

Planning the Funeral at St. Joseph's



St. Joseph Catholic Parish

Pomfret, Maryland

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Catholic Church
Funeral Mass Selection Sheet

Funeral Mass for _____

Date of Funeral _____ Time: _____

Celebrant _____

Viewing Date, Time, Location _____

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: # _____ Read by: _____

Responsorial Psalm: # _____ (Sung by cantor)

Second Reading: # _____ Read by: _____

Gospel Reading: # _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Offertory Gifts by *(list 2 people)*:

1) _____ 2) _____

Music Selections:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Rent the hall for funeral repast? Yes _____ No _____

***“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.”***

We offer our condolences to you and your family on the loss of your loved one. Please be assured of our prayers at this time. One of the greatest prayers we have is the Holy Mass.

We will do everything we can to assist you in preparing a liturgy to commend your loved one back to God in a way that brings comfort and prayers to your family. We'll work in coordination with your family's wishes, the funeral home, and the cemetery.

Once we agree on a day and time that works for everyone, we can prepare the funeral liturgy and also help with plans for a viewing and repast if desired.

While we are able to prepare the funeral liturgy, you are welcome to be involved. Choosing the readings and the music are ways many families become involved. This booklet includes information to help you with those tasks.

Roman Rite of The Funeral Mass

Greeting

Processional Hymn

Opening Prayer

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation/Alleluia

Gospel

Homily

General Intercessions

Preparation of the Altar/Hymn

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God

Communion Procession/Hymn

Prayer After Communion

Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell

Final Commendation Prayer

Recessional Hymn

Readings During the Funeral Mass

What Are Appropriate Readings for a Funeral Mass?

You are welcome to select the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm, the Second Reading, and the Gospel to be proclaimed at the Mass from the selections we offer in this booklet (see Appendix, pp. 11-25, for all selections). Alternatively, the pastor is happy to make any or all of the selections for you.

Who May Read at the Funeral Mass?

Although the Gospel is always proclaimed by the deacon or priest, the First and Second Readings may be proclaimed by family members or friends who are willing and able to effectively proclaim the Scripture from the pulpit. It is preferred that the readers be confirmed, practicing Catholics. Special exceptions may be made to permit a member of another ecclesial community to take on the task of reader.

May the Reader Offer a Eulogy?

We do wish to caution you that because the funeral Mass is sacred liturgy it is not appropriate for the readers to interject their own thoughts or words of condolence either before or after reading the scriptural passage. The time for that is at the funeral home or at a viewing preceding the Mass.

Selections

If you wish to participate in the liturgy planning of the Funeral Mass, you will need to make selections from the following categories (*see the Appendix, pp. 11-35 for the selections*):

- The **First Reading**:

If the funeral mass is NOT during Easter Season (i.e., the 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday), the first reading is from the Old Testament (C1-C7 selections, pp. 12-15).
If the funeral mass is during the Easter Season, the First Reading is taken from the New Testament (C8-C11 selections, pp. 15-17).
- The **Responsorial Psalm** *is sung* by the cantor between the first and second readings (D1-D3 selections, p. 17).
- The **Second Reading** is chosen from the New Testament (E1-E15 selections, beginning on p. 17).
- The **Gospel**, read by the priest or deacon, is chosen from Matthew, Mark, Luke or John (G1-G19 Selections, pp. 24-35).

Music

Because of its integral role in the liturgy, music is a very important aspect of the funeral. St. Joseph's Church requires the use of its own musicians, that is an organist and a cantor, to act as music ministers for the funeral. We welcome your input for selecting hymns for the Funeral Mass.

When/What Music?

Music in the form of hymns, chants, and responses is present throughout the Mass. Hymns are typically sung at three or four places in the service: during the Processional (if there is no viewing prior to Mass), the Offertory, Communion, and the Recessional. We have created a list from which you may choose hymns appropriate for these liturgical actions. We usually can accommodate your selections, but note that substitutions may occasionally be made at the musicians' discretion.

