

*Funeral Planning Guide*  
*by*  
*St. Joseph - Honey Creek*



**St. Joseph Catholic Church – Honey Creek**  
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## **St. Joseph Grief Ministry**

Our Pastor along with our Pastoral staff, and the community of St. Joseph Catholic Church - Honey Creek wish to express our heartfelt sympathy and prayers at this time of personal loss.

Through the guidance of our Liturgical Directors, liturgical assistance is offered to you and your family to help plan and participate in the Funeral Services. Scripture readings and music selections are included in this booklet as options. The Liturgy office will work with you to plan a loving and very special service for your loved one.

The Bereavement Committee provides meals following funerals at our Parish Hall for those who so desire.

Trained Stephen Ministers are available to meet with you throughout the grieving process at whatever level of grief you are experiencing. They are here to listen and comfort you in your sorrow.

For more information on funeral arrangements  
please call the Pastoral Office  
at 830-980-2268

## **Funeral Guidelines For Our Parish**

The Catholic funeral rites celebrate the mystery of our life, death and resurrection in Christ. Our parish is open to celebrating funeral services for current or former parishioners and for their relatives.

Funeral arrangements begin with a meeting with the funeral director. Next the parish is contacted and a time is set up with the family to discuss the details of the Mass of Christian Burial.

Three separate and sequential rites are celebrated by the Christian community to celebrate the pilgrimage of the deceased. These rites are:

### ***Vigil for the Deceased***

The vigil is celebrated between the time of death and the funeral liturgy, often on the day before or evening before the funeral Mass. The vigil may take place in the home of the deceased, at the funeral home or at St. Joseph Church. It centers on an Introductory Rite, Liturgy of the Word, Prayer of Intercession or Rosary, and Concluding Rite. The Vigil can be presided by a priest, deacon, or a lay person. The Vigil service is the preferred time for family and friends to offer condolences and share stories, reflections, and memories on the life of the deceased.

## ***The Mass of Christian Burial***

When we celebrate the Mass at the time of death it is seen as the fullest expression of our faith in God's abundant mercy and the love that God has for us, which is not extinguished even by death.

The funeral Mass takes place at St. Joseph and is normally followed by the burial/committal. A priest is the presider for a funeral Mass. The funeral liturgy includes the reception of the body, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Final Commendation and Farewell. During this service several symbolic elements are used:

The coffin is sprinkled with holy water and a white pall is placed upon it by family or friends of the deceased. The sprinkling of holy water is a reminder of Baptism's redemptive waters. The use of the pall becomes a reminder of the baptismal garment. Just as a new Christian is clothed in a white garment when he/she becomes a member of the church, the casket is covered with a similar cloth as the person enters into a new life in the resurrection of Jesus.

The Easter Candle, first lit at the Easter Vigil burns near the casket or urn. This candle represents the Light of the Risen Christ who has overcome darkness and death by His Resurrection.

The casket or urn is blessed with incense during the liturgy. The rising of the incense smoke is a symbol of our prayers and a sign of farewell of our departed one rising to God.

## ***The Rite of Committal***

After the conclusion of the Funeral Liturgy at the church, the funeral procession normally proceeds to a cemetery for the Rite of Committal, which is an expression of the communion that exists between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven. A priest, deacon or lay minister may lead this rite.

## **Cremation**

Since 1963, the Catholic Church has permitted cremation and declared the cremated remains of the body are to be treated with the same respect given to the human body.

### ***Cremation after the funeral liturgy***

One option for cremation is to have the presence of the beloved's body for the funeral rites with cremation happening after the funeral Mass.

### ***Cremation preceding the funeral liturgy***

The cremated remains of the body are to be sealed in a worthy vessel and placed on a table near the altar next to the lit Easter Candle. The white funeral pall is not used as no body is present.

### ***Care of the remains***

The Church requires the reverent disposition of the earthly remains. The vessel is to be transported with care and brought to a final resting place in a mausoleum or buried in a grave in a cemetery. Keeping the ashes in one's home or sprinkling them over land or water are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.

## ***Flowers***

Flowers are welcome as part of the funeral celebration and will be displayed in the vestibule. One or two floral arrangements may be brought to the sanctuary near the casket. The floral casket spray is removed before the funeral liturgy in order that the pall may be placed. The spray will be returned at the end of the funeral liturgy.

A floral wreath made by St. Joseph Altar Society is placed over the Easter Candle and is given to the family after the services.

## ***Eulogies***

The appropriate place for eulogies is at the Vigil. Our parish permits one or two eulogies at the Mass and we ask that they be brief, not longer than 3-4 minutes each. Please submit the names to the presider prior to the Mass.

