



Funeral Policy and Planning Guide

Order of Christian Funerals

"The Church who, as Mother, has borne the Christian sacramentally in her womb during his earthly pilgrimage, accompanies him at his journey's end, in order to surrender him into the Father's hands. She offers to the Father, in Christ, the child of his grace, and she commits to the earth, in hope, the seed of the body that will rise in glory."

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1683

A Message to Families

The clergy, pastoral staff, and parishioners of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to you and your family during this time of loss.

We recognize that the death of a loved one brings profound sorrow and many difficult decisions. While we cannot take away your grief, we hope to accompany you in faith and assist you in preparing a beautiful celebration of the Church's Order of Christian Funerals.

Our clergy, parish staff, and funeral coordinator are available to guide you through every step of the planning process.

The Catholic Understanding of Christian Funerals

The Order of Christian Funerals is celebrated for two principal purposes (Order of Christian Funerals, no. 4):

- To commend the deceased to the loving mercy of God.
- To comfort the living through the proclamation of God's Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.

The Church accompanies her children from Baptism through death, entrusting them to Christ while proclaiming the hope of the Resurrection.



Who May Receive Catholic Funeral Rites

The Order of Christian Funerals is ordinarily celebrated for baptized Catholics.

A Catholic funeral is normally celebrated for those who:

- practiced the Catholic faith according to the norms of the Church;
- did not formally renounce the Catholic faith;
- or returned to the practice of the faith before death through reception of the sacraments.

The Church also permits Catholic funeral rites, when appropriate, for:

- baptized Christians of other ecclesial communities;
- unbaptized children whose parents intended Baptism;
- other exceptional cases as determined by the pastor according to Church law.

The form of the funeral liturgy will be determined pastorally by the pastor or presiding priest.

The Three Parts of the Order of Christian Funerals

The Church's funeral rites ordinarily include three celebrations:

1. The Vigil (Wake/Rosary)
 2. The Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy
 3. The Rite of Committal
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First Steps After a Death

Ordinarily, families should first contact a funeral home.

The funeral director will then contact Saint Katharine Drexel Parish to coordinate available dates and times for the funeral liturgy.

After the funeral has been scheduled, the family should meet with the parish funeral coordinator or priest to:

- select Scripture readings;
- choose music;
- prepare the Prayer of the Faithful;
- discuss participation by family members;
- review parish policies.

Parish Office Hours: Monday–Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Parish Phone: (239) 283-9501

For emergencies outside office hours, families should contact the parish using the current emergency contact information provided by the parish office.



Funeral Planning Resources

Families may use parish planning materials, including:

- Online Funeral Planning Sheet
- Funeral Planning Booklet
- Funeral Planning Sheet



The Vigil (Wake or Rosary)

The Vigil is normally celebrated at the funeral home on the evening before the Funeral Mass.

The Vigil may include:

- visitation;
- the Rosary;
- a Service of the Word;
- family remembrances or eulogies.

The Vigil is the preferred time (6:00 or 7:00 pm) for family members and friends to share personal reflections on the life of the deceased.

The Funeral Mass

The Funeral Mass is the Church's ordinary celebration for deceased Catholics. Whenever possible, the Funeral Mass is celebrated with the body present. Cremated remains may also be present when necessary.

Funeral Masses at Saint Katharine Drexel Parish are ordinarily scheduled on weekdays Monday-Friday at 11:00 am or 1:00 pm. Saturdays, subject to clergy availability and the parish liturgical schedule.

Funerals are not celebrated:

- on Weekday 9:00 am Masses or Saturday Baptisms
- on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation;
- during the Sacred Triduum;
- or when they would displace regularly scheduled parish liturgies.



Reception at the Church

The Funeral Mass begins with the reception of the body or cremated remains at the entrance of the church.

The casket is sprinkled with holy water as a reminder of Baptism.

If the casket is covered by the United States flag, the flag is respectfully removed before the Funeral Pall is placed over the casket. Military honors are appropriately conducted after the Funeral Mass.

Family Participation

Family members are encouraged to participate in the liturgy by serving as:

- readers for the First and Second Readings;
- gift bearers during the Preparation of the Gifts;
- those placing the funeral pall over the casket;
- those placing an appropriate Christian symbol on the pall.

Qualified family members who are trained Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may assist if approved.

Family members wishing to cantor during the liturgy should coordinate with the parish music director before the funeral.

Scripture and Music

Families are invited to select the approved Scripture readings and sacred music with assistance from the parish clergy or funeral coordinator.

If desired, the parish will gladly make these selections on behalf of the family.

All music used during the Funeral Mass must be appropriate for Catholic worship.

Holy Communion

Catholics who are properly disposed, in the state of grace, and who have observed the Eucharistic fast are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Those who are not receiving Holy Communion are invited to remain prayerfully in their places.



Rite of Committal

Following the Funeral Mass, the priest or deacon ordinarily accompanies the family to the cemetery for the Rite of Committal.

Cremation

The Catholic Church continues to prefer burial of the body but permits cremation provided it is not chosen for reasons contrary to the Christian faith in the resurrection.

The following are acceptable:

- Funeral Mass followed by cremation;
- Funeral Mass with cremated remains present;
- Funeral Liturgy outside Mass followed by cremation.

Following cremation, the cremated remains should be buried or entombed in a cemetery or mausoleum. They should not be scattered, divided among family members, or kept permanently at home.

Funeral Mass, Memorial Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass

The Funeral or memorial Mass is the ordinary form of Catholic funeral celebration and is presumed whenever appropriate.

A Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be more suitable when:

- the deceased was not a practicing Catholic;
- most family members are not Catholic;
- Pastoral circumstances suggest another form would better serve those gathered.

The pastor or presiding priest will determine the most appropriate form of the funeral.

Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament for the living and cannot be administered after death.

A Catholic funeral does not depend upon whether the deceased received the Anointing of the Sick before death.



Guest Priests and Deacons

Guest clergy are always welcome to assist in the funeral liturgy with the permission of the pastor.

Note: Visiting clergy (outside the Diocese of Venice) must provide evidence of good standing.

Ordinarily:

- Saint Katharine Drexel clergy preside at the funeral.
- Guest priests may concelebrate.
- Guest deacons may assist.
- At the pastor's discretion, a guest cleric may preach, offer the Final Commendation, or lead the Rite of Committal.

Eulogies and Words of Remembrance

Because the Funeral Mass is principally the Church's prayer for the deceased and proclamation of Christ's Resurrection, eulogies are best offered during the Vigil.

