
Prayer of St. Francis
Precious Lord Take My Hand
Shall We Gather At The River
Sing With All The Saints In Glory
The Cloud's Veil
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Old Rugged Cross
These Alone are Enough
Ti Ringrazio
We Remember
You Are All We Have
You'll Never Walk Alone

Most popular music or favorite songs may be inappropriate

The parish provides a soloist and organist for the funeral Mass. Other instrumentalists (Violinist, Flutist, etc.) are permitted, but must consult with our parish organist.

Funeral Liturgy Planner

We realize that family members of the deceased are not always comfortable with the planning and participation of the Liturgy Mass, especially during such a difficult time. If you and your family do not wish to participate in the selection of Readings, The Prayer of the Faithful and/or The Offertory gifts, please let the Church know. We will gladly assist you with these roles.

Readings (Optional) 2 people

Do you have family members that may want to do the Readings?

First Reading Reading #___

Reader_____

(The Responsorial Psalm is Sung)

Second Reading Reading #___

Reader_____

(The Priest or Deacon will read the Gospel)

Prayer of the Faithful Yes or No

Reader_____

Family Gift Bearers (Optional) 2 people

Gift Bearers _____ _____

Notes



Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord,
and let Perpetual Light
shine upon them.
May their souls
and the souls
of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen.