



# **Funeral Liturgy**

## Planning Booklet

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# **Introduction:**

## **Funeral Liturgy Planning Booklet**



Since the earliest times in Egypt, burial customs and a variety of funeral ceremonies have been designed to bury the dead and help the surviving loved ones. Burial customs differ widely often based on the geographical location of the people involved. These customs reveal the different beliefs the people had about life and death.

Most traditional religions include ritualized ceremonies to commemorate the dead, but today there is a tendency to individualize these rituals and make them more meaningful to those directly involved. Because every situation is different, there are many needs to be met by a funeral service.

A funeral can be a special family event that friends are also invited to attend. This event is a time to remember those things that were really important to the person: likes and hobbies...mementos that spark memories...songs that either were favorites of the person or are songs that remind us of the person...pictures of significant moments...eulogies from people from each aspect of the life of the person.

Whenever we plan ahead, we have a richer experience. If you wish a service that follows a traditional path or one that is different from the norm, feel free to innovate and combine the comfortable with the new. There is a saying that "funerals are for the living." This is true. The purpose of this booklet is to assist you personally to prepare your funeral arrangements or that of a loved one.

Instead of looking at funerals as a time to say good-bye, we see them as a time to remember the life of the loved one, not the death. Yes, there are tears, but there is also laughter. We are sad because they died...we are happy because they lived. Creating a memorable service is the ultimate and final gift to yourself and your loved ones.

This booklet is a general guideline for your information only. There are many other readings in the bible that you may choose. These are some of the most commonly used.

We suggest, and it is preferred by many parishes, that you speak directly with the clergy at your parish to complete selections for the liturgy and to the music director for the music.

We have included the "Order of Christian Funerals - Three Stations" from the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Thank you for choosing our family to serve yours.

**The Bud Duggan Family  
and the Staff of Duggan's Serra Family Mortuaries**



## Commonly Asked Questions



### **Where do eulogies fit in the funeral services?**

Everyone can agree that eulogies are an important part of a funeral service yet each parish may have a different view as to the most appropriate time for a eulogy.

Most parishes agree that the appropriate place for eulogies are at the vigil service usually held the evening before the funeral mass. This allows all those who have something to share about the person the opportunity to do so. Funeral masses, memorials and services usually have a set time to begin and end. The church may have more than one funeral mass scheduled in one day. Eulogies can sometimes be long and prolong the service and delay the time of arrival at the cemetery. Please be aware that many churches do not allow eulogies. Please check with the church before the services. **Any eulogy scheduled for the church must be approved by the priest** and should be kept brief in nature, usually under five minutes.

### **Making the Vigil Service Special**

#### **Where do we play non-religious songs, show a video, play an audio of our loved one, read a poem or have eulogies?**

The vigil service is a special time to remember your loved one with special and meaningful songs (religious and non-religious), the holy rosary, beautiful prayers, poems, stories, videos, audios and mementos. Please discuss your ideas and concerns with the priest or deacon who will be officiating at the vigil service and your funeral director on how to incorporate your ideas into the service.

We encourage families and friends to have special photographs and mementos displayed that reflect the interest and achievements of your loved one such as sports objects, gardening tools, angels, etc. We have the following available: tables, easels, keyboards, piano, organ, DVD tape/CD player, VCR/TV for videos available; for rental use we have a multi-media projector and screen rental with all the necessary cables to hook up to a laptop here at the mortuary. We are happy to refer you to various musicians from bag pipers, pianists and organists to violinists and vocalists. Please let your funeral arranger know if you are interested in any of these services.

The following is only meant as a guideline.

**Prelude:** Meaningful music while friends and family gather.

**Vigil Service:** It is helpful that the clergy begin the vigil service due to possible time restraints. This part of the vigil service may include prayers, bible readings, the rosary and religious songs.

#### **Friends and family may continue the service with:**

Eulogies, poetry, religious or non-religious songs, videos/audios, etc.

**Thank You:** At the close of the service, a family or friend representing the loved one, may express their thanks to those attending the vigil service or viewing, as well as remind them of the funeral mass place and time. At this time the friends and family are encouraged to come up to the immediate family and express their condolences.

