

# *Funerals*



**St. Gabriel the Archangel  
Catholic Church**

**Planning Funeral and Memorial Liturgies**

A Guidebook to help you plan a Celebration of Life

*St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church  
32648 N. Cave Creek Road  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331  
480.595.0883*



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## From the Pastor

### My Dear Family:

“Peace be with you!” These words of our Lord echo the sentiment and prayer of St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Community. We, your parish family, extend our compassion to you for your loss. We want to be here with you, in this time of suffering, as a sign of support and also as a sign of resurrection.

The following pages have been compiled to assist you in planning the funeral services for your loved one. Although it is difficult to do, it is important that you and your family take the time to carefully plan these services in order to begin the healing process.

Death is never an easy experience, but as Christians we repeat the words of St. Paul (1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14), “We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death; otherwise you might yield to grief like those who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with Him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in Him.” Beneath our tears and our suffering, our celebration of these services is a sign of our faith and our hope in the life that is to come.

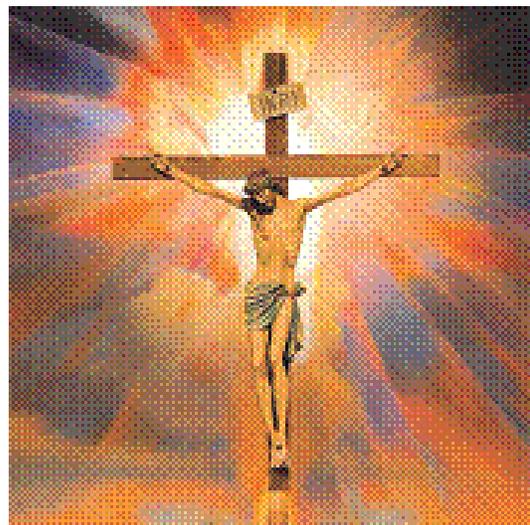
Please let us be of service to you. Our Liturgist, Mary Blanche, will assist you in planning and celebrating appropriate Christian Rites of Burial for your loved one.

Know that our support, prayers, and love are with you.

God loves you dearly,

*Fr. John Slobig*

Fr. John Slobig, Pastor



## Arranging Funerals and Memorials

The sadness of death gives way, in our liturgy, to the promise of resurrected life. Our celebration of a person's life should reflect our conviction that beyond life, we have life in Jesus Christ.

St. Gabriel's is pleased to offer its parishioners and friends the complete rites as a means of consolation for the living, and grace-filled assistance for the deceased. These rites, which include a Funeral Mass and the possibility of a Vigil, are most properly celebrated by the parish church of the deceased, in the presence of their faith community. In the times we have difficulty grieving, the rituals we celebrate together as a community, give us the structure to carry us through the "un-thinking" times. We are here to help you through this time, through prayer and our ritual celebrations.

Funerals are held on Monday through Friday beginning at 10am. Saturday funerals are also an option, depending upon the availability of the church. Vigils can be held immediately before the funeral mass, or the afternoon or evening before at the funeral home.

The first step to take when planning a funeral liturgy is to consult our Liturgy Department. This may be done by contacting the main office.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church

32648 N. Cave Creek Road

Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Office—480.595.0883

[www.stgacc.org](http://www.stgacc.org)

## Services We Offer You

The most common form of a Catholic funeral has the following elements:

- ◆ Vigil service the evening before the Funeral Mass with either the body or ashes present. This is held at the funeral home only. We only provide clergy to preside over this service. You can also opt to have a vigil service immediately before the funeral mass at the church.
- ◆ Funeral Mass with either the body or ashes present. Instructions for planning this are on page 7.
- ◆ Graveside service with burial of the body or cremated remains.
- ◆ Another option is a Memorial Mass with no remains present. These may take place close to the time of death or at some convenient time for the gathering of friends and family.

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## Types of Vigil Services

- ◆ **Prayer service** (suitable for congregations of mixed faiths)
- ◆ **Prayer service with rosary** – see below (suitable for congregations of mixed faiths)
- ◆ **Rosary alone** – usually five decades of the rosary (Suitable where most of the congregation is Catholic)
- ◆ The Vigil service is usually held at the funeral home, but can be held immediately before funeral mass at the church.
- ◆ Vigils are led by a deacon.
- ◆ The Vigil is the best time to have memorials, eulogies, as well as secular music and readings, such as poems.