Secular music, even popular Christian, patriotic, or personal favorites of the deceased, is better suited for the viewing, wake, or repast but is not appropriate for the ecclesiastical funeral rites.

May a family member or friend sing at the Mass?

Occasionally, family members or friends will ask to sing a solo. We do our best to accommodate these requests at only two distinct times of the Funeral: as a prelude before the start of the Mass or at the recessional as the celebrant and people are leaving. Soloists are not permitted during the Mass for a number of reasons. All soloists and their music selections must be approved prior to the funeral by our music director and must make contact with him prior to the start of the Mass. We regret that musicians arriving after the funeral has started cannot be accommodated.

Suggested Selections of Hymns for Funeral Mass

The following suggestions have been compiled for your convenience. There are more options available on our website as well as the opportunity to listen to audio samples of each song. If there is a hymn you would like to select and it is not listed here or on our website, it may still be possible for us to use it; please consult with the Director of Music.

Processional/Entrance Hymn Suggestions

Be Thou My Vision
O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God
Beautiful Savior
Nearer My God to Thee
Blessed Assurance

Offertory Hymn Suggestions:

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Ave Maria
Abide With Me
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Be Not Afraid

Communion Hymn Suggestions:

Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist
I am the Bread of Life
Panis Angelicus
There is a Balm in Gilead
How Firm a Foundation

Recessional Hymn Suggestions:

I Heard the Voice of Jesus
Precious Lord
I'll Fly Away
How Great Thou Art
I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Costs

Because we do incur expenses associated with funerals, we have established the following: \$300 for musicians (this pays both the cantor and the organist); and a \$100 donation for the use of the church for the funeral service. Additionally, it is customary for the priest and/or deacon celebrants to receive a stipend.

Repast or Post-Funeral Reception

If the Parish Center, located on St. Joseph's property, is available, we can rent it for use after the funeral or burial for a repast (or post-funeral reception). The Parish Center will accommodate approximately 320 people, seated. Please inquire about the availability and additional costs for use of the Parish Center.

Cremation

It is no longer the policy of the Catholic Church to prohibit cremation. According to the wishes of the deceased or the surviving family, cremation is certainly permitted; however, cremated remains should be buried shortly after the funeral. If cremation is desired, it is recommended that it occur after the funeral service. However, cremation may occur prior to the funeral; it is acceptable to place the urn of cremated remains in a prominent place in the church.

Appendix

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Outside Easter Time.....p.	12
First Reading During Easter Time.....p.	15
Responsorial Psalm.....p.	17
Second Reading.....p.	17
Gospel Reading.....p.	24

Selections for the First Reading

*If the funeral is **not** during the Easter season, select one of the following seven (C1 through C7) Old Testament readings. If it is during the Easter Season, the 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday, select from among the four New Testament readings, C8 –C11*

C1 He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
took up a collection among all
his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver
drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to
provide for an expiatory sacrifice.
In doing this he acted in a very ex-
cellent and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrec-
tion 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.

The word of the Lord.

C2 I know that my Vindicator lives.

Job 19:1, 23-27a

A reading from the Book of Job.

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite
and said:
Oh, would that my words were writ-
ten 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 Vin-
dicator 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.

The word of the Lord.

**C3 As sacrificial offerings
he took them to himself.**

Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the Book of Wis-
dom

The souls of the just are in the hand
of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the
foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was
thought an affliction
and their going forth from us,
utter destruction.
But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed they be
punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be
greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he
took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they
shall shine, and shall dart about as
sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule
over peoples,
and the Lord shall be their King
forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with
him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with
his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

C4 An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

Wisdom 4:7-15

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 attain-

ment 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.

C5 He will destroy death forever.

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 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.

C6 It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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.

The word of the Lord.

C7 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall

awake.

Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the Book of the
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 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.