If words of remembrance are permitted before the Funeral Mass:

- only one speaker is permitted;
- the reflection should not exceed five minutes;
- the text must be submitted to the celebrant beforehand.

Parish Policies

Lectors

Readers should preferably be practicing Catholics in good standing.

Baptized Christians of other ecclesial communities may read at the discretion of the presider.

Non-Christians do not proclaim the Scriptures during the liturgy.
When necessary, the parish will provide a lector.



Flowers

Families are welcome to bring flowers to the church. Up to two arrangements may remain after the funeral as memorial gifts to the parish. During Advent and Lent, flowers are removed following the liturgy in accordance with liturgical practice.

Photographs

When cremated remains are present, one framed photograph (approximately 8" × 10") may be placed beside the urn. Additional photographs or memory displays may be placed in the narthex.

Photography and Video Recording

Photography and video recording require prior approval from the pastor or his delegate.

Punctuality

Family members should arrive approximately thirty minutes before the funeral liturgy.

Military Honors

Military honors are appropriately conducted after the Funeral Mass in the narthex or outside the church according to military protocol.

Funeral Stipends

The following are suggested stipends to assist with parish funeral ministry. No one will be denied the rites of the Church because of financial hardship.

Service

Stipends

Funeral or Memorial Mass	\$250.00 [Cash/Check payable to Saint Katharine Drexel Parish]
Organist	\$250.00 [Cash/Check payable to Jonathan Barney]
Cantor	\$50.00 [Cash/Check payable to...]
Altar Servers (Optional)	\$10.00 each
Funeral Home Service (by priest/deacon)	\$200.00
Graveside Committal Only	\$100.00

There is no required stipend for the priest/deacon at church.

Note: The Family is responsible for paying the organist and cantor.

Families who wish to make a voluntary offering in appreciation for the pastoral care provided by the clergy are welcome to do so.

Questions or Assistance

If you have questions or would like assistance planning a funeral, please contact the parish office.

The clergy, staff, and parish family of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish are honored to accompany you during this difficult time and assure you of our continued prayers for you and your loved ones.

*"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen."*

Guidelines for the Reception of Communion in Catholic Churches From the National Conference of Catholic Bishops

For Catholics:

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians:

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion:

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians:

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.



Order of Christian Funerals – Outline for Body burial

FUNERAL LITURGY

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Greeting [Begin funeral liturgy at the baptistry]
- Sprinkling with Holy Water
- Placing of the Pall [Family members place the funeral pall on the coffin]
- Placing of Christian Symbols [Family member places crucifix on the coffin]
- Entrance Procession [Optional – procession of coffin with family and celebrant to the sanctuary]
- Entrance Hymn
- Collect (Opening) Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Old Testament Reading [Optional – recited by family member]
- Responsorial Psalm
- New Testament Reading [Optional – recited by family member]
- Gospel [Proclaimed by priest/deacon]
- Homily
- Prayers of the Faithful [Recited by family member]

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Preparation of the Altar [Optional – offering of the Gifts by family members]
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Eucharistic Prayers
- Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God
- Holy Communion
- Prayer After Communion

FINAL COMMENDATION

- Invitation to Prayer
- Silence
- Song of Farewell [Incense the coffin]
- Prayer of Commendation

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

- Closing Hymn [Procession of cremains with family and celebrant to the church narthex]

COMMITTAL SERVICE [Held at the cemetery/Funeral home]

Order of Christian Funerals – Outline for Cremains

FUNERAL LITURGY

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Entrance Hymn [Procession of celebrant to the sanctuary]
- Greeting [Begins in the sanctuary]
- Sprinkling with Holy Water
- Placing of the Pall [Celebrant places the funeral pall on the urn]
- Collect (Opening) Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Old Testament Reading [Optional – recited by family member]
- Responsorial Psalm
- New Testament Reading [Optional – recited by family member]
- Gospel [Proclaimed by priest/deacon]
- Homily
- Prayers of the Faithful [Recited by family member]

LUTIRGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Preparation of the Altar [Optional – offering of the Gifts by family members]
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Eucharistic Prayers
- Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God
- Holy Communion
- Prayer After Communion

FINAL COMMENDATION

- Invitation to Prayer
- Silence
- Song of Farewell [Incense the urn]
- Prayer of Commendation

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

- Closing Hymn [Procession of cremains with family and celebrant to the church narthex]

COMMITTAL SERVICE [Held at the cemetery/Funeral home]

Scriptural Readings for Funerals (Liturgy of the Word)

The following pages contain the choices for Scripture readings for a Funeral Mass (or other service). Please remember that only Scriptural readings may be selected for use at a Funeral Mass. Readings from secular sources may not be used.

The Funeral Planning Sheet contains spaces to note your selections. You may choose one Old Testament reading and one New Testament reading, in addition to the Gospel. You may also choose to have only one reading (either Old or New Testament) along with the Gospel.

Those selected to proclaim the Sacred Scripture at a funeral should be appropriately dressed and able to read in a manner that can be understood by all in the congregation. During Mass, the readings take place immediately following the Opening Prayer. If there are two readers, both may go to the lectern together and remain there until both have finished reading. Please note that the organist/cantor will usually sing a response following the first Scriptural reading.

THE FIRST READING: Any of the following Old Testament readings may be chosen and the family may select someone to do this reading. The Funeral Planning Sheet included with this booklet includes a place where this selection may be indicated.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS



A reading from the second Book of Maccabees.

Judas, ruler of Israel,

took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus, he made atonement for the dead
that they might be freed from this sin.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

OT – 2
(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 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 Redeemer lives,

and that God will at last stand forth upon the dust;