## An Outline of a Vigil Service with Rosary

### **Introductory Rite**

This includes prayers and an introduction by the deacon.

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### **Meditations**

These commonly include a short reading from scripture to illustrate a decade of the rosary followed by the praying of that decade. There are usually three or four meditations.

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### **Homily and Reflections**

Here the deacon will preach a suitable homily based on the life of the deceased in relation to the gospel. Reflections, other readings and eulogies may follow.

-

### **Concluding Prayers**

Prayers conclude the Vigil service.



## Christian Burial of the Dead

The Catholic Church commends its deceased members to the mercy of God by means of its funeral rites. Every member of the faithful has the right to the Funeral Mass. The Funeral Mass is the heart of the funeral rites. During the Funeral Mass, the body of the deceased member of the faithful is brought to the Eucharistic Sacrifice one final time. The whole Church may pray that he or she who ate the Bread of Eternal Life may now share in the life everlasting in heaven.

### Types of Funeral Mass

#### ◆ **Funeral Mass with body or cremated remains present.**

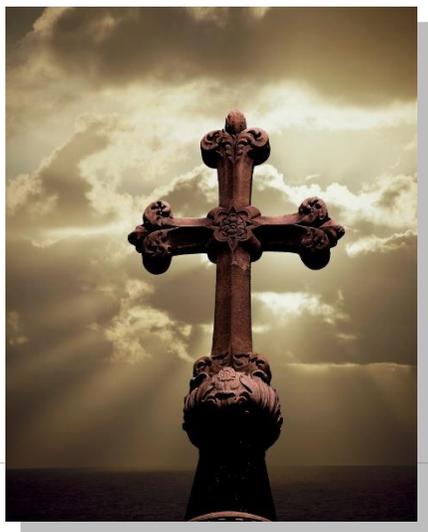
The Funeral Mass is held at the church. The remains are treated with great respect (including cremated remains). At the Narthex of the church the casket is sprinkled with holy water and covered with a pall, a reminder of baptism.

An urn of cremated remains may be placed on a table at the front of the church before the Mass begins.

In the case of a flag draped casket, the flag is removed before the Mass and replaced after the Mass.

#### ◆ **Memorial Mass (no remains present)**

The Memorial Mass is held in the church just like a Funeral Mass, but no remains are present. The opening of Mass begins with an opening song, greeting and penitential rite.



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## Cremation

Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it is strongly urged that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites. When cremation is chosen as the method of final disposition of the body, the preferred sequence for the funeral rites is the celebration of the Funeral Mass with the body of the deceased person present; then cremation and the entombment of the cremated remains. The cremated remains of a body are to be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. **The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea from the air or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased is not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.**

## Funeral Mass Outline

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### Introductory Rites\*

At the Narthex of the church the casket is sprinkled with holy water and covered with a pall, a reminder of baptism, and a symbol of Christian faith may be placed on the casket (i.e. a crucifix or a rosary, etc.).

### The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading\*\*

Responsorial Psalm (usually sung)

Second Reading\*\*

Gospel Reading

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Table and Gifts\* (Bread and wine are brought to the altar)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer and The Sign Peace

Communion\*

### Final Commendation and Farewell

The body or cremated remains, may be sprinkled with holy water and honored with incense and the pall is removed.

\* Hymns and solos may be included at these points.

\*\* Family members and friends may only participate in the Liturgy of the Word by reading the First or Second Reading (optional) if they are Catholic and previously trained as a lector in their respective Parish—Copies of the authorized readings are included at the back of this booklet. Other readings may be included in a vigil service. In addition, family members and/or friends may bring forward the gifts of bread and wine.

## [Other Considerations](#)

### Interment only

Due to our close proximity to the National Cemetery, as well as Holy Redeemer Cemetery, we receive requests for clergy to lead the Catholic burial services. These requests are usually made when there has been a funeral elsewhere, or the deceased family has requested it, but has no affiliation with a parish. The fee for interment is \$75.00. This fee can be waived upon certain circumstances. For more information, please discuss with our Liturgist, Mary Blanche.

