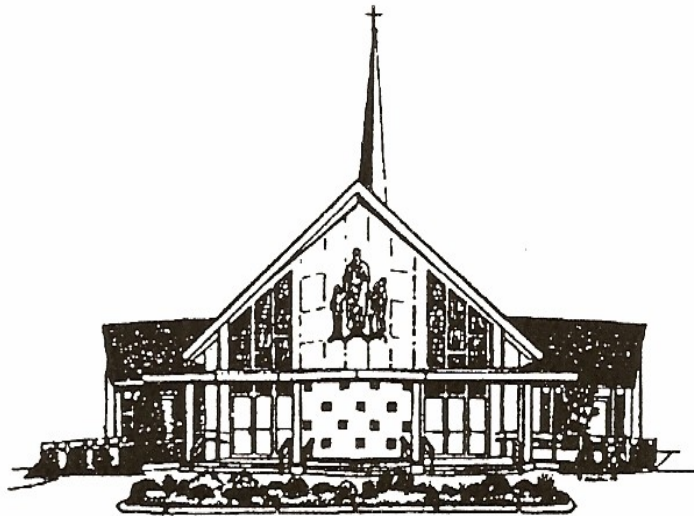


THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL LITURGY

Bereavement Ministry



ST. PIUS X CHURCH

5 BARBARA STREET

SOUTH YARMOUTH, MA 02664

***I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME SHALL LIVE FOREVER***

(John 6:51)

Preparing a Funeral Mass
St. Pius X Church
5 Barbara Street
South Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02664
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The purpose of this booklet is to assist you in planning a Funeral Mass at St. Pius X Church.

The Order of Christian Funerals has three sections:

A Vigil Prayer Service at the Funeral Home
A Funeral Mass at Church
A Committal at the final resting place.

This booklet concentrates on the Funeral Mass. The other two times of prayer can be planned by the priest or presiding minister in consultation with the family of the deceased.

There are five parts to the Liturgy at the Church.

1. INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting
Sprinkling with Holy Water
Placing of The Pall
Placing of Christian Symbols
Entrance Procession
Opening Prayer

2. LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading from Scriptures
Homily
General Intercessions

3. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

4. FINAL COMMENDATION

5. PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTTAL

You have the opportunity, in fact, you are encouraged, to help plan the Funeral Mass. You have options choosing the readings, songs, etc. These are explained in this booklet. Please take a few moments to read these pages and make your selections.

The information in this booklet, which is offered to help you plan your participation in the Funeral Mass, can be discussed with the member of the Bereavement Committee who will be in contact with you, or with the priest/deacon at the wake service.

We will now review each of the five parts of the Funeral Rite and list the various choices you can make to help shape this liturgy to best reflect the faith of the deceased and the hope of the family and friends who pray for eternal rest and peace for the deceased.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

The priest greets the mourners at mid-aisle of the Church, blesses the body and the casket is covered with the Pall. A procession to the Altar will be in the following order:

Altar Server
Priest
Casket/Cremains
Pall Bearers
Family and Friends

When the procession reaches the Sanctuary, after everyone is in place, family members may place a symbol of Christian life (i.e. a cross, a bible) on the casket. The symbol should be carried in the procession.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Church offers us the opportunity to hear three readings from Sacred Scripture. One reading is customarily from Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), one reading from the New Testament (the Epistles) and a Gospel selection. You may choose the first two readings, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. These three readings are followed by the Homily and the General Intercessions.

In this booklet we have printed the selections for Funerals for Adults. If the circumstances of the Funeral you are planning suggests different scripture readings, please feel free to discuss this with the priest or member of the Bereavement Committee who visits you.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Two to four family members are invited to bring the gifts of bread and wine to be received by the priest. These are located on a small table in front of the first row. The Funeral Director may assist the family members at the appropriate time. Please indicate on the selection card that the Bereavement Committee Member will give you, who will present the gifts and how many bearers there will be.

