



**Planning for Catholic Funerals
at
St. Nicholas Church**

Revised: April 2015

INTRODUCTION

“... When a member of Christ’s Body dies, the faithful are called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of one whom they love The Church calls each member of Christ’s Body – priest, deacon, and layperson – to participate in the ministry of consolation: to care for the dying, to pray for the dead, to comfort those who mourn....The community’s principal involvement in the ministry of consolation is expressed in its active participation in the celebration of the funeral rites, particularly the vigil for the deceased, the funeral liturgy, and the rite of committal. For this reason these rites should be scheduled at times that permit as many of the community as possible to be present”.

Thus, the Funeral Liturgy of the Catholic Church is not the personal prayer of the deceased or of the family of the deceased. As with every Liturgy of the Church, the Funeral Liturgy is an official, public prayer of the Church. In the case of the Funeral Liturgy, it is the Church’s prayer for the immortal soul of the deceased and for the consolation of those loved ones left behind. The prayers, readings, intercessions, and musical selections should represent the “Prayer of the Church” and still be universal in nature.

In the celebration of the funeral rites, the laity may serve as readers, musicians, ushers, pallbearers, and, if they are already commissioned to do so, as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The family is encouraged to assist the parish ministers in planning the funeral rites: in the choice of readings from the prescribed scriptural texts, the selection of music appropriate for the rites, and in the designation of liturgical ministers, such as servers and readers.

MUSIC

Sacred music is an integral part to the celebration of the funeral liturgy. The selection of music must be liturgical and express our Christian belief in the gift of the resurrection. Religious hymns should speak to the mysteries of our Faith regarding death and resurrection. While popular music may warm the hearts of those who are left behind, it must never replace sacred music, and is not suitable for a Funeral liturgy. Such music is better suited to be played during the visitation or during the reception, if applicable. Every effort must be made to accompany the funeral rites with appropriate hymns, responses, and acclamations. The Pastor will assist and guide the family in appropriate musical selections for the Liturgy.

No taped music of any kind will be permitted immediately before or during the liturgy or during any of the three formal parts of the “Order of Christian Funerals” (Vigil, Funeral Mass/Liturgy, or Rite of Committal).

We do not label or title our funeral Mass as a "Celebration of the Life of..." That label is frequently used in our culture for the funerals of celebrities. Every Catholic funeral is a celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – a Eucharistic celebration. The

deceased is remembered as one who shared in Christ's life through baptism. We believe that God is faithful to us, and so we believe that the deceased lives in Christ forever.

THREE PARTS TO A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

In these three sequential rites, the Church offers to those who are mourning a way to prepare themselves spiritually and emotionally, to say their goodbyes. More and more Catholics are eliminating one or more of these three rites. Except in extraordinary circumstances this should not be the case. The burial of the body or cremains should take place in a reasonable time after death has occurred. The prayer of the Church is seen as a timely way to say farewell and to offer prayers for the immortal soul of the deceased. To delay the Rites of Christian Burial simply for convenience is inappropriate.

The Vigil (Wake)

At the Vigil, the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ's presence. The Catholic Vigil is a prayer service, usually held the evening before the funeral. The community of friends and family will usually gather for a service at the funeral home/mortuary. In some cases (especially if many people are expected), the Vigil may be held in the church/chapel. The Vigil includes the rosary, scripture readings, homily, and prayer for both the deceased and the grieving family. Also, a eulogy may be read at the Vigil. Visitation usually follows the Vigil, or Wake, service.

The Funeral Mass

The core of the Catholic funeral celebration is the Mass. The Eucharist is at the center of the Catholic faith – the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Scripture readings and prayer also play a prominent role in the Catholic funeral service, along with songs, hymns, and a brief message. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral. While following the directives of the Church's ritual in planning the liturgical celebration, the choice of music, color of vestments, biblical readings, and homily should reflect the family's wishes, while emphasizing as well the community aspect of faith which remains unbroken in death.

The Funeral Mass is customarily celebrated on the day of burial. However, for pastoral reasons the Mass may be celebrated at some other time before the burial, such as the previous evening. In any event, there should be only one Funeral Mass.

Since the proper setting for Mass is a sacred place, Mass is not to be celebrated in a funeral home or similar facility. The body of the deceased should be present in church for the Funeral Mass or "Mass of Christian Burial." The term "Mass of the Resurrection" is incorrect for the Funeral Mass.