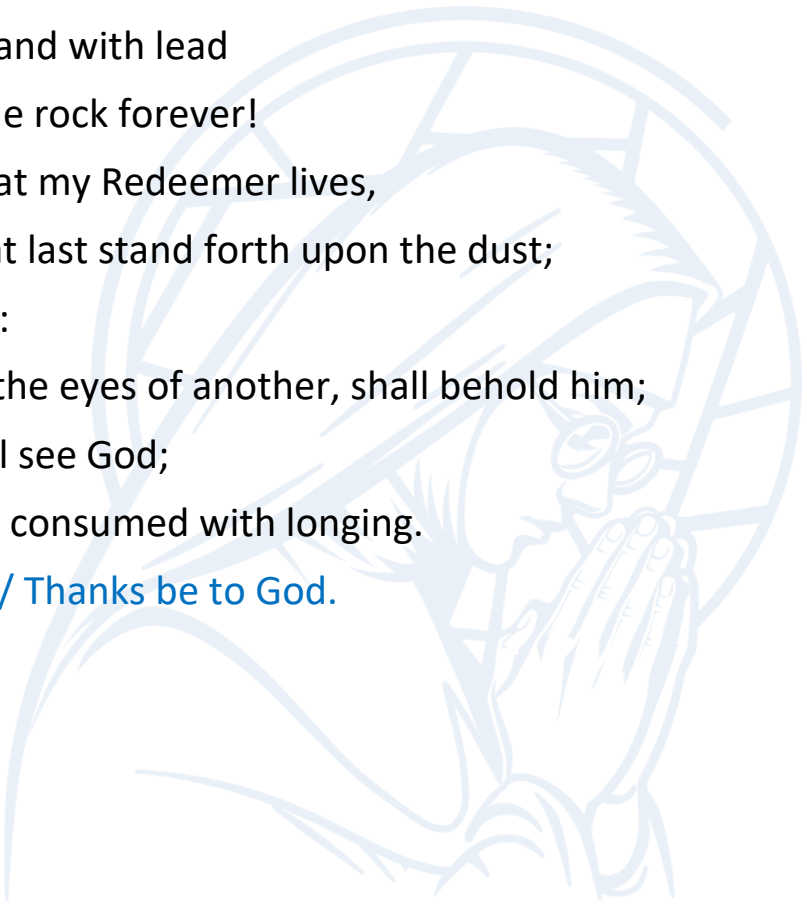
Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not the eyes of another, shall behold him;

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes [EE-CLEE-ZEE-as-TEEZ]:

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 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 for war and a time for peace.

God has made everything appropriate to its time and has put things
that are timeless into our hearts, without our ever discovering,
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

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 us indeed, they are punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy.

As gold in the furnace, God 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 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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

The just man, though he dies 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;
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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

OT – 6
(Isaiah 12:2-6)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

God indeed is my Savior; I am confident and unafraid.

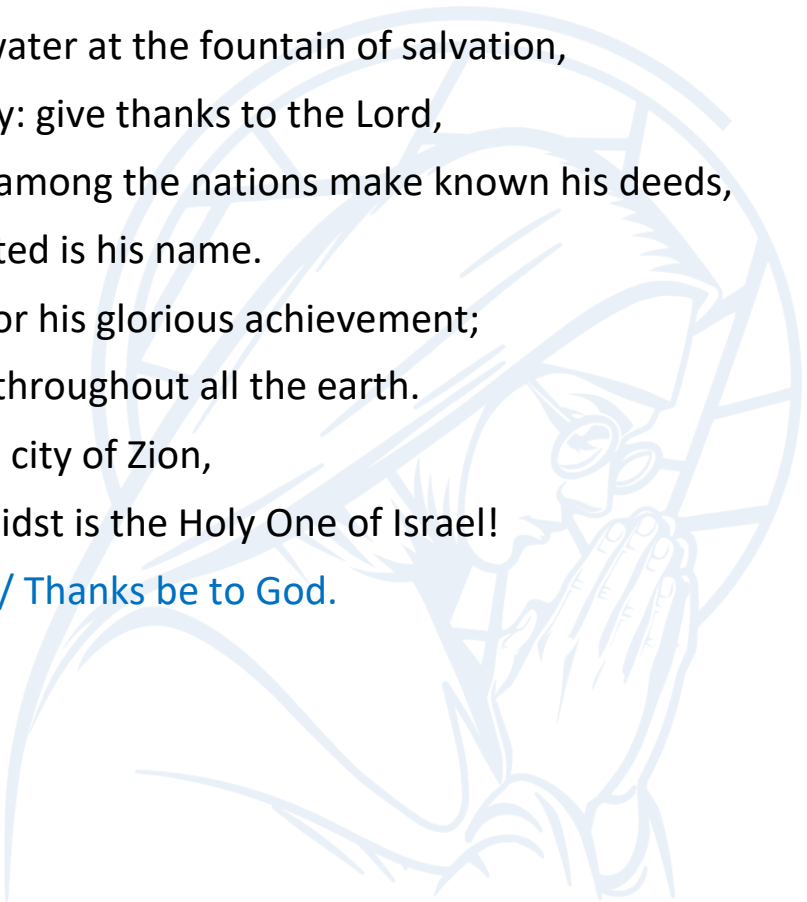
My strength and my courage is the Lord,
and God has been my Savior.

With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation,
and say on that day: give thanks to the Lord,
acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name.

Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement;
Let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



OT – 7

(Isaiah 43:1-2, 4-5, 18-19)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you and formed you:

Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name: You are mine.

You are precious in my eyes and glorious, and I love you.

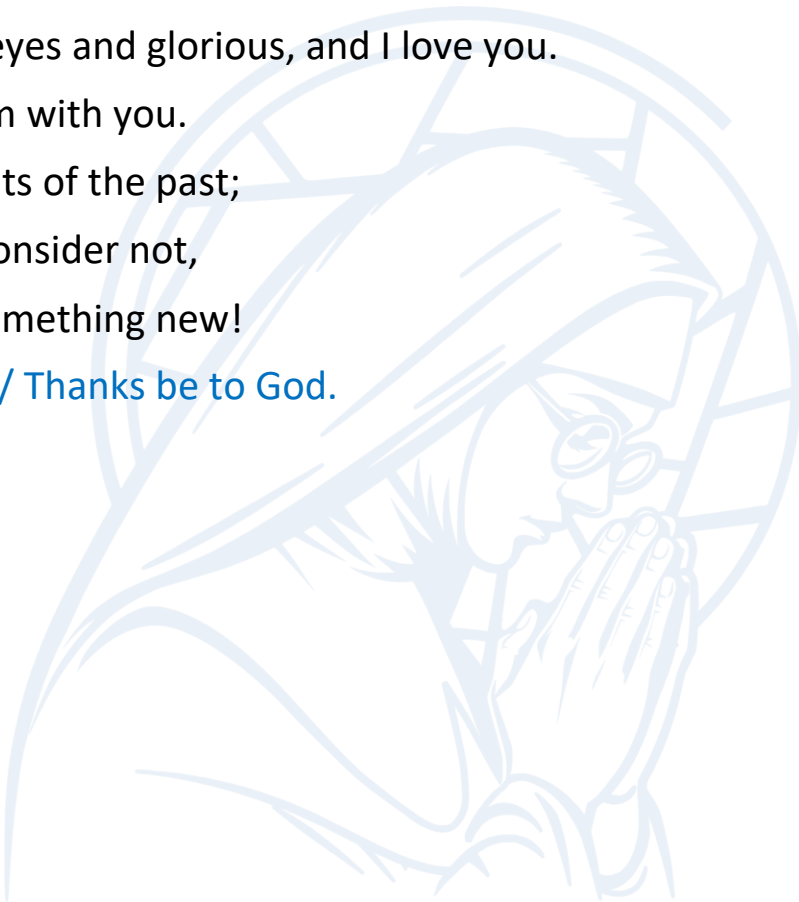
Do not be afraid, for I am with you.