### Displays and Photographs

We welcome displays of photographs and memorabilia at the entrance to the parish hall. One picture may be placed next to the urn when cremation has occurred prior to the service.

## [Financial Considerations](#)

The donation for use of the church is \$625 for parishioners. The donation for non-parishioners is \$725. This covers the use of the facility, utilities, Liturgy Department services, and two musicians for a Funeral/Memorial Mass, the stipend for the priest and for the deacon. No one will be denied the services of the Church for financial reasons. If the fees are burdensome, please speak with the Liturgy Department. These donations/stipends are made out to each individual or entity, paid by check or cash, and will be distributed by the Liturgist. They should be paid before the day of the funeral.

### Reception Gatherings

Receptions may be held, upon availability of the space, in the church social hall located on the south side of the church property, or on the breezeway in front of the church. During the school year, the breezeway is the only option, as the hall is in use by our school. The hall can accommodate no more than 200 people. Fees for receptions are as follows: \$75 (up to 100 people); \$150 (100-200 people). This fee includes set up and clean up of the hall/breezeway. We do have a food ministry that can assist with food, as well as serving. An additional contribution to that ministry is suggested.

## Flowers

We welcome flowers and wreaths as part of the funeral celebration. Flowers may not be delivered until 9a.m. or later on the day of the service. During Lent we do not use flowers on the altar, but they may be displayed with the photographs and memorabilia at the entrance to the parish hall.

## Tributes and Eulogies

Individual tributes should be reserved for the Vigil service the afternoon or evening before the day of the Funeral Mass, or for a reception following the Funeral or Memorial Mass. The homily at Mass is when the priest will preach on the gospel you have chosen and make specific references to the deceased. Eulogies are not permitted during a Funeral Mass. Should a family member or friend wish to read a short reflection about the deceased, they are able to do so after communion. This reflection should be appropriate for a church setting and be limited to 2-3minutes.

## Memorial Gifts

You may wish to encourage friends and family to make Memorial Gifts to St. Gabriel's Church. These gifts are received in the name of the one who has died, and the immediate family is notified of these gifts. Memorial gifts may be used for the general needs of the church, or may be designated for a specific purpose: Sanctuary, building fund, a specific ministry, Parishioner Assistance Fund, Maintenance & Facilities, or School. All checks must have the name of the person being memorialized on the memo line and be mailed to:

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church  
32648 N. Cave Creek Road  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331  
Attn: Finance/ Memorial Gifts

## Consolation Ministry

We have a ministry dedicated to providing support to you during this difficult time. Please contact our Stephen's ministry through the parish office: (480) 595.0883.

## Music

### Music for the Mass

Music for all liturgies is coordinated by the Director of Music. A parish musician with a pianist is required to be the lead musician at all funerals. For smaller gatherings, or depending on music selection, our parish music director can also accompany on the guitar alone. All music chosen must be liturgically appropriate. Secular music will not be played during the liturgy.

### Video

At this time, we do not offer video services. If video is needed and/or requested for a funeral reception, requests must be submitted several days prior to the funeral. An additional charge will apply and may be determined based on the needs. It is also subject to availability. Please note, videos may not be shown during a Funeral Mass.

### Soloists and Choirs

A parish musician is included in your funeral donation (\$625—parishioners). Additional singers and/or instrumentalists must be arranged through the Director of Music for an additional fee. Our musician will lead the singing of the Psalm and the Eucharistic music, and will sing one or more of the many appropriate solos that you may choose.

### Recorded Music

We recognize the importance of certain recorded songs. Recorded music may be proper at a Vigil service or at a reception, but not during Mass.



