

Mass of Christian Burial



St. John of the Cross

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Euclid, Ohio 44143

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Planning the Mass of Christian Burial

This booklet has been prepared to assist your family in planning the Mass of Christian Burial for your loved one. We hope that by choosing your own readings, music and ritual movements, you and your family might share more fully in the liturgy and express your care and love for the deceased.

Enclosed with this booklet is a liturgy planning form to be returned to the priest presiding at the funeral Mass. Please fill out the form and return it to the priest at the wake or as soon as possible. If you need assistance, a parish staff member will gladly provide help.

The music director will be contacted and made aware of your musical selections. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the parish office at 216-289-0770. Please know that visiting priests are always welcome at St. John of the Cross.

Be assured of the prayers and concern of our parish during this time of sorrow.



Introductory Rites

Greeting

Blessing with Holy Water

Placing of the Pall: After the casket has been blessed with holy water, a white cloth or “pall” is placed on top of the casket. This cloth symbolizes the baptismal garment of our Catholic faith. Family members are encouraged to take part in this ritual at the liturgy.

Placing of Christian Symbols: Family members may choose to place a Christian symbol on top of the casket during the Mass. A favorite cross, rosary or prayer book of the deceased would be most appropriate.

Opening Song: Please choose an opening song from the music insert page included in this booklet. These selections have been chosen from the music books used at St. John of the Cross. Other songs are acceptable, yet please make every effort to ensure that they can be found in our music books to allow for active participation by all present. You are most welcome to pick up a copy of the music book from the parish if it would assist you in your planning.

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD: Family members or friends are encouraged to proclaim the readings at the funeral Mass. Please try to choose individuals with clear speaking voices, as the Word proclaimed is meant to bring comfort to those who have gathered to pray. It is helpful to give your chosen readers a copy of the reading before the liturgy so that they may prepare in advance. If you would like the priest to proclaim the readings, please indicate this on the planning form.



First Reading: The first reading is taken from the Hebrew Scriptures of the “Old Testament” at all times during the year except during the Easter Season (Easter Sunday - Pentecost Sunday) during which time the first reading is chosen from among certain selections from the Second Reading section below; namely # 1, #14 or #15. Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your choice on the planning form. (You may choose a reading not listed here, as long as it can be found in the Old Testament.)

#1) A Reading from the book of Wisdom

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.

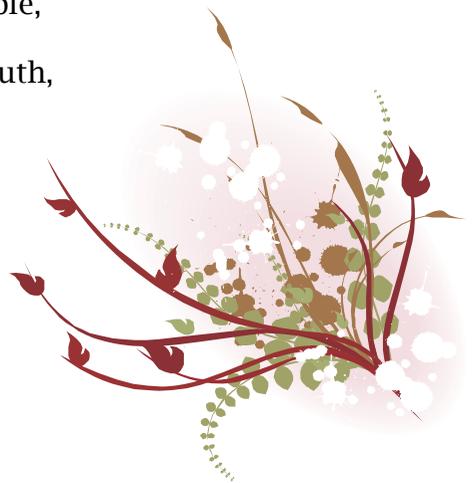
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over people,
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.

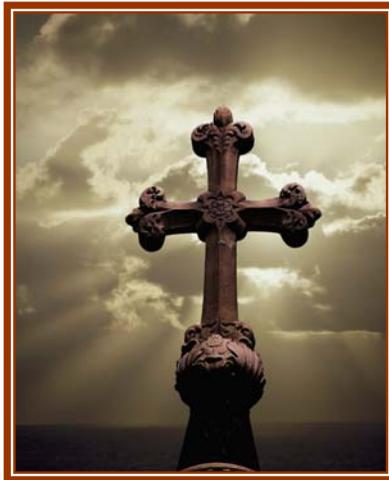


#2) A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom 4:7-14

The just ones, though they 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 humanity
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
The one 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.



#3) A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 25: 6, 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

#4) A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 49:13-16

Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth,
Break forth into song, you mountains,
For the Lord comforts his people
and shows mercy to his afflicted.

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me.
My Lord has forgotten me.
Can a mother forget her infant,
Be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget,
I will never forget you."

See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name;
Your walls are ever before me.