Remember not the events of the past;

The things of long ago consider not,

See! I am doing something new!

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



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 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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

OT – 9

(Lamentations 3:21-26)

A reading from the Book of Lamentations.

I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope.

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,

God's mercies are not spent;

They are renewed each morning,

so great is God's faithfulness.

My portion is the Lord, says my soul;

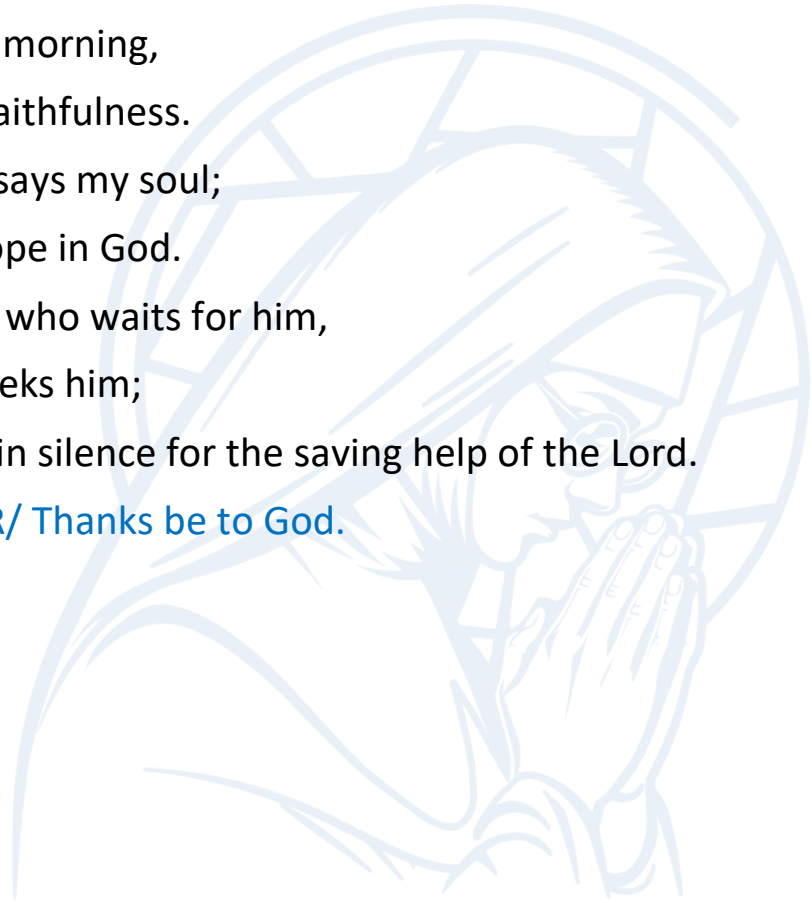
therefore, will I hope in God.

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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



OT – 10
(Proverbs 31:10-31)

A reading from 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 picks out a field to purchase;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

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.

Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land.
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.
She watches the conduct of her household,
and eats not her food in idleness.

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.”

Charm is deceptive, and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

During Easter Time: New Testament

(Note: During the Easter season one of the following four readings is used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.)

NT – 11

(Acts 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.

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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

NT – 12
(Revelation 14:13)

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this:

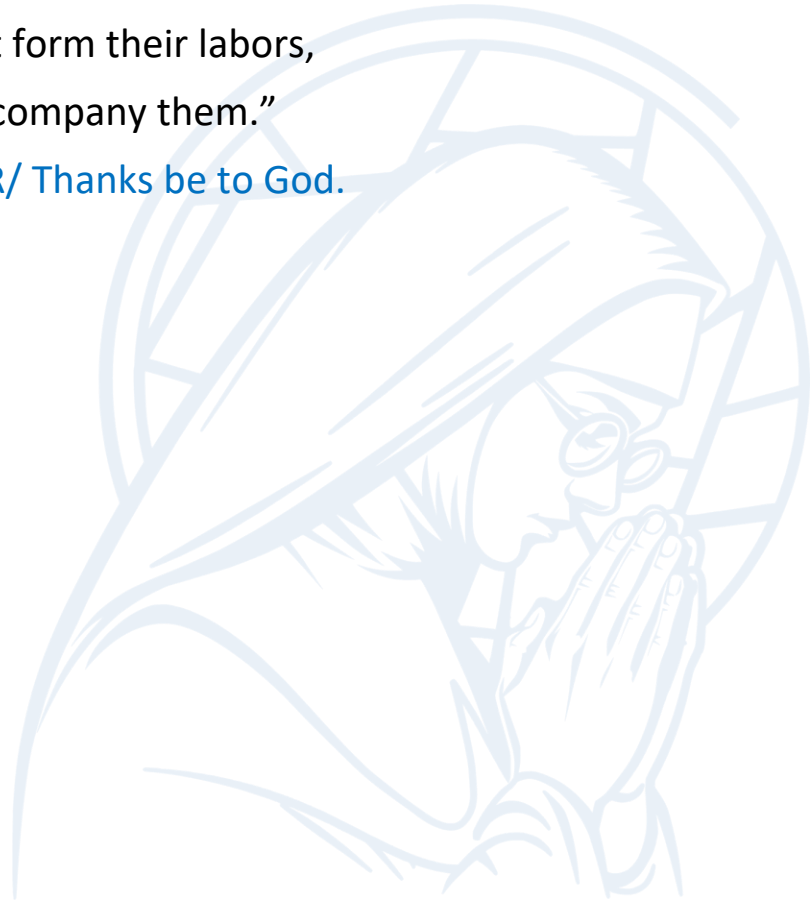
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”

“Yes,” said the Spirit,

“let them find rest from their labors,

for their works accompany them.”

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



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 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 victors will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be their God,
and they will be my children.”