Keeping in mind that liturgical roles are to be fulfilled only by Catholics, members of the family who are Catholic are encouraged to assume the role of readers and assist in the offertory procession. They may receive Holy Communion under both species. In accordance with the

Church's teaching, Holy Communion is not given to non-Catholics, but they may serve as pallbearers.

The casket remains closed during the Funeral Mass and should be covered with a white pall in remembrance of the baptismal garment. In addition to its liturgical significance, the pall serves a very practical purpose: it avoids ostentation, prevents possible embarrassment of the poor and emphasizes Christians' equality before God.

Apart from distinctions based on sacred orders and the honor due to civic dignitaries, no special honors are paid to any private person or classes of persons, whether in the ceremony or by external display. Exceptions to this general rule are those receiving military honors, which will take place after the post-Communion prayer, before the final blessing. Other civic/fraternal organizations will be asked to conduct their honors either at the Vigil or during the Rite of Committal.

The Rite of Committal (Burial/Interment)

In the Catholic faith, there is great respect for the body. Catholics believe that the body is "the temple of the Lord" and that at the End of Days, there will be a resurrection of the body. This service at the cemetery is the last farewell, in which the Christian community honors one of its members before the body is buried or entombed. With priest and mourners accompanying the body to the cemetery, the rite is celebrated at the grave or tomb or in a cemetery committal chapel.

Whenever possible, those who were part of the Catholic community are buried in a Catholic cemetery. As well as being a sacred place, it recalls the community of all the faithful, living and deceased. When a Catholic is to be interred in other than a Catholic cemetery, the priest will bless the individual space and then follow the usual ritual.

For those involved in civic organizations and those with additional affiliations, patriotic or fraternal services may also be conducted following the burial rite.

OTHER DETAILS

Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass

The funeral liturgy outside of Mass is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church/chapel, but may be celebrated in the home of the deceased, a funeral home, or in a cemetery chapel. Generally speaking, Mass may not be offered as part of the funeral rites for those not entitled to a Catholic funeral according to Church law. Following careful consideration of the deceased's relationship with the Church, the needs and wishes of the bereaved family, and the attitude of the community, the pastor may offer a funeral liturgy outside Mass. This rite may also be appropriate for a deceased Catholic when no members of the family practice the faith. The body of the deceased should be present for the service.

Even though Mass may not be celebrated as part of the funeral rite in these situations, it may be offered at another time for the repose of the soul of the deceased and for the spiritual well-being of the relatives and friends.

Ecumenical Considerations

When requested by the Catholic relatives of a deceased baptized non-Catholic, a priest may conduct a prayer service for the non-Catholic in a funeral home. In particular circumstances where the deceased non-Catholic was well disposed to the Church, and the family requests Mass, it may be celebrated with the body present in church.

Cremation

In recent years, Catholic funeral practices have been impacted by the increasing popularity of cremation as a means of providing for the final disposition of the body. As a result, a number of burial practices have been embraced by some Catholics which are not permitted according to the "Order of Christian Funerals." In order to help in funeral planning and allow you to follow the teachings of the Catholic Church, please review the following principles regarding Cremation in the Catholic Church.

On March 21, 1997, the Holy See granted an indult to *The Order of Christian Funerals*, giving permission to the U.S. Latin-rite bishops to allow the celebration of the funeral liturgy in the presence of cremated remains. This practice was never intended to be viewed as an "equally" good alternative to the traditional funeral rites of the Church which entail the burial of the body intact.

Whenever a family chooses cremation over traditional burial, families should be made aware of the preference to honor the body **before** cremation.

On October 4, 1997, the appendix to *The Order of Christian Funerals* was published for use in the funeral rites involving the presence of the cremated remains. The following should always be observed:

- The remains should be placed in a worthy vessel.
- The paschal candle should be placed in a prominent position as it is when the body is present for a funeral.
- The cremains may be incensed out of respect for the deceased's cremated body.
- The cremated remains may be sprinkled with holy water.

When cremation of the body is chosen, the Church still prefers that the body be cremated **after** the Funeral, thus allowing for the presence of the body at the Funeral Mass. When circumstances require it, however, cremation and committal may take place even before the Funeral liturgy. As mentioned above, most of the usual rites which are celebrated in the presence of the body of the deceased may also be celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains. The primary symbols of the Roman Catholic Funeral Liturgy are retained even when the funeral liturgy is celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains. The cremains may be

carried in procession and/or placed on a table where the casket normally would be. Photographs and other mementos may be used at the vigil, the Mass and the cemetery but should not be overly ostentatious or detract from the dignity and focus of the liturgies taking place.