Selections C8 through C11: First Reading (New Testament): During Easter Season

*If the funeral Mass takes
place in the weeks between
Easter and Pentecost Sunday,
choose one of the following
readings from the New Testament
for the First Reading.*

***C8 He is the one appointed
by God as judge of the living
and the dead.***

Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:
 "In truth, I see that God shows
no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever
fears him and acts uprightly
 is acceptable to him.
You know the word that he sent to
the children of Israel
 as he proclaimed peace through
Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,
 what has happened all over Judea,
 beginning in Galilee after the
baptism
 that John preached,
 how God anointed Jesus of Naz-
areth
 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."

The word of the Lord.

***C9 Blessed are the dead who
die in the Lord.***

Revelation 14: 13

A reading from the Book of Revela-
tion

I, John, heard a voice from heaven
say, "Write this:
 Blessed are the dead who die in
the Lord from now on."
"Yes," said the Spirit,
 "let them find rest from their
labors,
 for their works accompany them."

The word of the Lord.

***C10 The dead were judged
according to their deeds.***

Revelation 20: 11- 21: 1

A reading from the Book of Revela-
tion

I, John, saw a large white throne
and the one who was sitting on it.
The earth and the sky fled from his
presence
 and there was no place for them.
I saw the dead, the great and the
lowly, standing before the throne,
 and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.
 The dead were judged according to their deeds,
 by what was written in the scrolls.
 The sea gave up its dead;
 then Death and Hades gave up their dead.
 All the dead were judged according to their deeds.
 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.
 (This pool of fire is the second death.)
 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life
 was thrown into the pool of fire.
 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
 The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
 and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord.

C11 There shall be no more death.

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

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
 The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
 and the sea was no more,
 I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
 coming down out of heaven from God,
 prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
 I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
 “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.
 He will dwell with them and they

will be his people
 and God himself will always be with them as their God.
 He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
 and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
 for the old order has passed away.”
 The One who sat on the throne said,
 “Behold, I make all things new.
 I am the Alpha and the Omega,
 the beginning and the end.
 To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.
 The victor will inherit these gifts,
 and I shall be his God,
 and he will be my son.”

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalms

Select one of these responsorial psalms (D1 through D3), which will be sung by the cantor between the First and Second Readings:

D1 Psalm 23:1-3,4,5,6

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

D2 Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

D3 Psalm 27:1,4,7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Selections for the Second Reading

Select one of the following readings (E1 through E15) from the New Testament:

E1 Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.

Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:
Hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has
been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who
has been given to us.
For Christ, while we were still
helpless,
died at the appointed time for
the ungodly.
Indeed, only with difficulty does
one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good
person
one might even find courage
to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we were 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 recon-

ciled,
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.

The word of the Lord.

E2 Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.

Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:
If, by the transgression of the
one,
death came to reign through
that one,
how much more will those
who receive the abundance of
grace
and of the gift of justification
come to reign in life through
the one Jesus Christ.
In conclusion, just as through
one transgression
condemnation came upon all,
so, through one righteous act,
acquittal and life came to all.
For just as through the disobedience of the one man
the many were made sinners,
so through the obedience of
the one
the many will be made righteous.
The law entered in so that transgression might increase
but, where sin increased,
grace overflowed all the more, so

that,
as sin reigned in death,
grace also might reign
through justification for eternal
life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

***E3 We too might live in
newness of life.***

Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint
Paul to the Romans

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 ab-
solved 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.

The word of the Lord.

***E4 We also groan within
ourselves as we wait for
adoption, the redemption of
our bodies.***

Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint
Paul to the Romans

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 glori-
fied 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 sub-
ject to futility,
not of its own accord but be-
cause of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery

to corruption
 and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.
 We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;
 and not only that, but we ourselves,
 who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
 we also groan within ourselves
 as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

E5 What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Romans 8:3 1b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
 Brothers and sisters:
 If God is for us, who can be against us?
 He did not spare his own Son
 but handed him over for us all,
 will he not also give us everything else along with him?
 Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
 It is God who acquits us.
 Who will condemn?
 It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,
 who also is at the right hand of God,
 who indeed intercedes for us.
 What will separate us from the love of Christ?
 Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,
 or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
 No, in all these things, we conquer

overwhelmingly
 through him who loved us.
 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
 nor angels, nor principalities,
 nor present things, nor future things,
 nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
 nor any other creature will be able to separate us
 from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

E6 Whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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

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

The word of the Lord.

E7 So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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

The word of the Lord.

E8 Death is swallowed up in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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.

The word of the Lord.

E9 What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:14- 5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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 pres-
ence.

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.

***E10 We have a building
from God, eternal in heaven.***

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second Letter of
Saint 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 always courageous,

although we know that while we
are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by
sight.

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the
body and go home to the Lord.
Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.
For we must all appear before the
judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recom-
pense,
according to what he did in the
body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

***E11 He will change our
lowly bodies to conform to
his glory.***

Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint
Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a sav-
ior, 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.

***E12 Thus we shall always
be with the Lord.***

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first 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.

***E13 If we have died with him
 we shall also live with him.***

2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second Letter of
 Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:
 Remember Jesus Christ, raised
 from the dead, a descendant of
 David:

such is my Gospel, for which I
 am suffering,
 even to the point of chains, like a
 criminal.
 But the word of God is not chained.
 Therefore, I bear with everything for
 the sake of those who are chosen,
 so that they too may obtain the
 salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
 together with eternal glory.
 This saying is trustworthy:
 If we have died with him
 we shall also live with him;
 if we persevere
 we shall also reign with him.
 But if we deny him
 he will deny us.
 If we are unfaithful
 he remains faithful,
 for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

***E14 We shall see him as he
 is.***

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of
 Saint John

Beloved:
 See what love the Father has
 bestowed on us
 that we may be called the chil-
 dren 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.

E15 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.

1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

Select one of the following Gospel Readings (G1-G19), which will be read by the priest or deacon.

G1 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he

went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G2 Come to me and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G-3 Behold the bride-
 groom! Come out to him!***

Matthew 25:1-13

**A reading from the holy Gospel
 according to Matthew**

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“The Kingdom of heaven will be
 like ten virgins
 who took their lamps and went
 out to meet the bridegroom.
 Five of them were foolish and five
 were wise.
 The foolish ones, when taking their
 lamps,
 brought no oil with them,

but the wise brought flasks of oil
 with their lamps.
 Since the bridegroom was long de-
 layed,
 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
 to 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G4 Come, you who are
 blessed by my Father.***

Matthew 25:31-4

**A reading from the holy Gospel
 according to Matthew**

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 assem-
 bled 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 hun-
 gry 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 pris-
 on, 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 hun-
 gry 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 pun-
 ishment,
 but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G5 Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the
 whole land
 until three in the afternoon.
 And at three o'clock Jesus cried out
 in a loud voice,
 "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*"
 which is translated,
 "My God, my God, why have
 you forsaken me?"
 Some of the bystanders who heard it
 said,
 "Look, he is calling Elijah."
 One of them ran, soaked a sponge
 with wine, put it on a reed,
 and gave it to him to drink, saying,
 "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes
 to take him down."
 Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed

his last.
 The veil of the sanctuary was torn in
 two from top to bottom.
 When the centurion who stood fac-
 ing him
 saw how he breathed his last he
 said,
 “Truly this man was the Son of
 God!”