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

THE SECOND READING: Any of the following New Testament readings may be chosen and the family may select someone to do this reading. The Funeral Planning Sheet included with this booklet includes a place where this selection may be indicated.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS



A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

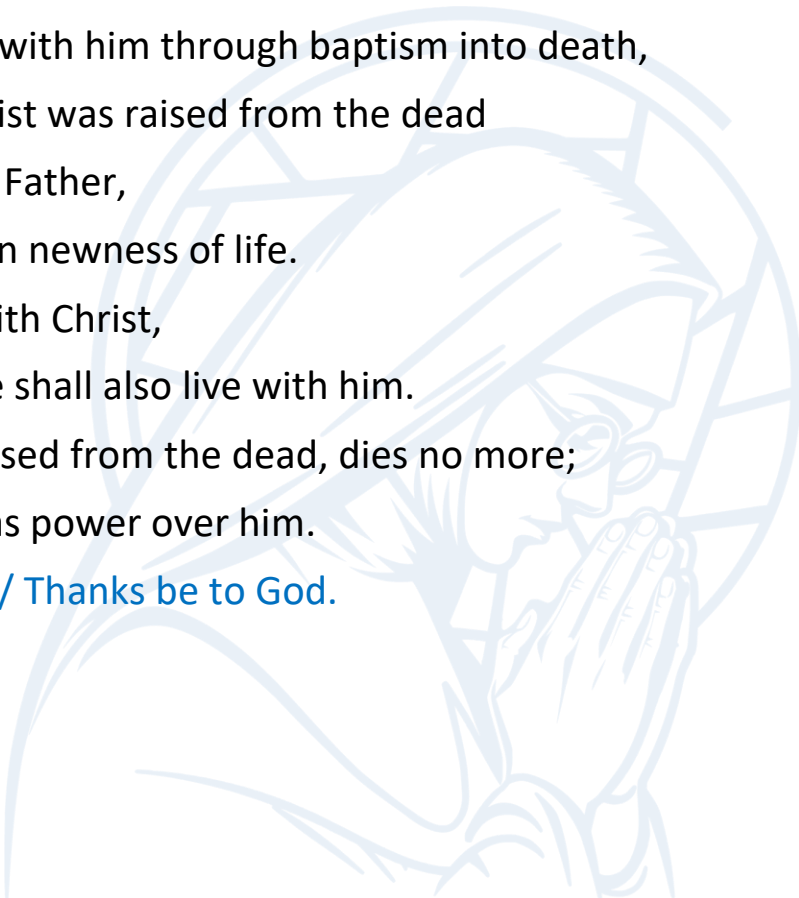
Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

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.

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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



NT – 2
(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 children 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,
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 salvation, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

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, who was raised

who also is at the right hand of God,

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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

NT – 4

(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;

so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,

that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother?

Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;

for it is written:

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

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

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

NT – 5

(1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

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

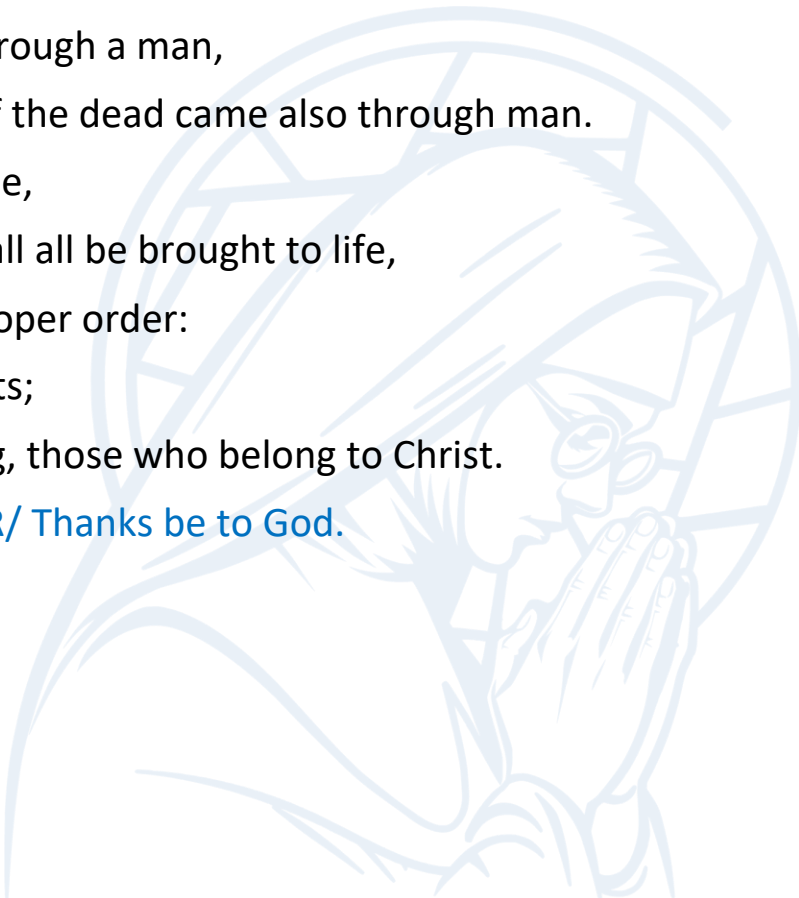
Brothers and sisters:

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.

The Word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



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,
and 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 world 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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

NT – 7

(2 Corinthians 4:6-10)

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

For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness”

has shone in our hearts to bring to light
the knowledge of the glory of God
on the face of Jesus Christ.

But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels,

that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained;

perplexed, but not driven to despair;

persecuted, but not abandoned;

struck down, but not destroyed;

Always carrying about in our body the dying of Jesus,

so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested
in our mortal flesh.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint 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 the 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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

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

The Word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters:

I have come to rate all as loss

in the light of the surpassing knowledge
of my Lord Jesus Christ.

For his sake I have forfeited everything;

I have accounted all else as rubbish
so that Christ may be in me and I may be in him.

The justice I possess is that which comes through faith in Christ.

It has its origin in God and is based on faith.

I wish to know Christ and the power flowing from his resurrection;

likewise, to know how to share in his sufferings
by being formed into the pattern of his death.