SONGS TO CHOOSE FROM (CHOOSE 4 TOTAL)

Song Title	Composer	G	OFF	Com	REC
Alive in You	Matt Maher			x	
All Creatures of Our God and King	St. Francis of Assisi	x	x	x	x
Amazing Grace	John Newton	x	x	x	x
Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)	John Newton / Chris Tomlin	x	x	x	x
Be Still	Matt Maher, David Haas			x	
Be With Me, Lord	Tom Booth	x	x	x	
Behold the Lamb of God	Matt Maher		x	x	
Blessed Are You, Lord	Jackie Francois			x	
Bread of Life	Michael John Poirier			x	
Come to the Water	John Foley	x	x	x	
Enough	Chris Tomlin	x	x	x	x
Everlasting God	Brenton Brown	x			x
Find Us Ready	Tom Booth	x	x	x	x
Fragrance Prayer	Tom Booth		x	x	
Here I Am	Tom Booth		x	x	
Here I Am, Lord	Dan Schutte	x	x	x	
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	Grosser Gott	x	x	x	x
Holy is His Name	John Michael Talbot			x	
Holy Is the Lord	Chris Tomlin	x			x
How Great is Our God	Chris Tomlin	x	x	x	x
How Great Thou Art	Traditional	x	x	x	x

I Will Rise	Chris Tomlin, L. Giglio, J. Reeves, M. Maher		x	x		x
Jesus, My Everything	Matt Maher		x	x		
Lay It Down	Matt Maher		x	x		
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	Liturgy of St. James		x	x		
Lord, I Need You	Matt Maher	x	x	x	x	
Miracle of Grace (Bread of Life)	Curtis Stephan			x		
My Lady	Tom Booth			x		
Pan De Vida	Bob Hurd			x		
Prayer of Abandonment	Tom Booth			x		
Prayer of St. Francis	Sebastian Temple		x	x		
Sacred Silence	Tom Booth			x		
Sometimes By Step	Rich Mullins	x	x	x		x
Strength for the Journey	Michael John Poirier		x	x		x
Unwavering	Matt Maher		x	x		

We Fall Down	Chris Tomlin		x	x		
You Alone	David Crowder / Jack Parker		x	x		
You Are Mine	Marty Haugen	x	x	x		x
Your Grace Is Enough	Matt Maher	x	x	x	x	
Do Not Fear to Hope	Rory Cooney	x	x	x		x
I Will Choose Christ	Tom Booth	x	x	x		

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	Beethoven					x
My God Reigns	Darrell Evans					x
O The Love of God	Rich Mullins	x	x	x		x
On Eagle's Wings	Michael Joncas	x	x	x		x
One Bread, One Body	John Foley			x		
Salvation Belongs to Our God	Adrian Howard / Pat Turner	x	x	x		x
Shepherd Me, O God	Marty Haugen		x	x		

*There are many other appropriate liturgical pieces, that our Music director can offer to you as well as the above list.*



**RESPONSORIAL PSALMS (CHOOSE ONE)**

Psalm 18: I Love You, Lord	Matt Maher, Marty Haugen
Psalm 19: Lord, You Have the Words	Ed Bolduc, David Haas
Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd	David Mares
Psalm 27: The Lord is My Light	Matt Maher, Marty Haugen
Psalm 034: Taste and See	James E Moore, Bob Hurd
Psalm 051: I Will Rise	Matt Maher
Psalm 063: My Soul Is Thirsting	Steve Angrisano
Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind	Rory Cooney
Psalm 116: I Will Walk Before The Lord	Jake Ineck
Psalm 121: I Will Lift Up My Eyes	Cyprian Consiglio
Psalm 122: I Rejoiced	Trevor Thomson
Psalm 138: Fragrance Prayer	Marty Haugen

# Scripture Readings for Funeral Liturgies

## Funerals for Adults

### Old Testament Readings

During the Easter Season, New Testament Readings are used in place of a reading from the Old Testament