# Funeral Mass Planner



**Entrance Song/Music:** \_\_\_\_\_ Song # \_\_\_\_\_

**First Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_

**Read by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Responsorial Psalm:** \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_

*(Always sung by cantor when a cantor is present)*

**Read/Sung by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

**Read by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gospel Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_ Priest or Deacon \_\_\_\_\_ D\*

**Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions:** \_\_\_\_\_ A or B

**Read by:** \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_

**Music for the Preparation of the Gifts:** \_\_\_\_\_ Song # \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Those Bringing Up the Gifts:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(optional)*

*(Mass Parts- Depending on your parish, if there is a cantor, mass parts may be sung.  
Please speak with your pastor and/or music minister for direction.)*

**Communion Song/Music:** \_\_\_\_\_ Song # \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation Song/Music:** \_\_\_\_\_ Song # \_\_\_\_\_  
*(optional)*

**Blessing of Casket/Urn:** \_\_\_\_\_ Song # \_\_\_\_\_

*Quiet music or Song of Farewell  
Please discuss this option with your priest.*

**Recessional Song/Music:** \_\_\_\_\_ Song # \_\_\_\_\_

\* This form is only a tool to assist in planning the service. ***Before beginning any planning,*** please contact the priest or deacon presiding at your services to discuss readings, music etc.



## Religious Song Selections For Funeral Liturgy



Abide with Me	Like a Shepherd
All I Ask of You	Lord You Have Come
Amazing Grace	Loving and Forgiving (Ps 103)
As the Deer Longs (Ps 42/43)	Magnificat
As Grains of Wheat	Mary's Song
Ave Maria — Norbert	May the Angels Be Your Guide
Ave Maria — Schubert *	My Soul Is Thirsting (Ps 63)
Ave Maria — Gounod	Morning Has Broken
Behold the Lamb	Now We Remain
Be Not Afraid	On Eagles Wings (Ps. 91)
Blest Are They	One Bread, One Body
Bread Blest & Broken	Pan Angelicus
Bread of Life	Pan de Vida
Christ Be Beside Me	Parable
Christ be our Light	Pescador (Lord You Have Come)
City of God	Prayer of St. Francis
Come To Me	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Come Unto Me	Servant Song
Day Is Done	Shelter Me O God (Pss 16, 61)
Earthen Vessels	Shepherd Me O God (Ps 23)
Fly Like A Bird	Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
Gift of Finest Wheat	Song of Farewell (Sands)
God of Day and God of Darkness	Song of Farewell (Smolarski)
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	Soon and Very Soon
Here Am I (Ps 40)	The Supper of the Lord
Here I Am Lord	To You O Lord (Alstott)
Hosea (Come Back To Me)	To You O Lord (Soper) (Ps 24)
How Great Thou Art	Turn To Me
I Am The Bread of Life	We Are Many Parts
I Have Loved You (Ps. 24:3)	We Walk by Faith
I know that My Redeemer Lives	We Will Rise Again
In Every Age	Yahweh is My Shepherd (Ps 23)
Jesus Remember Me	You Are Mine
Let There Be Peace on Earth	You Are Near (Ps 139)
Like a Child Rests (Ps 131)	

### Choosing a responsorial song instead of having it read

Should you decide to use a song in place of reading the responsorial psalm, please use a song that indicates it is based on a psalm, i.e. Shepherd Me O God (Ps 23) or Loving and Forgiving (Ps 103).

\* Song suitable for Vigil Service. Please note, song selections for the vigil service are infinite depending on family's wishes.

## Suggestions for Old Testament Readings



*(Please discuss the Old Testament readings with your priest or deacon, choose one selection and indicate choice on the “Planner” sheet.)*

### **A1 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 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 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.

### **A2 A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

**25:6a**

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 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.

### **A3 A reading from the Book of the prophet Daniel**

**12:1-3**

[ 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.

## Suggestions for Old Testament Readings *continued*



*(Please discuss the Old Testament readings with your priest or deacon, choose one selection and indicate choice on the “Planner” sheet.)*

### **A4 A reading from the Book Job**

**19:1, 23-26**

*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.

### **A5 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. Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

### **A6 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.

## Suggestions for Responsorial Psalms



*(Please discuss the Responsorial Psalms with your priest or deacon, choose one selection and indicate choice on the “Planner” sheet.)*

### **B1 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

R.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

R.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

R.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell forever and ever.

R.