Thus, do I hope I may arrive at resurrection from the dead.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

If then you were raised with Christ,

seek what is above,

where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

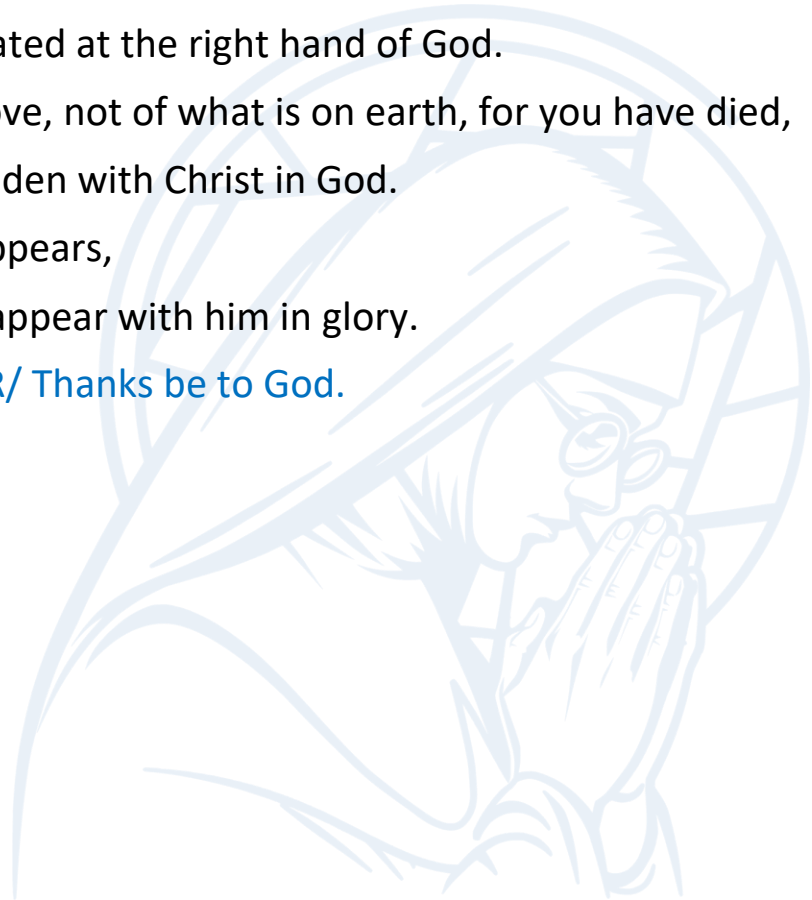
Think about what is above, not of what is on earth, for you have died,

and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ your life appears,

then you too will appear with him in glory.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



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.

Thus, we shall always be with the Lord.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

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. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved:

I have fought the good fight to the end;

I have run the race to the finish;

I have kept the faith.

From now on, the crown of righteousness awaits me,

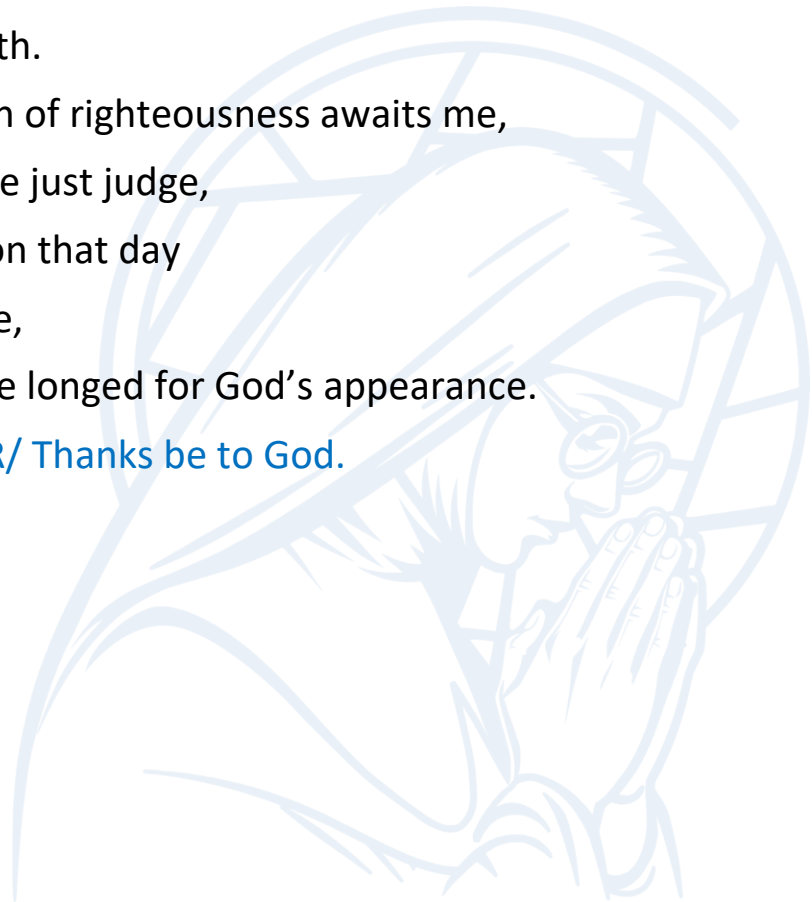
which the Lord, the just judge,

will award to me on that day

and not only to me,

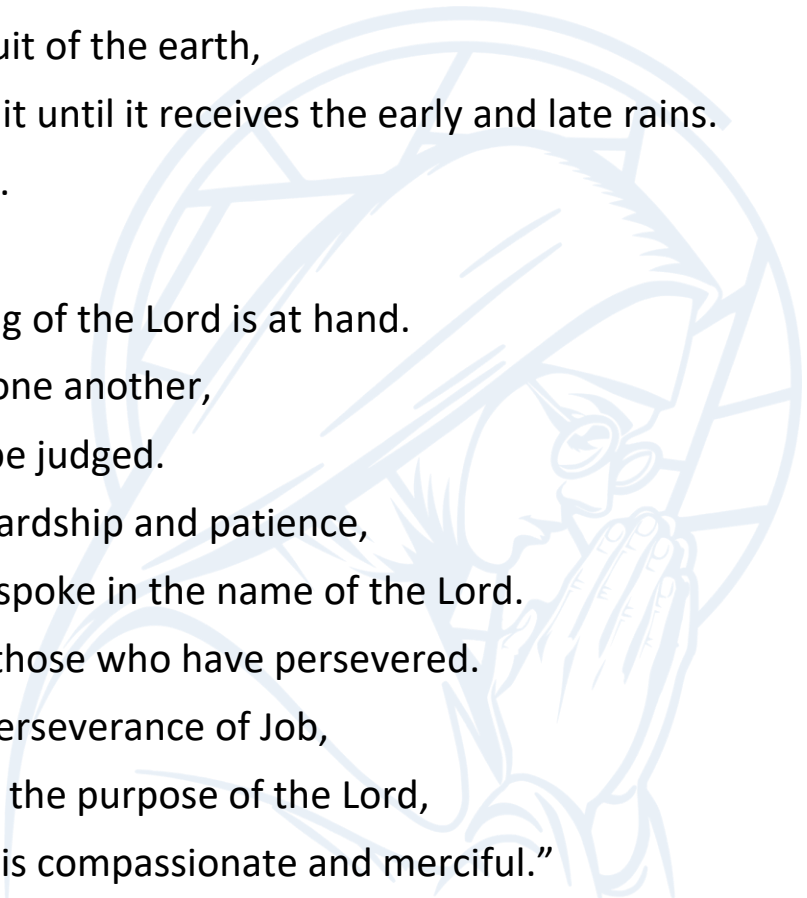
but to all who have longed for God's appearance.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