The cremated remains of the deceased must be given the same respect as a body is given during the Rite of Committal. A worthy vessel must carry the cremated remains of the deceased to the place of internment. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. ***The practice of scattering ashes over the sea, on the ground, or from the air is not permitted for Catholics and is not considered to be the reverent disposition of the cremated remains.***

The cremated remains may be buried at sea as long as they are intact and placed in a worthy vessel that will carry the remains to the bottom of the sea bed. Burial of cremated remains at sea should observe all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

PLEASE NOTE:

Catholics should never retain the cremated remains in their homes, places of work, or any other personal space. Neither should Catholics divide and share the cremated remains of the deceased. The Church requires that the cremated remains be buried or placed in a recognized area of reverence for the dead. If the final disposition of the cremated remains does not take place according to the teaching of the Church with reverence and in a sacred place, the remains will not be permitted to be brought into the Church for the Funeral Liturgy.

Readings

Readings are provided in *The Order of Christian Funerals* to give grieving families an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their fears and in their sorrows, offering hope in the midst of their pain. The biblical readings may never be replaced by non-biblical readings. The Word proclaimed is God's way of speaking to us and can never be replaced by conventional wisdom or poetry.

If the family wishes to use additional readings that are not contained within *The Order of Christian Funerals*, they can do so at the conclusion of the Vigil for the Deceased, at the conclusion of the Rite of Committal, or during the funeral meal.

Two readings may be selected for use during the Funeral Liturgy. These readings are to be chosen from *The Order of Christian Funerals*. The first reading is taken from the Old Testament and the second is selected from the New Testament options. The responsorial psalm should always be sung. The psalm should never be replaced by a regular hymn which contains no psalmody. The Gospel will be selected by the Presider. The Gospel may only be proclaimed by a priest or deacon. Only those priests or deacons in good standing, who have been granted faculties by the Diocese of Fairbanks in Alaska may celebrate, concelebrate, or preach at a funeral liturgy.

General Intercessions

The General Intercessions are to be taken from *The Order of Christian Funerals*. There may be an addition of one or two personal petitions to the prescribed set, if approved by the Pastor prior to the day of the funeral.

Viewing the Body

This practice is highly encouraged, because it helps remove doubts that the loved one has truly died. The body should be viewed at the funeral home. At the time of the Mass of Christian Burial the casket is closed; however, viewing may take place in the church/chapel or lobby of the church prior to the Mass. If the vigil/rosary is held in the church/chapel, viewing can take place in the church/chapel before and after the vigil service.

Funeral Mass and Vigil Times

Vigil services are usually held the day before the funeral. Funeral Masses may generally be scheduled Monday- Saturday at a time to be determined jointly between the Pastor, the family, and the funeral home. No funeral Masses may be scheduled for Sundays or holydays and should not interfere with regularly scheduled Mass times in the parish.

Eulogy

The funeral liturgy of a loved one or a friend is a difficult time for everyone involved. In order to allow for a moment of personal sharing by a family member or a friend of the deceased, the Order of Christian Funerals (OCF) of the Catholic Church states the following:

“A member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased” At St. Nicholas Parish, this directive is observed in the following manner:

- 1) One person is permitted to speak during the Funeral Mass/Liturgy. If more than one person wishes to speak, this should be done at the funeral home during the viewing, at the Vigil service, at the cemetery during the prayers of commendation, or at the reception following the service, if this is applicable. ***Open eulogies (i.e., allowing anyone who would like to say a few words) is not permitted at the Vigil or Funeral Mass.*** This prevents mourners from “hijacking” the liturgy and safeguards the dignity of the celebration. It also avoids possible embarrassment of the deceased or their family if no one comes forward to speak.
- 3) If remarks are made at one of the above listed times, then the content of the remarks should be about the deceased and need to be respectfully presented. The speaker needs to be mindful that the setting is to be reverent, and only content which is appropriate to that setting should be presented. Nothing contrary to the views of the Catholic Church should ever be presented.
- 4) The remarks should be personal and should avoid taking the form of “another homily.”
- 5) The Eulogy should be limited to **one** page, typewritten and should not exceed 3-5 minutes.