## ***Priests or Deacons from other Parishes***

At the invitation of the family, our parish welcomes any priest or deacon from another parish to preside at the funeral rites.

## ***Photographs and Memorabilia***

Memorial displays can be placed on a table in the vestibule. The parish does not provide any audio/visual equipment for movies/pictures.

## **Planning for the Vigil**

The family can share in the Vigil planning by making the following selections:

☆ Music if desired:

Entrance

After homily

Ending

(CD can be used if at funeral home)

☆ Scripture readings: (see scripture section)

1 New Testament Reading

1 Gospel Reading

1 Responsorial Psalm

☆ Readers (2 people)

☆ Choice of Rosary or Intercessory prayers

☆ Testimonials/Eulogies (please submit names to presider)

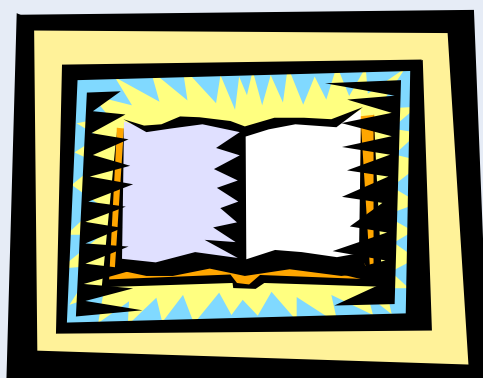
## **Planning for the Funeral Mass**

Family and friends are encouraged to actively participate in planning the funeral rites such as choosing the following:

- ☆ Shared memories - priest or deacon will include in homily
- ☆ Music (see music section)
- ☆ Placing pall on casket (2 or more people)
- ☆ Scripture readings (see scripture section):
  - 1 Old Testament Reading
  - 1 New Testament Reading
  - 1 Gospel Reading
- ☆ Readers (2 people)
- ☆ Pall bearers (6 people)
- ☆ Presenters of the gifts (2 people)
- ☆ Eucharistic Ministers (2 or more)
- ☆ Altar Servers (1 or more)



# ***Readings for a Christian Funeral***



***The following readings are suggested in the Order of Christian Funerals. Please choose readings for the Vigil and for the funeral Mass.***

***OLD  
TESTAMENT  
READINGS***

**1) A reading from the book of Job 19:1,23-27**

*I know that my Redeemer lives.*

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.

**Longer form:**

**2) A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-9**

*He accepted them as a holocaust.*

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.

**Shorter form:**

**A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-6,9**

*He accepted them as a holocaust.*

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. 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) A reading from the book of Wisdom 4:7-15**

*A blameless life is a ripe old age.*

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.

**4) A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

*The Lord God will destroy death for ever.*

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.

**5) A reading from the book of Lamentations 3:17-26**

*It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.*

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.

**6) A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel 12:1-3**

*Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake.*

[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.

**7) A reading from the second book of Maccabees 12:43-46**

*It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.*

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

***NEW  
TESTAMENT  
READINGS***

Longer form:

**1) A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43**

*God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.*

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.

Shorter form:

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43**

*God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.*

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.

**2) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 5:5-11**

*Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.*

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 5:17-21**

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. The word of the Lord.

Longer form:

**4) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 6:3-9**

*Let us walk in newness of life.*

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.

Shorter form:

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

*Let us walk in newness of life.*

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.

**5) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8:14-23**

*We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.*

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 8:31b-35, 37-39**

*Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?*

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 14:7-9, 10b-12**

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

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.

Longer form:

**8) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23, 24b-28**

*All people will be brought to life in Christ.*

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

Shorter form:

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23**

*All people will be brought to life in Christ.*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ. The word of the Lord.

**9) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57**

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

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.

**10) A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians 4:14-5:1**

*What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.*

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.



**11) A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

*We have an everlasting home in heaven.*

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.

**12) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 3:20-21**

*Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like his glorious body.*

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.

**13) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*We shall stay with the Lord forever.*

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.

**14) A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy 2:8-13**

*If we have died with him, we shall live with him.*

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.

**15) A reading from the first letter of John 3:1-2**

*We shall see God as he really is.*

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.

**16) A reading from the first letter of John 3:14-16**

*We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.*

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers [and sisters]. 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 Jesus laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers [and sisters]. The word of the Lord.

**17) A reading from the book of Revelation 14:13**

*Happy are those who die in the Lord.*

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.

**18) A reading from the book of Revelation 20:11-21:1**

*The dead have been judged according to their works.*

I 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.

**19) A reading from the book of Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7**

*There will be no more death.*

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***

**1) A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12a**

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

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 11:25-30**

*Come to me ... and I will give you rest.*

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 25:1-13**

*Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*

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.

**4) A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 25:31-46**

*Come, you whom my Father has blessed.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 'He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form:

**5) A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6**

*Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him." The Gospel of the Lord.

Shorter form:

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 15:33-39**

*Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*

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!" The Gospel of the Lord.

**6) A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 7:11-17**

*Young man, I say to you, arise.*

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 12:35-40**

*Be prepared.*

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.

**8) A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 23:33, 39-43**

*Today you will be with me in paradise.*

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form:

**9) A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a**

*Father, I put my life in your hands.*

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, he 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.

Shorter form:

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke**

**23:44-46, 50, 52-53**

*Father, I put my life in your hands.*

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, he 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form:

**10)**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke**

**24:13-35**

*Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?*

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

Shorter form:

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke**

**24:13-16, 28-35**

*Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?*

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, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. The Gospel of the Lord.

**11) A reading from the holy gospel according to John 5:24-29**

*Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.*

Jesus said to the Jews: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation." The Gospel of the Lord.

**12) A reading from the holy gospel according to John 6:37-40**

*All who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day.*

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

**13) A reading from the holy gospel according to John 6:51-58**

*All who eat this bread will live forever; and I will raise them up on the last day.*

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.

Longer form:

**14) A reading from the holy gospel according to John 11:17-27**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

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.

Shorter form:

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John 11:21-27**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

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.



**15) A reading from the holy gospel according to John 11:32-45**

*Lazarus, come out.*

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.

Longer form:

**16) A reading from the holy gospel according to John 12:23-28**

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Jesus told his disciples:

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

Shorter form:

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John 12:23-26**

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

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.

**17) A reading from the holy gospel according to John 14:1-6**

*There are many rooms in my Father's house.*

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.

**18)                                      A reading from the holy gospel according to John                                      17:24-26**

*Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am.*

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.

**19)                                      A reading from the holy gospel according to John                                      19:17-18, 25-30**

*Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Jesus carrying the cross himself went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

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

***RESPONSORIAL  
PSALMS***

**1) Psalm 23**

**R.** *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Or:

**R.** *Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.*

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.**

**2) Psalm 25**

**R.** *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

Or:

**R.** *No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever be put to shame.*

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me. **R.**

Relieve the anguish of my heart and set me free from my distress. See my affliction and my toil and take all my sins away. **R.**

Preserve my life and rescue me. Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge. May innocence and uprightness protect me: for my hope is in you, O Lord. **R.**

**3) Psalm 27**

**R.** *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

Or:

**R.** *I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.*

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.** I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **R.**

**4) Psalms 42 and 43**

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

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God. **R.**

My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life; when can I enter and see the face of God? **R.**

O send forth your light and your truth; let these be my guide. Let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell. **R.**

And I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy. My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp, O God, my God. **R.**

Why are you cast down, my soul, why groan within me? Hope in God; I will praise him still, my savior and my God. **R.**

**5) Psalm 63**

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

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

You have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

**6) Psalm 103**

**R.** *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

Or:

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

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him; for he knows of what we are made, he remembers that we are dust. **R.**

As for man, his days are like grass; he flowers like the flower of the field; the wind blows and he is gone and his place never sees him again. **R.**

But the love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear; his justice reaches out to children's children when they keep his covenant in truth. **R.**

**7) Psalm 116**

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

Or:

**R.** *Alleluia.*

How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me. **R.**

I trusted, even when I said: "I am sorely afflicted," and when I said in my alarm: "No man can be trusted." **R.**

O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. **R.**

**8) Psalm 122**

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

Or:

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

I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house." And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. **R.**

For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgment of the house of David. **R.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: "Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!" **R.**

For love of my brethren and friends I say: "Peace upon you!" For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **R.**

**9) Psalm 130**

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

Or

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

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. **R.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R.**

**10) Psalm 143**

**R.** *O Lord, hear my prayer.*

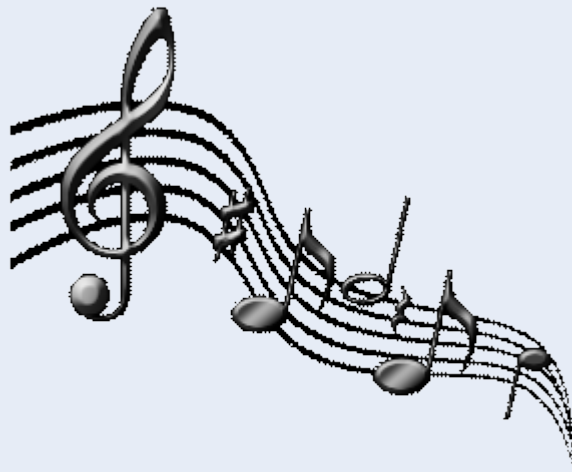
Lord, listen to my prayer: turn your ear to my appeal. You are faithful, you are just; give answer. Do not call your servant to judgment for no one is just in your sight. **R.**

I remember the days that are past: I ponder all your works. I muse on what your hand has wrought and to you I stretch out my hands. Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you. **R.**

Lord, make haste and give me answer: for my spirit fails within me. In the morning let me know your love for I put my trust in you. **R.**

Teach me to do your will for you, O Lord, are my God. Let your good spirit guide me in ways that are level and smooth. **R.**

# ***Music for a Christian Funeral***



***Music serves to express what words alone cannot. It adds to the solemnity of the occasion as well as enhances our participation in the liturgy. Secular music is inappropriate within the liturgy since it is not written for the Mass.***

***Guest musicians must work through our Music Director. A list of appropriate songs are attached and we hope this will assist in your selection.***

# MUSIC FOR THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

(E) Entrance Song # \_\_\_\_\_

(R) Responsorial Psalm Song # \_\_\_\_\_

(O) Offertory Song # \_\_\_\_\_

(C) Communion Song # \_\_\_\_\_

(F) Song of Farewell # \_\_\_\_\_

(EX) Exit Song # \_\_\_\_\_

#	Song	Suggested Use:
1)	Amazing Grace	E, O
2)	Be Not Afraid	C, E
3)	Blest Are They	C
4)	Celtic Song of Farewell	F
5)	Eat this Bread	C
6)	Here I Am	O
7)	How Great Thou Art	E
8)	In The Sight of the Angels	R
9)	Jesus, Remember Me	F
10)	Joyful, Joyful We Adore You	E, EX
11)	Like a Shepherd	C
12)	Look Beyond	C
13)	Now We Remain	E, C
14)	On Eagles Wings	C, EX
15)	One Bread, One Body	C
16)	Peace is Flowing Like a River	E, C
17)	Prayer of St. Francis	O
18)	Shepherd Me, O God	R
19)	Taste and See	C, R
20)	The Lord is Kind and Merciful	R
21)	The Lord is My Light	R
22)	Though the Mountains May Fall	EX
23)	To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King	E, EX
24)	We Have Been Told	C
25)	We Remember	C
26)	We Shall Rise Again	E
27)	We Walk By Faith	E, EX
28)	We Will Rise Again	E, EX, F
29)	You are Mine	O



## **Music Suggestions by Music Director Rick Ramirez**

### **Mass of Christian Burial (Funeral)**

**Entrance:** How Great Thou Art

**Responsorial Psalm:** In The Sight of the Angels  
Shepherd Me O God  
Taste & See

**Alleluia:** Mass of Creation / Sung

**Offertory:** Amazing Grace

*\*options:* Prayer of St. Francis, Here I Am (Dan Schutte), You Are Mine (David Hass)

**Mass Setting:** Mass of Creation – Holy, Holy, ect. (or)

**Communion:** Be Not Afraid

*\*options:* One Bread, One Body / Eat this Bread

**Song of Farewell:** Celtic Song of Farewell  
Jesus, Remember Me

**Exit:** On Eagles Wings

## **Funeral Donations and Fees**

There is no formal fee for a funeral at St. Joseph – Honey Creek. Stipends can be given directly to the clergy, sacristan, and musicians.

Donations to the Parish and/or the Bereavement Meals Committee are greatly appreciated and can be forwarded along with the name of the deceased to the parish office.

God Bless You!

# Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the ***After People***.

## ***Stephen Ministers are there:***

- . . . ***after*** the phone call you hoped you’d never get.
- . . . ***after*** the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- . . . ***after*** the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.
- . . . ***after*** the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”
- . . . ***after*** the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- . . . ***after*** the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- . . . ***after*** the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- . . . ***after*** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- . . . ***after*** you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- . . . ***after*** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the “***After People***.” They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long ***after*** as needed.

## **Stephen Ministry**

This Ministry provides a confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. These difficulties may include the loss of a loved one, divorce or separation, the loss of employment, incarceration, a terminal illness and many other challenges. A Stephen Minister could be assigned to provide spiritual encouragement during these difficult times by listening, praying and walking with you in Christ.

For more information, please contact:

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(C) 512-695-4283

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