A reading from the Letter of Saint James.

Be patient, my brothers and sisters,
 until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits
 for the precious fruit of the earth,
 being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains.
You too must be patient.
Make your heart firm,
 because the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Do not complain about one another,
 that you may not be judged.
Take as an example of hardship and patience,
 the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
Indeed, we call blessed those who have persevered.
You have heard of the perseverance of Job,
 and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
 because “the Lord is compassionate and merciful.”
The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



A reading from the Letter of Saint Peter.

All honor to God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
for it is his boundless mercy that has given us
the privilege of being born again
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Now we live in the hope of eternal life
because Christ rose again from the dead.

And God reserved for his children
the priceless gift of eternal life;
It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled,
beyond the reach of change and decay.

And God, in his mighty power, will make sure
that you get there safely, to receive it
because you are trusting him.

It will be yours in that coming last day for all to see.

In this you rejoice, although now for a little while
you may have to suffer through various trials.

You love God even though you have never seen him;
though not seeing God, you trust him;
and even now you are happy with the inexpressible joy
that comes from heaven itself.

And your further reward for trusting God
will be the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

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 children of God.

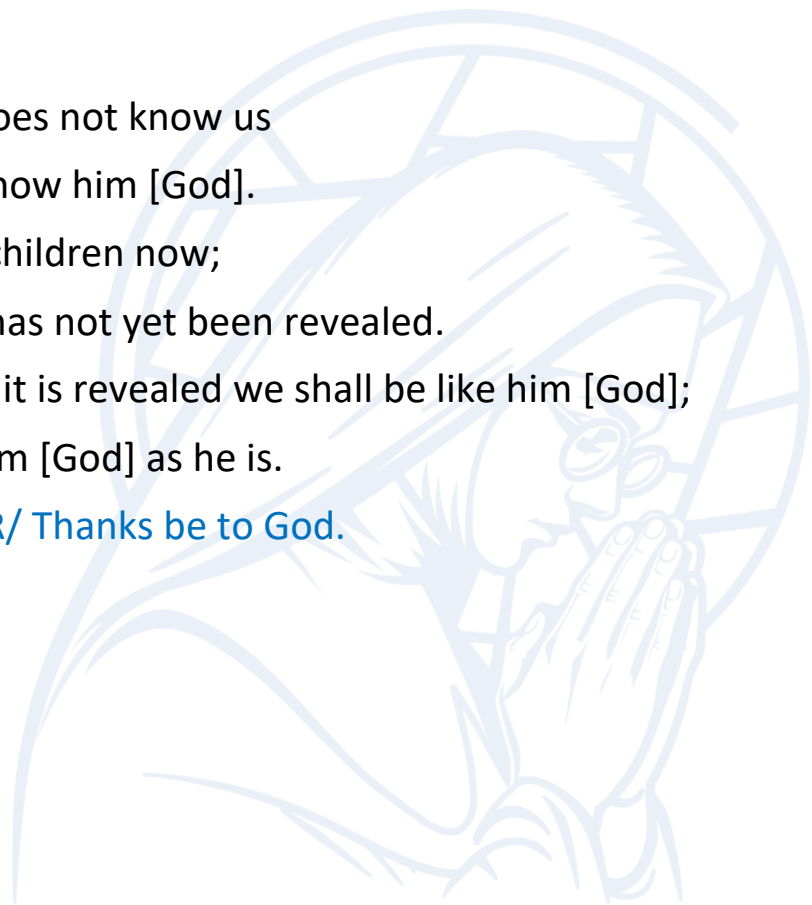
Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him [God].

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 [God];
for we shall see him [God] as he is.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved:

Let us love one another
because love is of God;

Everyone who loves is begotten of God
and has knowledge of God.

The person without love
has known nothing of God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed
in our midst in this way:
God sent His only Son to the world
that we might have life through Christ.

Love, then, consists in this:
not that we have loved God,
but that God has loved us
and has sent His Son as an offering for our sins.

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

NT – 19
(Revelation 14:13)

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I heard a voice from heaven say,

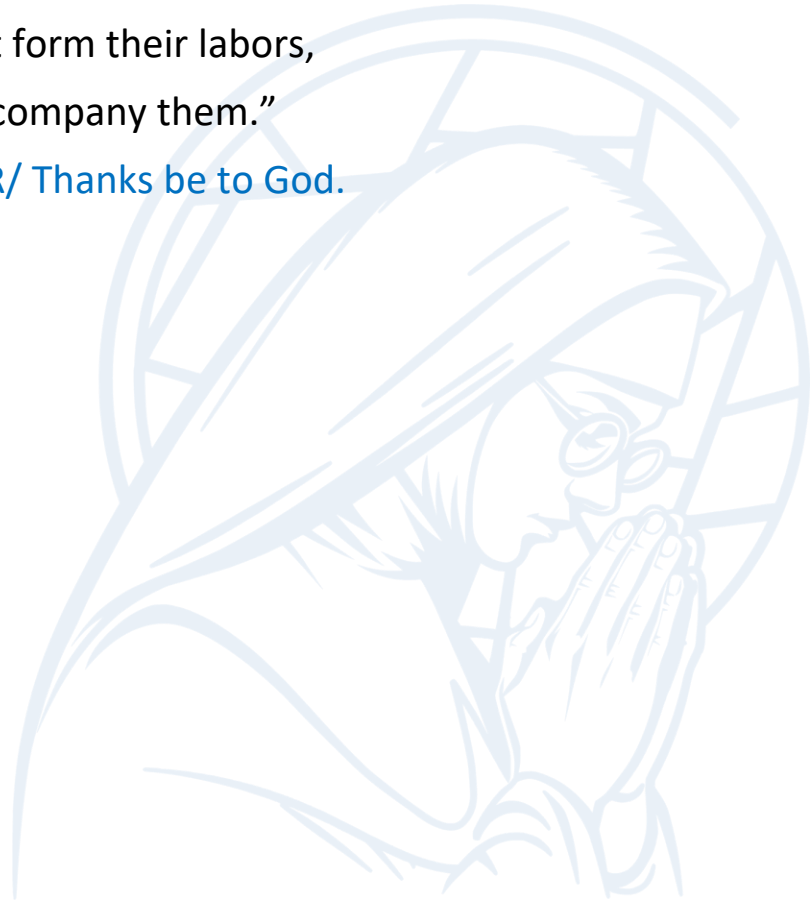
“Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”