### **B2 The Lord is My Light and My Salvation**

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink?

R.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savor the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple.

R.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face.

R.

### **B3 My soul is thirsting for the living God Psalm 42, 43**

*Response: My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?*

As the hind longs for the running waters, so my soul longs for you, O God. A thirst is my soul for God, the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God?

R.

When I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God, Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving, with the multitude keeping festival.

R.

Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on and bring me to your hold mountain, to your dwelling-place.

R.

Then I will go in to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy; then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God.

R.

## Suggestions for Responsorial Psalms *continued*



**My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

**Psalm 63**

**Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

R.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, for your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.

Response.

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

R.

That you are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.

R.

**The Lord is kind and merciful.**

**Psalm 103**

**Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.**

*or* **The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.**

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him, for he knows how we are formed; he remembers that we are dust.

R.

Man's days are like those of grass; like a flower of the field he blooms; the wind sweeps over him and he is gone, and his place knows him no more.

R.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity to eternity towards those who fear him, and his justice towards children's children among those who keep his covenant and remember to fulfill his precepts.

R.

## Suggestions for Responsorial Psalms *continued*



**I will walk in the presence of the Lord**

**Psalm 116**

**Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

*or Alleluia.*

Gracious is the Lord and just; yes, our God is merciful. The Lord keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and he saved me.

R.

I believed, even when I said, “I am greatly afflicted”, I said in my alarm, “No man is dependable.”

R.

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. O Lord, I am your servant; you have loosed my bonds.

R.

**I rejoiced when I heard them say.**

**Psalm 122**

**Response: I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.**

*or Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

I rejoiced because they said to me, “We will go up to the house of the Lord.” And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem - Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

R.

According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David.

R.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.

R.

Because of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be with you!” Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will pray for your good.

R.

## Suggestions for Responsorial Psalms *continued*



**Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.**

**Psalm 130**

**Response: Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.**

*or I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication. If you, O Lord, mark iniquities, Lord who can stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

R.

I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in his word. My soul waits for the Lord more than sentinels wait for the dawn.

R.

More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord. For with the Lord is kindness and with him plenteous redemption; and he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

R.

**O Lord, hear my prayer**

**Psalm 143**

**Response: O Lord, hear my prayer.**

O Lord, hear my prayer; hearken to my pleading in your faithfulness; in your justice answer me. And enter not into judgment with your servant, for before you no living man is just.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all your doings, the works of your hands I ponder. I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like parched land.

R.

Hasten to answer me, O Lord, for my spirit fails me. Hide not your face from me. At dawn let me hear of your kindness, for in you I trust.

R.

Teach me to do your will for you are my God. May your good spirit guide me on level ground.

R.

## Suggestions for New Testament Readings



*(Please discuss the New Testament readings with your priest or deacon, choose one selection and indicate choice on the “Planner” sheet.)*

### **C1 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**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.

### **C2 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**10:34-36, 42-43**

*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. 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.

### **C3 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**8:31b-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 creatures will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

## Suggestions for New Testament Readings *continued*



### **C4 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**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. Why then do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do you look down on your brother or sister? 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.

### **C5 A reading from 1 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.

### **C6 A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

**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.

## Suggestions for New Testament Readings *continued*



### **C7 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**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 expectations 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 firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

### **C8 A reading from the book of Revelation**

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

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."

This is the Word of the Lord.

### **C9 A reading from 1 Corinthians**

**15:20-23**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits 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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

## Suggestions for Gospel Readings



*(Please discuss the Gospel readings with your priest or deacon, choose one selection and indicate choice on the “Planner” sheet.)*

### **D1** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 11:17-27

When Jesus arrived in Bethany he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. 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.

### **D2** A reading from the First Letter of John 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 Gospel of the Lord.

### **D3** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:1-5a, 6b-7

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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## Suggestions for Gospel Readings *continued*



### **D4** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 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 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.

### **D5** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 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 that Father except for 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.

## Suggestions for Gospel Readings *continued*



### **D6** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 15:33-39

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 breath. 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!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **D7** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 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.

## Suggestion for Prayers of the Faithful (A)



*(Please discuss the Prayers of the Faithful with your priest or deacon, choose one selection and indicate choice on the “Planner” sheet.)*

**Priest/Deacon:** For (name), let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live even in death and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”

**Reader:** Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for (name) and dry the tears of those who weep.

*We pray to the Lord...*

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

*We pray to the Lord...*

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother/sister eternal life.