The Word of the Lord.



#5) A reading from the book of Lamentations

Lam. 3:21-26

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.

#6) A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

Dn. 12:1-3

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:
At that time there shall arise Michael,
 a 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

#7) A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

Ec. 3:1-12

There is an appointed time for everything,
And a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to 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 loose;
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 their toil?
I have considered the task
which God has appointed for humanity to be busied about.
God has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into their hearts,
without our ever discovering it, from beginning to end,
the work which God has done.
I recognize that there is nothing better
than to be glad and to do well during life.

The Word of the Lord.



Responsorial Psalm: *The psalm is always sung at the funeral liturgy. Please choose one of the selections from the song sheet insert, and the musician will lead the assembly in singing the response.*

The Second Reading: *The second reading is always taken from the New Testament. Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your selection on the planning form. (You may choose a reading not listed here, as long as it can be found in the New Testament.)*

#1) *A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Acts 10:34-43

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words: “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 Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of 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. 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) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom. 5:5-11

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.

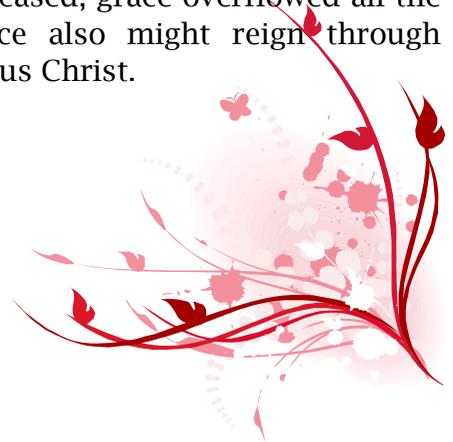
#3) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom. 5:17-21

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 our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.



#4) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom. 6:3-9

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.

#5) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom. 8: 14-23

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.

#6) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom. 8:31-35, 37-39

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.

#7) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom. 14: 7-9

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.



#8) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians I Cor. 15:51-57

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 that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that 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.

#9) A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians II Cor. 5:6-10

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.



#10) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Phil. 3:20-21

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.

#11) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

I Thess. 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.



#12) A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

II Tim. 2:8-13

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 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.

#13) A reading from the first letter of John

I Jn. 3:1-2

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.

#14) A reading from the book of Revelation

Rev. 14:13

I 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.

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



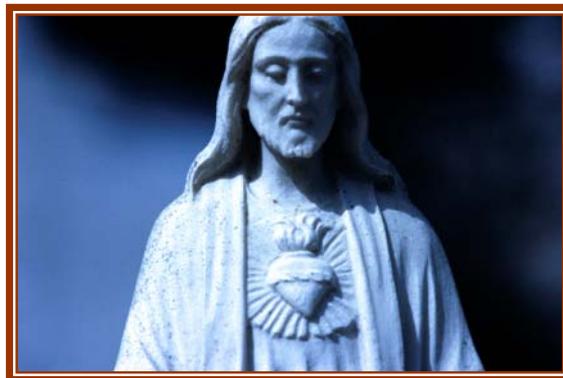
Gospel Readings: *The Gospel is always proclaimed by the priest or deacon. Please choose one of the following Gospel readings and mark your selection on the planning form. (These are only suggested Gospel readings, please feel free to choose another which might better express the faith of those gathered.)*

#1) A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Mt. 5:1-12

When he saw the crowds, Jesus 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



#2) A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Mt. 11:25-30

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

#3) A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Mt. 25: 1-13

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: “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 bride-groom 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.

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 the 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 do not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

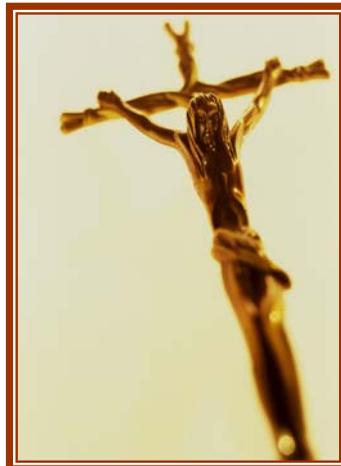


At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look he is calling Elijah." One of 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 brought 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.