“Yes,” said the Spirit,

“let them find rest from their labors,

for their works accompany them.”

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)



A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.

God will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God will always be with them as their God.

God 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 victors will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be their God,
and they will be my children.”

The word of the Lord. [R/ Thanks be to God.](#)

THE GOSPEL READINGS: The Gospel reading is selected by the priest or deacon that presides over the funeral liturgy in accordance with the Church's liturgical norms. The family does not choose the Gospel reading.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS (Prayers of the Faithful): The following Prayers of the Faithful are selected from the *Order of Christian Funerals*. We hope these prayers offer comfort, strength, and hope as you gather in faith to remember and honor your loved one during this time of loss.

Please select one (1) prayer from each of the marked section:

1. For _____ who in Baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, grant that he (she) now be admitted to the company of the Saints.
We pray to the Lord. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
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. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
3. For the sick, for strength and faith in their God.
We pray to the Lord. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
4. For those who suffer hardships, for those who struggle with pain or illness, those who are burdened. May the gentle yoke of Christ bring them comfort.
We pray to the Lord. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
- +++++
5. That God may call _____ to happiness in the company of all the Saints.
We pray to the Lord. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
6. 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. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
7. 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. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
8. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's Kingdom. We pray to the Lord. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*

- +++++
9. 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. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)
 10. That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)
 11. That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)
 12. For all those who care for the sick and dying, for blessings on their ministry. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)

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13. In thankfulness for all those who lovingly cared for _____, especially during these final days, for these we ask God's blessings. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)
 14. For those who care for the sick, for strength and courage as they give support to those in need. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)
 15. For all those who have died, for _____ may he (she) and all those who have gone before him (her), be welcomed by the open arms of Christ. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)
 16. For all those who have died, especially for _____, in thanksgiving for the gift they have been to our lives, may they and all those before them be accepted back to God with open arms. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)

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17. For all those who have died, we pray today especially for _____; for all that he (she) has been to us in this life, may his (her) goodness bring him (her) to fulfillment with our loving God. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)
 18. For the family and friends of _____, who shared a long life with them: that God may now strengthen them through their love for each other and their faith. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)
 19. For the family and friends of _____, that this time of heartfelt sadness and loss may draw them closer to the Lord. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)
 20. For this assembly: that we may keep our minds and hearts on the kingdom that lasts forever. We pray to the Lord. [R/ Lord, hear our prayer.](#)

- +++++
21. For _____'s family who grieve his (her) loss, and for those who could not be with us today. We pray to the Lord. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
22. For strength for the family and for others who grieve the loss of a loved one. We pray to the Lord. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
23. For all those who have been so good to _____'s family these past days, for blessings on them. We pray to the Lord. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
24. _____ touched our lives in so many ways, may he (she) know the reward of his (her) goodness. We pray to the Lord. *R/ Lord, hear our prayer.*
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FUNERAL MUSIC: The family is invited to select the music for the Funeral Liturgy from the approved selections provided by the parish. The Funeral Planning Sheet included with this booklet includes a place where these music selections may be indicated.

Please select one hymn from each section.

Entrance Hymns

- ☐ Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
- ☐ Amazing Grace
- ☐ Be Not Afraid
- ☐ City of God
- ☐ Crown Him with Many Crowns
- ☐ God Will Wipe the Tears
- ☐ Here I Am, Lord
- ☐ I Heard the Voice of Jesus
- ☐ Morning Has Broken
- ☐ O God Beyond All Praising
- ☐ Table of Plenty
- ☐ The God of All Grace

Responsorial Psalms

- ☐ Psalm 16 – *Shelter Me, O God*
- ☐ Psalm 23 – *Shepherd Me, O God*
- ☐ Psalm 25 – *To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul*
- ☐ Psalm 27 – *I Believe*
- ☐ Psalm 34 – *Taste and See the Goodness*
- ☐ Psalm 90 – *In Every Age*
- ☐ Psalm 91 – *On Eagle's Wings*
- ☐ Psalm 103 – *The Lord Is Kind and Merciful*

Presentation Hymns

- ☐ Ave Maria
- ☐ Eye Has Not Seen
- ☐ Fly Like a Bird
- ☐ For God So Loved the World
- ☐ Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
- ☐ I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- ☐ In Every Age
- ☐ O God, You Search Me
- ☐ On This Day, O Beautiful Mother
- ☐ Only This I Want
- ☐ Pan de Vida
- ☐ Prayer of Saint Francis
- ☐ Shelter Me, O God
- ☐ Taste and See
- ☐ The King of Love, My Shepherd Is
- ☐ You Are My All in All

Communion Hymns

- ☐ Christ Be Our Light
- ☐ Gift of Finest Wheat
- ☐ I Am the Bread of Life
- ☐ One Bread, One Body
- ☐ Seed, Scattered and Sown
- ☐ Shepherd of My Heart
- ☐ Take and Eat
- ☐ The Supper of the Lord
- ☐ This Alone
- ☐ Unless a Grain of Wheat
- ☐ We Are Many Parts
- ☐ We Remember
- ☐ Where Two or Three Are Gathered
- ☐ You Are All We Have
- ☐ You Are Near

Closing Hymns

- ☐ Alleluia (The Strife Is O'er)
- ☐ Amazing Grace
- ☐ City of God
- ☐ God Will Wipe the Tears
- ☐ How Great Thou Art
- ☐ Let There Be Peace on Earth
- ☐ On Eagle's Wings
- ☐ Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- ☐ Quietly, Peacefully
- ☐ Sing a New Song
- ☐ Sing to the Mountains
- ☐ Sing with All the Saints