Luncheon

You may choose to have the reception after the funeral and burial in the social hall. The Saint Nicholas Funeral Elves will be happy to assist the family in organizing the reception.

Church Stipend and Fees

Most funeral directors itemize all costs within their billings. This is something that should be discussed with them. Traditionally, offerings are made for the celebration of a Funeral:

Church Stipend	\$125
Priest/Deacon	\$100
Musician	\$75
Cantor	\$75

FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET

Name of Deceased: _____

Date of Death: _____

Funeral Date _____ Time: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Relationship: _____

Contact Phone(s): _____

Funeral Home: _____

Place of Funeral: Funeral Home Church Other Location

PART 1: WAKE SERVICE

Date: _____ Time: _____

Place of Wake: Funeral Home Church

Eulogy will be offered: Yes No

 If yes, list name: _____

A Wake Prayer Service is recommended to begin **after** the visitation.

PART 2: FUNERAL AND/OR MEMORIAL SERVICE IN CHURCH/CHAPEL

Opening Hymn: _____

First Reading (Old Testament): _____

Reader (*Please list name of reader*): _____

Responsorial Psalm (Sung by Cantor): _____

Second Reading (New Testament): _____

Reader (*Please list name of reader*): _____

Gospel Reading: _____

Eulogy will be offered: Yes No

 If yes, list name: _____

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FOR FUNERAL MASSES ONLY	
Offertory Hymn:	_____
Gift bearers:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, list names:	1.) _____ 2.) _____
Communion Hymn:	_____
Ministers of Holy Communion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>(Please Note: Ministers of Holy Communion must be practicing Catholics who have been commissioned by their local bishop to minister in this capacity.)</i>	
If yes, list names:	1.) _____ 2.) _____

Closing Hymn: _____

Funeral Times:

- Traditional Funeral Time: Monday – Saturday after 10:30 am
Burial usually follows immediately
- Evening Funerals are encouraged: after 4:00 p.m Monday – Saturday; **except Wednesdays**
Burial follows the next morning

Funeral Reception

As a courtesy, a Funeral Reception may be held in the social hall. Our Funeral Elves are happy to assist the family.

No Yes If yes, number of Guests: _____

Please contact the Parish Office at 907-488-2595 for more information.

SUGGESTED HYMNS:

GATHERING SONGS

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Blest Are They
Christ, Be Our Light
Come to the Water
Give Me Jesus
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
Lord of All Hopefulness
On Eagle's Wings

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Psalms 23: The Lord is My Shepherd
Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God
Psalm 27: The Lord is My Light
Taste and See

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Ave Maria (solo)
Be Not Afraid
Be Thou My Vision
Because the Lord is My Shepherd
Blest Are They
Christ, Be Our Light
Come to the Water
Eye Has Not Seen
Give Me Jesus
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman
Hosea (Come Back to Me)
I Have Loved You
Keep in Mind
Like a Shepherd
Lord of All Hopefulness
O God, You Search Me
On Eagle's Wings
Only in God
Only This I Want
Prayer of St. Francis (Make Me a Channel of
Your Peace)
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Shelter Me, O God

The King of Love My Shepherd is
The Lord is My Light
The Strife Is O'er
This Alone
We Have Been Told
We Will Rise Again
What Wondrous Love is This
With the Lord
You are Mine
You are Near

COMMUNION SONGS

Blest Are They
Center of My Life
Come to Me
Come to the Water
Eat This Bread
Eye Has Not Seen
Gift of Finest Wheat (You Satisfy the
Hungry Heart)
How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place
I Am the Bread of Life
I Have Loved You
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
I Know that My Redeemer Lives
I, the Lord
In Every Age
Like a Shepherd
On Eagle's Wings
Panis Angelicus (solo)
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Shelter Me, O God
Taste and See
The Lord is My Light
The Supper of the Lord
Unless A Grain of Wheat
We Have Been Told
We Remember
We Will Rise Again
With the Lord
You are Mine
You are Near

SUGGESTED HYMNS - Continued:

CLOSING/RECESSIONAL SONGS

Amazing Grace

Canticle of the Sun

For All the Saints

From All that Dwells below the Skies

How Can I Keep from Singing

How Great Thou Art

Lead Me, Lord

Let There Be Peace on Earth

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Sing with All the Saints in Glory (Tune: *Ode to Joy*)