#6) A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Lk. 7:11-17

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.

#7) A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Lk. 12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord.



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.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried. But at daybreak on the first day of the week the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Now that very day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, “Where 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 breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

#10) A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jn. 6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowd: “Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will by 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 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.

#11) A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jn. 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowd: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

#12) A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jn. 11:21-27

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

#13) A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jn. 11:32-45

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.

#14) A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jn. 12:23-26

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.



#15) A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jn. 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

#16) A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jn. 17:24-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: Father, [my disciples] 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.

Homily: *The priest will meet with the family to gather ideas for the homily. Family members may wish to write down some notes about the deceased to share with the priest. These notes may be written on the reverse side of the planning form.*



Prayers of the Faithful: *These prayers may be offered by a family member or friend. Suggested petitions are listed below. Please choose at least five. (You are also welcome to compose your own prayers.) The traditional response to the general intercessions is "Lord Hear Our Prayer." The priest will introduce and conclude the intercessions with a prayer.*

A. *In baptism, _____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now, and lead him/her to new life. We pray to the Lord.*

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

C. *Our brother/sister _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her to the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord.*

D. *For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.*

E. *Many friends and family have gone before us in faith. Grant them an everlasting home in paradise. We pray to the Lord.*

F. *Those who trusted in the Lord now rejoice with the Lord. Give refreshment, peace and rest to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray to the Lord.*

G. *For the friends and family of _____, that they may know God's care at this time of sorrow. We pray to the Lord.*

H. *For all who have helped us during this time of sorrow, that they may know the rewards of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.*

I. *For those who have fallen asleep with the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.*

J. *For all of us gathered here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.*

K. *For those who care for the sick and suffering, that God may bless and strengthen them in their ministry. We pray to the Lord.*

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Instrumental Music is recommended during the Preparation of the Gifts. This portion of the liturgy is usually short and can be accompanied by piano or organ music that is comforting and quiet, or one of the hymns from the song sheet may be chosen.

Gift Bearers: Family members or friends are strongly encouraged to present the gifts of bread and wine at Mass. Please choose two to four individuals to bring up the gifts.

***Holy, Holy, Holy
Memorial Acclamation
Great Amen***

All of these will be sung, with musical arrangement chosen by the music director.

Communion Rite

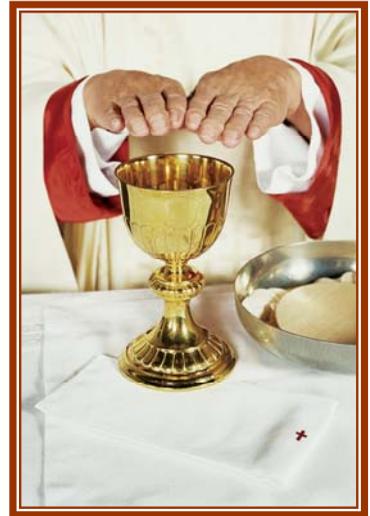
The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Eucharistic Ministers: Family members or friends who are commissioned Eucharistic Ministers are welcome to serve at this time. Please make the priest aware of the number of ministers available. (Usually one; and if you choose to have the Precious Blood, three are needed.)

Communion Song: Please choose a hymn from the song sheet to be sung during the sharing of Communion.



Remarks of Remembrance: *As an option, though not necessary, a family member or friend may speak in remembrance of the deceased or read a short poem or prayer. We ask that only one person be invited to do this, and that they limit their remarks to one page of notes (2-3 minutes in length). Another place to consider remarks is at the Wake or Calling Hours, in fact, this is the best place to offer the remarks of remembrance.*

Prayer after Communion

Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell

Prayer of Commendation

Closing Hymn: *Please choose a hymn from the song sheet.*

Procession to the Place of Committal

The parish staff and I extend our prayers and sympathy to you and your family during this time of sorrow. In the days and months that follow, please know that all of the staff is available for visits, prayer and grief resources. Various reading materials as well as support groups are offered throughout the year.

As we go forward on our journey of faith, may we comfort one another with our faith in Jesus Christ.

May God's peace be yours,

St. John of the Cross Parish

NOTES:

