



Mass of Christian Burial

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The First Readings

CHOOSE ONE

1A: Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead and their passing away was thought an affliction, and their going forth from us utter destruction. But they are in peace.

For if before people, 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 God proved them, and as a sacrificial offering God took them to himself.

Those who trust in God shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with God in love because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones, and God's care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

1B: Lamentations 3: 22-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save. 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 I will hope in God.

Good is the Lord to anyone who waits for God, to the soul that seeks God; it is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Dear Parishioner:

Our Family of Parishes extends its sincere sympathy on the death of your loved one. We are with you in prayer. May the comfort and consolation of God be with you and your family.

This booklet is presented to you, so that ***if you wish*** you may plan the funeral or Memorial Mass. You will find a choice of readings, intercessions, songs, etc. on the following pages. We invite you to become as involved in the planning as you desire at this time. ***There is a planning sheet at the end of the booklet*** that provides an outline of involvement possibilities.

This may be a difficult time for loved ones to read or share words of remembrance. If you decide not to make any selections the priest will make them for you. If you choose to have a eulogy, we request that it be done by one person only. The eulogy or ***Words of Remembrance*** should be written out ahead of time and be limited to five or six minutes (*See notes on page 16*). We are here for you. If you'd like assistance, please call the Rectory Office at the designated parish.

It is necessary for the planning sheet to be at the rectory no later than the evening before the funeral or Memorial Mass. The planning sheet may be completed and then given to the priest when he is present at the wake.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance in any way, both now and in the weeks ahead. We offer our prayerful support and ask God's blessings on you and your loved one.

Life of Christ Pastoral Staff

1C: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to pluck up what was planted;

A time to break down and a time to build up;

A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

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 keep silence and a time to speak;

A time for war and a time for peace;

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

The Word of the Lord.

1D: Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain God will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations. God will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces. The reproach of all people God 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 God has saved us.

The Word of the Lord.

1E: Daniel 12: 1-3

A reading from the Book of Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned, and heard this word of the Lord:

At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since the nation 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 to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting disgrace. But those with insight 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.

1F: Proverbs 31: 6a, 10-13, 17-20, 25-26, 28-29

A reading from the book of the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.

She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel.

Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her; "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all."

The Word of the Lord.

1G: Job 19: 1, 23-26

A reading from the Book of Job

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;

And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

1H: Isaiah 35: 3-6, 10

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Strengthen hands that are feeble,
make firm knees that are weak,
say to the fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, He comes with vindication;
with divine recompense, He comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
and the ears of the deaf be cleared;

then the lame shall leap like a stag,
and the mute tongue sing for joy.

Those who the Lord has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,

crowned with everlasting joy;
they meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning flee.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalms

Psalms are the songs of the Bible and will be sung.

**If you have a favorite please list on the liturgy planning sheet,
otherwise the musician will choose.**

The Second Readings

CHOOSE ONE

2A: Romans 8: 31b-35, 37, 39

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, 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

2B: Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9

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 the 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

2C: Philippians 3: 20-21

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

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

The Word of the Lord

2D: Romans 14: 7-9, 10b-12

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 will give an account of ourself to God.

The Word of the Lord

2E: John 3: 1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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

The Word of the Lord

2F: Corinthians 4: 13-5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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

The Word of the Lord

X 2G: Corinthians 4: 14-5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters:

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

We are 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.

The Word of the Lord

2H: Timothy 4: 6-8

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

I am already on the point of being sacrificed.

The time of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight.

I have finished the race.

I have kept the faith.

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me by also to all who have loved His appearing.

The Word of the Lord

2I: Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A reading from the second Letter of Saint 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

✠ **2J: Revelations 21:1-7**

A reading from the Book of Revelations

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.

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.

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."

Then he said,
"Write these words down,
for they are trustworthy and true."

He said to me,
"They are accomplished.

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

Gospel Readings

CHOOSE ONE

3A: Matthew 5: 1-12a

When he saw the crowds, Jesus went up to 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."

3B: John 6: 37-40

Jesus said to the crowd:

"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."

3C: Matthew 11: 25-30

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: "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."

3D: John 6: 51-59

Jesus said to the crowd:

"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 our ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

3E: John 11: 17-27

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. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

3F: 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."

3G: Luke 24: 13-16, 28-35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, 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. 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.

3H: Matthew 27: 45-54

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.

But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

When the centurion and those who were with Him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, they became frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Prayer of the Faithful

CHOOSE ONE

4A: Our response is: *Lord hear our prayer.*

1. In baptism _____ received the light of Christ. May he/she now be welcomed into the fullness of God's life. *We pray to the Lord.*
2. That all our deceased relatives and friends may find rest and peace in God's love. *We pray to the Lord.*
3. For consolation for the family and friends of _____ , that they might be consoled by the Lord in their grief. *We pray to the Lord.*
4. For all assembled here in faith to pray for _____ . May we live in the expectation of Jesus' coming. *We pray to the Lord.*

4B: Our response is: *Lord hear our prayer.*

1. 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.*
2. 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.*
3. 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.*
4. 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.*

4C: Our response is: *Lord of life, hear our prayer.*

1. For all our deceased loved ones, especially those whom we remember at this Eucharist.

We pray to the Lord.