Soon and Very Soon

The Strife is O'er

To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King

Ye Watcher and Ye Holy Ones

FUNERAL READINGS : FIRST READING (select one)

FIRST READING #1. It Is Good And Holy To Think Of The Dead Rising Again: 2
Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel, then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING #2. I Know That My Redeemer Lives: Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

Then Job answered and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: that with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him, and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING #3. He Accepted Them As A Holocaust: Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But 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

FIRST READING #4. A Blameless Life Is A Ripe Old Age: Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But the just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported--snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; for the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account. Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING #5. The Lord God Will Destroy Death Forever: Isaiah 25: 6. 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

FIRST READING #6. It Is Good To Wait In Silence For The Lord God To Save:
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

FIRST READING #7. Of Those Who Lie Sleeping In The Dust Of The Earth Many Will

Awake: Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord: "At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord

FUNERAL READINGS: SECOND READING (select one)

SECOND READING #1. Having Been Justified By His Blood, We Will Be Saved From God's Anger Through Him: Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life? Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #2. Where Sin Increased, There Grace Abounded All The More: Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners,

so through the obedience of 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

SECOND READING #3. Let Us Walk In Newness Of Life: Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #4. We Groan While We Wait For The Redemption Of Our Bodies: Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For 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, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #5. Who Can Ever Come Between Us and The Love Of Christ?:
Romans 8:31-35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #6. Whether Alive Or Dead, We Belong To The Lord: Romans
14:7-9. 10-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So (then) each of us shall give an account of himself (to God).

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #7. All People Will Be Brought To Life Through Christ: 1
Corinthians 15:20-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the d and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. 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

SECOND READING #8. Death Is Swallowed Up In Victory: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when 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

SECOND READING #9. What Is Seen Is Transitory; What Is Unseen Is Eternal:

2 Corinthians 4:14 -5:1

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #10. We Have An Everlasting Home In Heaven: 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we

must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #11. Jesus Will Transfigure These Wretched Bodies Of Ours To Be Like His Glorious Body: Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

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

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #12. We Shall Stay With The Lord For Ever: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #13. If We Have Died With Him, Then We Shall Live With Him: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

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

SECOND READING #14. We Shall See God As He Really Is: 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John

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

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING #15. If We Have Passed From Death To Life, Because We Love

Our Brothers And Sisters: 1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first letter of John

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

FUNERAL READINGS: GOSPEL READING (select one)

GOSPEL READING #1. Rejoice And Be Glad, For Your Reward Will Be Great In Heaven: Matthew 5:1-12

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 you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #2. 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 said in reply, "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

GOSPEL READING #3. Look The Bridegroom Comes. Go Out To Meet Him: Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #4. Come, You Whom My Father Has Blessed: Matthew 25:31-46

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 assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' "Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger

and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' "And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' "Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' "He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #5. 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 facing 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

GOSPEL READING #6. Young Man, I Say To 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 mother. Fear seized them

all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #7. Be Prepared: Luke 12:35-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Jesus told 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

GOSPEL READING #8. Today You Will Be With Me In Paradise: Luke 23:33, 39-43

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, 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 condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds 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

GOSPEL READING #9. Father, I Put My Life Into Your Hands: Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt." When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events. But at daybreak on the first day of the week they 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

GOSPEL READING #10. Was It Not Necessary That The Christ Should Suffer And So Enter Into His Glory?: Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

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

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #11. 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

"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 his Son the possession of life in himself. and he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #12. All Who Believe In The Son Will Have Eternal Life And I Will Raise Them To Life Again On The Last Day: John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it (on) the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day."

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #13. All Who Eat This Bread Will Live For Ever And I Will Raise Them Up On The Last Day: John 6:51-59

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus told the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #14. I Am The Resurrection And The Life: John 11:17-27

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know 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 Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #15. 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 them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #16. If A Grain Of Wheat Falls On The Ground And Dies, It Yields A Rich Harvest: John 12:23-28

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus told his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

The gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL READING #17. There Are Many Rooms In My Father's House: 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

GOSPEL READING #18. Father, I Want Those You Have Given Me To Be With Me Where I Am: John 17:24-26

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "Father, they 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

GOSPEL READING #19. Jesus Bowed His Head And Gave Up His Spirit: John 19:17-18, 25-30

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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

The gospel of the Lord