The usual order of Mass follows. After the Eucharistic Prayer, we recite the Lord's Prayer, exchange a sign of peace and prepare to receive Holy Communion. Those of the Catholic faith, who are spiritually prepared to receive our Lord in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, are invited to come forward down the center aisle and return by the side aisle. Those who are not receiving this Sacrament of the Church are asked to remain at their seats during this time and offer a "Spiritual Communion" for the intention of the deceased.

Communion is a celebration of our unity in faith. Since some at a Funeral Mass may not be united with us in the Catholic faith, we understand and respect the fact that they would not want to receive Communion. We do invite to Communion those Catholics who normally receive Eucharist and also those who are united with us in the Orthodox faiths.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Following the Prayer after Communion, Words of Remembrance (eulogy) may be offered. By no means is this required. The parish policy is that only ONE person is invited to offer these words. These remarks must always be in keeping with the sanctity and reverence of Holy Mass and should be **3—5 minutes** in length and must be written down since this is obviously an emotional and difficult time for a loved one. The Words of Remembrance should speak of the life of the deceased and how he/she bore witness to the faith through their example, practice and living of the faith in their daily lives. Above all, it should never be forgotten that these remarks are in the context of the most Sacred Liturgy of the Catholic Church, the Mass. This Liturgy is offered to pray for our deceased loved one, and to bring comfort and hope to the family and friends. Care should be taken to continue providing this vision of the Catholic faith through the Words of Remembrance.

FINAL COMMENDATION

After a brief invitation to prayer there is a period of silence and the body is incensed, a prayer of commendation is offered and the procession begins. The priest and assisting ministers precede the casket and the family and friends follow. The Pall is removed by the Funeral Director at the front door of the Church.

MUSIC

Music is an essential part of the Funeral Liturgy. The Parish Director of Liturgical Music will assist the congregation in singing, responses and acclamations that are customary to the celebration of a Funeral Mass.

Those wishing the services of a musician who is not regularly involved in the Parish Music Program should contact the Parish Director of Music.

A member of the Bereavement Committee will assist you in choosing songs that are appropriate for the Funeral Liturgy. Only hymns and songs of a sacred nature will be allowed at a Funeral Mass.

CREMATION

It is preferred that the wake and Funeral Mass precede cremation of the body. However, when cremation has preceded the Mass, the remains of the deceased may be carried in and placed on a small table which will be in front of the altar. No pall is placed on the urn nor are pictures of the deceased or other symbols placed near the urn. It is assumed, in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church, that cremated remains of a loved one are to be buried in keeping with the dignity and reverence of the body.

If neither the body nor the cremated remains will be present, a Memorial Mass, not a Funeral Mass, will be celebrated. Please speak with the priest if there are any questions.

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1

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

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

12:43-46

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.
In doing this he acted in a very 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.

I know that my Vindicator lives.

A reading from the Book of Job

19:1, 23-27a

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 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.

3 LONG FORM

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

3:1-9

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.

3 SHORT FORM

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

3:1-6, 9

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 in the eyes of 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.

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.

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

4:7-15

The just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;

he who lived among sinners was transported –
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord.

He will destroy death forever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

25:6a, 7-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord God will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth, for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:
“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the Lord for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
Therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

7

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

12:1-3

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and heard this word of the Lord:
At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord.

8 There is a time for everything under the heavens.

A reading from Ecclesiastes

3:1-11

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every thing under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil?
I have considered the task that God has appointed
for the sons of men to be busied about.
He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into their hearts,
without man's ever discovering,
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The word of the Lord.

A valiant woman, a capable wife, who can find her?

She is far more precious than jewels.

The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good and not harm, all the days of her life.

Her associates all have great confidence in her

and benefit from her expertise.

She initiates good, not evil, every day of her life.

She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.

She does not neglect her household tasks.

She willingly works with her hands.

Her lamp does not go out at night. She rises early, before dawn to

prepare food for her family and organize the tasks of the day.

She works diligently, taking pride in her inner resources and strengths.

She opens her hands to the poor,

and reaches out her hands to the needy.