2. For those of us left with the pain and loss of the death of a loved one, may we always look to Jesus for comfort and consolation.

We pray to the Lord.

3. That peace will reign throughout the world and within our families, and that love will guide our way.

We pray to the Lord.

4. For all of us assembled here in faith to pray for _____, may we live always in the expectation of Jesus' coming.

We pray to the Lord.

4D: Our response is: *Lord of life, hear our prayer.*

1. That all members of the church remember death not as an end but as our fulfillment in life eternal.

We pray to the Lord.

2. That all people who mourn find consolation and peace in God through those around them.

We pray to the Lord.

3. That _____ and all who have died enjoy the vision of God with those in heaven.

We pray to the Lord.

4. That all family members and friends of _____ experience the strength of our faith in the resurrection of Christ.

We pray to the Lord.

5. That all of us here present, one day enjoy eternal life in the company of our brother/sister _____ and all the saints.

We pray to the Lord.

4E: Our response is: Lord hear our prayer.

1. For _____ who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she now be admitted to the company of the saints.

We pray to the Lord.

2. For the family and the friends of _____ that they may be consoled by the Lord in their grief.

We pray to the Lord.

3. 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.

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

We pray to the Lord.

4F: Our response is: Lord hear our prayer.

1. In baptism _____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

We pray to the Lord.

2. Our brother/sister _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

We pray to the Lord.

3. Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone.

We pray to the Lord.

4. The family and friends of _____ seek comfort and consolation. Lord, heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief.

We pray to the Lord.

5. We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister _____. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.

We pray to the Lord.

Suggested Music

CHOOSE FOUR

Amazing Grace	Let There Be Peace On Earth
Ave Maria	Like A Shepherd
Be Not Afraid	Morning Has Broken
Be Thou My Vision	O God Beyond All Praising
Carry Me Home	O Loving God (<i>Danny Boy Melody</i>)
Celtic Song of Farewell (<i>Danny Boy</i>)	One Bread One Body
City of God	On Eagle's Wings
Come to Me	Panis Angelicus
Come to the Water	Prayer for St. Francis
Eat This Bread	Precious Lord Take My Hand
Eye Has Not Seen	Shepherd Me O God
For All the Saints	Sing a New Song
Gift of the Finest Wheat	Sing With All the Saints in Glory
Go In Peace	Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	Taste and See
Here I Am Lord	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Holy God We Praise Thy Name	The Supper of the Lord
Hosea	These Alone Are Enough
How Great Thou Art	This Alone
I Am the Bread of Life	Unless A Grain of Wheat
I Have Loved You	We Remember
Jesus Remember Me	We Walk By Faith
Keep In Mind	You Are Near

Words of Remembrance

Frequently a relative or friend is asked to share a reflection about the deceased. We offer these helpful guidelines for such remarks. Please forward these to the person who will share the words of remembrance.

- The words of remembrance should encourage those present to live the Christian values and virtues as was exemplified in the life of the deceased. This is an occasion to cite some of the ways in which the departed has inspired us and deepened our faith through her or his life on earth.
- In accord with the Order of Christian Funerals, only one person should speak, not a series of persons.
- The reflection should take place after Communion and before the Final Commendation.
- The designated speaker should be someone who can maintain composure.
- Five to six minutes is suitable for the personal reflection.
- The speaker should write out his/her remarks. Off the cuff comments are often disjointed and tend to become rambling.
- The speaker should be aware of the sacred nature of the Church and not use words, incidents or phrases that would be inappropriate for the House of God. When speakers take liberties in this regard, it usually brings dishonor to the memory of the deceased and discomfort and even embarrassment to those in attendance. Let your words show the beauty of the life of the deceased, comfort the family and friends present and bring glory to God!

Mass Planning Sheet

Funeral or Memorial Mass of: _____

Planner: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Placing of the Pall: _____

First Reading: _____

Reader: _____

Second Reading: _____

Reader: _____

Gospel Reading (*Read by celebrant*): _____

Prayer of the Faithful: _____

Reader: _____

Offertory Procession: Gift bearers of bread and wine (*2 persons*)

Gift bearer of bread _____

Gift bearer of wine _____

Others may join in the procession, if desired.

Words of Remembrance to be given by: (*1 person, see page 19*)

MUSIC SELECTIONS

Only sacred music is appropriate for the Mass. The music at funerals should support, console, and uplift the participants and should help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory. If you have a Psalm preference, please list here. Any secular music is reserved for the funeral home, cemetery or bereavement reception. Any questions, please call the parish office.

If you have any questions please call the Rectory Office at your designated parish. Please give the planning sheet to the parish priest when he comes to the wake. **If there is no wake, please take the Planning Sheet to the Rectory Office no later than the evening before the funeral or memorial Mass.**

PLEASE DETACH HERE





Blessed
ARE THEY WHO MOURN,
FOR THEY WILL BE
comforted