Job 19: 1, 23 – 27

Daniel 12: 1-3

2 Maccabees 12: 43-46

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Lamentations 3:17-26

Wisdom 3:1-9 or 3:1-6, 9

Wisdom 4:7-15

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

### New Testament Readings (The readings marked with "\*" are appropriate as First Readings during the Easter Season)

\*Acts 10: 34-43 or 10: 34-36, 42-43

Romans 5:5-11

Romans 5:17-21

Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9

Romans 8:14-23

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12

1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 24b-28 or 15:20-23

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

2 Corinthians 4:14—5:1

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Philippians 3: 20-21

Philippians 4: 4-9

2 Timothy 2: 8-13

1 John 3:1-2

1 John 3:14-16

\*Revelation 14:13

\*Revelation 20:11 – 21:1

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



## Gospel Readings

Matthew 5: 1-12a

Matthew 11:25-30

Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 25:31-46

Mark 15: 33-39

Luke 7: 11-17

Luke 12:35-40

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

Luke 24:13-35 or 24:13-16, 28-35

John 5:24-29

John 6:37-40

John 6:51-58

John 11:17-27 or 11:21-27

John 11:32-45

John 12:23-28 or 12:23-26

John 14:1-6

John 17: 24-26

John 19:17-18, 25-30

## Funerals for Children

Readings marked with an asterisk \* are selected for funerals for children who died before Baptism

## Old Testament Readings

\*Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

## Responsorial Psalms

\*Psalm 23

Psalm 25

## New Testament Readings

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

Romans 14:7-9

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18

## Gospel Readings

\*Matthew 11:25-30

John 6:37-40 or 6:37-39

John 6:51-58

# Old Testament Readings

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

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! 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.

## **Daniel 12: 1-3**

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.”

## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**

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

## **2 Maccabees 12: 43 – 46**

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.

## **Lamentations 3:17-26**

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.

## Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

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!"

## Wisdom 3:1-9 or 3:1-6. 9

For a shorter form of the reading, the words in italics may be omitted.

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.

## Wisdom 4:7-15

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.



## **Acts 10: 34 - 43 or Acts 10:34-36,42-43**

*For a shorter form of the reading, the words in italics may be omitted.*

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

“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 Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. *He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.* He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

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, 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.

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so

## **Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9**

*For a shorter form of the reading, the words in italics may be omitted.*

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.

## **Romans 8:14-23**

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

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

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. 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.

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

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 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 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. 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.

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

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.

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

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.

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

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 one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

## Philippians 3: 20-21

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.

## Philippians 4: 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

## Revelation 14: 13

I 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."





### **Revelation 20: 11 – 21:1**

I 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. 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.

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

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."

### **1 John 3:1-2**

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.

### **1 John 3:14-16**

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.

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

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 say 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.

## Gospel Readings

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

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.

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

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 your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

### **Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "Then 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.

### **Matthew 25:31-46**

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."

### **Mark 15: 33-39**

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 abachthani?" 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!"

### **Luke 7: 11-17**

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.

### **Luke 10: 25-37**

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

### **Luke 12: 35 - 40**

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."

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

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, he went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried. But at daybreak on the first day of the week the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised.

## **Luke 24:13-35 or 24:13-16, 28-35**

*For a shorter form of the reading, the words in italics may be omitted.*

That very day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. *He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his Body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.* As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## **John 5:24-29**

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

### **John 6:37-40**

Jesus said to the crowds: "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."



### **John 6:51-58**

Jesus told 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."

### **John 11:17-27 or 11:21-27**

*For a shorter form of the reading, the words in italics may be omitted.*

*When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. 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 Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."*

## **John 11:32 - 45**

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 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 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.

## **John 12:23-28 or 12:23-26**

*For a shorter form of the reading, the words in italics may be omitted.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "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."*

## **John 14:1-6**

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 .

## **John 17: 24 - 26**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"Father, my disciples are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

## **John 19: 17-18, 25 - 30**

Jesus carrying the cross himself went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over his spirit.

## Funeral Preplanning

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Planning your own funeral or memorial mass can provide peace-of-mind to you and your family. By planning your service in advance you can design and specify the exact type of service you'd like, so that your friends and family celebrate you as you wish. And by letting your family know how you'd like your funeral or memorial service to be, they'll have less difficult and complicated decisions to make during a difficult emotional time.

One of the benefits of planning your service ahead of time is the relief that pre-planning can bring to your family. By planning some or all of the features of the service, or even by simply talking with your family about the kind of service you'd like to have, you can help take some of the pressure off of those who would otherwise have to plan the service during a difficult emotional time—and you can provide them with the information they need in order to honor and remember you in the ways you want. Please call Mary Blanche, at the church office (480.595.0883) to make an appointment to start your pre-planning process.