*We pray to the Lord...*

You promise paradise to the repentant thief; bring (name) to the joys of heaven...

*We pray to the Lord...*

Our brother/sister was washed in baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him/her fellowship with all your saints.

*We pray to the Lord...*

He/she was nourished with your body and blood; grant him/her a place at the table in your heavenly Kingdom.

*We pray to the Lord...*

Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of (name) let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*We pray to the Lord...*

**Priest or Deacon:** God of holiness and power, accept our prayers on behalf of your servant (name); do not count his/her deeds against him/her, for in his/her heart he/she desired to do your will. As his/her faith united him/her to your people on earth, so may your mercy join him/her to the angels in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, *Amen.*

## Suggestion for Prayers of the Faithful (B)



*Prayers of the Faithful (Intercessions)*

**Priest/Deacon:** God the almighty Father, raised Christ His Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save his people, living and dead.

**Reader:** (name) was given the promise of eternal life in baptism; Lord give him/her communion with your saints for ever.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

(Name) ate the bread of eternal life, the body of Christ; raise him/her up, Lord, at the last day. We pray for our brothers and sisters, our relatives, for all who were close to us and good to us; Lord, give them the reward of their goodness.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died in the hope of rising again; welcome them, Lord, into the light of your presence.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have gathered here to worship in faith; Lord, make us one in your kingdom.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Priest or Deacon:** Lord, hear our prayers for our dead brothers and sisters; forgive them their sins, and bring them to the fullness of your salvation. (We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

# Order of Christian Funerals: One Liturgy, Three Stations



Processions continue to have special significance in funeral celebrations, as in Christian Rome where funeral rites consisted of three “stages” or “stations” joined by two processions. Christians accompanied the body on its last journey. From the home of the deceased the Christian community proceeded to the church singing psalms. When the service in the church concluded, the body was carried in solemn procession to the grave or tomb. During the final procession the congregation sang psalms praising the God of mercy and redemption and antiphons entrusting the deceased to the care of the angels and saints. The funeral liturgy mirrored the journey of human life, the Christian pilgrimage to the heavenly Jerusalem.

*General Introduction, Order of Christian Funerals, 42*

## First Station: Vigil for the Deceased

*Home of the deceased, mortuary, Church or some other suitable place*

### Outline of the Rites

- Greeting
- Opening Song\*
- Invitation to Prayer
- Opening Prayer

### Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm\*
- Gospel
- Homily

### Prayer of Intercession

- Litany\*
- The Lord’s Prayer
- Concluding Prayer
- (Words of Remembrance by member of the family or friend)

### Concluding Rite

- Blessing\*

The asterisk symbol\* indicates places where music would be appropriate. “Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love. The texts of the songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the paschal mystery of the Lord’s suffering, death and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from Scripture”

*General Introduction, Order of Christian Funerals, 30*

# Order of Christian Funerals: One Liturgy, Three Stations *continued*



## **Second Station: Funeral Mass: Church**

### *Introductory Rites*

*Greeting*

*Sprinkling with Holy Water*

*(Placing of the Pall)*

*Entrance Procession\**

*(Placing of Christian Symbols)*

*Opening Prayer*

Liturgy of the Word:

Readings, Psalm and Gospel\*

Homily

General Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist\*

Final Commendation

(Words of remembrance by member of the family or friend)

Invitation to Prayer

Silence

(Signs of Farewell)

Song of Farewell

Prayer of Commendation

Procession to the Place of Committal\*

## **Third Station: Rite of Committal - Grave, cemetery chapel or mausoleum**

Outline of the Rite

Invitation\*

Scripture Verse

Prayer over the Place of Committal

Committal

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

Prayer over the People\*

## Notes



Funeral Liturgy Planning Booklet  
courtesy of  
*The Bud Duggan Family*

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*Fr. John Talesfore, SLL, Archdiocese of San Francisco: Order of Christian Funerals: One Liturgy, Three Stations; Format: Ave Maria, Notre Dame, Indiana; The Scripture readings used are taken from the New American Bible. (c) 1986, 1970 by Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc.; Psalm text from the Psalms: A New Translation (c) The Grail (England) 1963.*



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