When the Sabbath was over,
 Mary Magdalene, Mary, the
 mother of James, and Salome
 bought spices so that they might
 go and anoint him.
 Very early when the sun had risen,
 on the first day of the week, they
 came to the tomb.
 They were saying to one another,
 “Who will roll back the stone for
 us
 from the entrance to the tomb?”
 When they looked up,
 they saw that the stone had been
 rolled back;
 it was very large.
 On entering the tomb they saw a
 young man
 sitting on the right side, clothed
 in a white robe,
 and they were utterly amazed.
 He said to them, “Do not be
 amazed!
 You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the
 crucified.
 He has been raised; he is not here.
 Behold the place where they laid him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G6 Young man, I tell you,
 arise!***

Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel

according to Luke

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 moth-
 er.
 Fear seized them all, and they glori-
 fied 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G7 You also must be pre-
 pared.***

Luke 12:35-40

**A reading from the holy Gospel
 according to Luke**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G8 Today you will be with
me in Paradise.*

Luke 23:33; 39-43

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke**

When the soldiers came to the place
called the Skull,
they crucified Jesus and the
criminals there,
one on his right, the other on his
left. Now one of the criminals hang-
ing there
reviled Jesus, saying,
“Are you not the Christ?”

Save yourself and us.”
The other man, however, rebuking
him, said in reply,
“Have you no fear of God,
for you are subject to the same
condemnation?
And indeed, we have been con-
demned justly,
for the sentence we received cor-
responds to our crimes,
but this man has done nothing
criminal.”
Then he said,
“Jesus, remember me when you
come into your Kingdom.”
He replied to him,
“Amen, I say to you,
today you will be with me in
Paradise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*G9 Father, into your hands
I commend my spirit.*

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

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke**

It was about noon and darkness
came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon
because of an eclipse of the sun.
Then the veil of the temple was torn
down the middle.
Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“Father, into your hands I com-
mend my spirit”;
and when he had said this he
breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and right-
eous man named Joseph who,
though he was a member of the

council,
went to Pilate and asked for the
Body of Jesus.
After he had taken the Body down,
he wrapped it in a linen cloth
and laid him in a rock-hewn
tomb
in which no one had yet been
buried.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G10 Was it not necessary
that the Christ should suffer
these things and enter into
his glory?***

Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the
week,
two of the disciples of Jesus
were going

to a village called Emmaus, sev-
en 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 Jeru-
salem
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 word
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers
both handed him over
to a sentence of death and cruci-
fied 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, how-
ever, 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 vi-
sion 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 Christ
 should suffer these things
 and enter into his glory?”
 Then beginning with Moses and all
 the prophets,
 Jesus interpreted to them what
 referred to him
 in all the Scriptures.
 As they approached the village to
 which they were going,
 Jesus 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 to-
 gether
 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G11 Whoever hears my
word and believes has passed
from death to life.***

John 5:24-29

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John**

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 the 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 condemna-
 tion.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G12 Everyone who sees the
Son and believes in him may
have eternal life and I shall***

raise him on the last day.

John 6:37-40

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John**

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 heav-
en 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G13 Whoever eats this bread
will live forever, and I will
raise them up on the last day.***

John 6:51-59

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John**

Jesus said to 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 them-
selves, 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G14 I am the resurrection
and the life.***

John 11:17-27

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John**

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G15 Lazarus, come out!

John 11:32-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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 see 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 a

cloth.
So Jesus said to the crowd,
“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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G16 If it dies, it produces
much fruit.***

John 12:23-28

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John**

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 will lose 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 glori-
fy it again.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G17 In my Father's house
there are many dwellings.***

John 14:1-6

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***G18 I wish that where I am
they also may be with me.***

John 17:24-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Father, those whom you gave me 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G19 And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit.

John 19:17-18, 25-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself,
he 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 Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple 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 the Spirit.

Now since it was preparation day,

in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath,

for the Sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,

the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken

and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first

and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,

they did not break his legs,

but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,

and immediately Blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;

he knows that he is speaking the truth,

so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:

Not a bone of it will be broken.

And again another passage says:

*They will look upon him whom they
have pierced.*

After this, Joseph of Arimathea,
secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of
the Jews,
asked Pilate if he could remove the
Body of Jesus.
And Pilate permitted it.
So he came and took his Body.
Nicodemus, the one who had first come
to him at night,
also came bringing a mixture of
myrrh and aloes
weighing about one hundred
pounds.

The Gospel of the Lord.