She opens her mouth with wisdom,

and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Her children rise up and call her happy;

her husband, too, and he praises her.

“Many women have done excellently well, but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,

but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,

and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans *5:5-11*

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us
in that while we were 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.

Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

5:17-21

Brothers and sisters:

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

In conclusion, just as through one transgression
condemnation came upon all,
so, through one righteous act,
acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man
the many were made sinners,
so through the obedience of the one
the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase
but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that,
as sin reigned in death,
grace also might reign through justification for eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

3 LONG FORM

We too might live in newness of life.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

6:3-9

Brothers and sisters:

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

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

3 SHORT FORM

We too might live in newness of life.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

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.

4

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

8:14-23

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, ***Abba***, "Father!"

The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation
the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all,
will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,
who also is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly
through him who loved us.

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

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself,

and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,

and if we die, we die for the Lord;

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

For this is why Christ died and came to life,

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

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.

7 LONG FORM

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-28

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,

the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,

the resurrection of the dead came also through a man.

For just as in Adam all die,

so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,

but each one in proper order:

Christ the firstfruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

then comes the end,

when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death,

for **he subjected everything under his feet.**

But when it says that everything has been subjected,

it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.

When everything is subjected to him,

then the Son himself will also be subjected

to the one who subjected everything to him,

so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

7 SHORT FORM

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23

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 a 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.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself
with incorruptibility
and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with
incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

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

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

4:14 – 5:1

Brothers and sisters:

We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus

will raise us also with Jesus

and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you,

so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more
people

may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged;

rather, although our outer self is wasting away,

our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction

is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all
comparison,

as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen;

for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,

should be destroyed,

we have a building from God,

a dwelling not made with hands,

eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

10

We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

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

5:1, 6-10

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.

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

The word of the Lord.

11

We will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.

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

3:20-21

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,

and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body

to conform with his glorified Body

by the power that enables him also

to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

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

4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy *2:8-13*

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.

We shall see him as he is.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

3:1-2

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

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

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

15

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

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

3:14-16

Beloved:

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

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.

The way we came to know love
was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians***4:4-9*****B**rothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,

by prayer and petition

with thanksgiving,

make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding

will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ.

Finally, brother,

whatever is true, whatever is honorable,

whatever is just, whatever is pure,

whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,

if there is any excellence and if there is any worthy of praise,

think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received

and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

**READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT
DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER**

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER

1 LONG FORM

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-43

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 to all,
what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the Devil,
for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,
not to all the people, but to us,
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Continued next page

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.

1 SHORT FORM

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-36, 42-43

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 to 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.

2

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

A reading from the Book of Revelation

14:13

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

The word of the Lord.

The dead were judged according to their deeds.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

20:11 – 21:1

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence

and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne,

and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds,

by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead;

then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life

was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,

and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord.

There shall be no more death.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

21:1-5a, 6b-7

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.

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

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

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.

He will dwell with them and they will be his people

and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes,

and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said,

“Behold, I make all things new.”

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.

The victor will inherit these gifts,

and I shall be his God,

and he will be my son.”

The word of the Lord.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

MODEL A

The priest begins:

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voice of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

Assisting minister:

Please respond: Hear our prayer.

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

Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister:

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

Many people die of violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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

Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Model A, continued:

Assisting minister:

(For the mourners **The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief.**

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.)

Assisting minister:

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

The priest then concludes:

**Lord God,
giver of peace and healer of souls,
hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ,
and the voices of your people,
whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb.
Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ
and grant them a place in the kingdom.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

MODEL B

The priest begins:

**God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his son from the dead;
with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:**

Assisting minister:

Please respond: Hear our prayer.

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

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister:

**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.

Assisting minister:

**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.

Assisting minister:

**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.

Assisting minister:

(For the mourners: **For the family and friends of our brother/sister N.
that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the
death of his friend Lazarus.**

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.)

Model B, continued:

Assisting minister:

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.

The priest then concludes:

God, our shelter and our strength,

you listen in love to the cry of your peoples:

hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters.

Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

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