



4905 Roswell Road • Marietta, Ga. 30062

Funeral planning guide

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Mike Heubel

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Rev. 3/2025

*Father of mercies
and God of all consolation,
You pursue us with untiring love and dispel
the shadow of death with the bright dawn of life.
Comfort your family in their loss and sorrow.
Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord,
and lift us from the depths of grief
into the light and peace
of your presence.
Amen.*

Planning a Catholic funeral

“Life is changed, not taken away.” As Catholics, we believe that death is a transition, not an end. We believe that Jesus rose from the dead. We believe that in dying he destroyed our death and that in rising he restored our life. We are participants in resurrection. This participation began with our Baptism and continues through the transition of death.

The rituals and prayers surrounding death are a witness to the faith of the one who has died. They give comfort to the community of family, friends and associates who have been with the deceased during life. These rituals affirm and express solidarity between the living and the dead in the communion of saints.

The church wishes to accompany those whose lives have been touched by the death of a loved one. From the perspective of faith, the rites of the church are the central actions surrounding death as the sign of our faith and the consolation of those who mourn.

There are some misconceptions about who may have a Catholic funeral. Funerals may be held for a child who had not been baptized, a person who committed suicide or even non-Catholics if the family wishes, since it is for the living family members that we celebrate Eucharist.

What about cremation?

While the Church encourages the faithful to bury the bodies of their departed loved ones, cremation is permitted. The preferred sequence is the funeral Mass at the church, followed by the cremation and interment. If cremation is to take place before the funeral Mass, the cremated remains are to be placed in a suitable vessel. The vessel will be placed on a table at the front of the sanctuary for the Mass. It may be placed on the table before the Mass begins or it may be carried in the entrance procession. A single urn or combination of two urns placed in the St. Ann columbarium must fit in a space no larger than 11” wide by 11” deep and 10” high.

The cremated remains should be treated with the same respect given to the human body. This includes the manner in which they are carried, transported and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium and memorialized with a marker. The practice of scattering cremated remains, separating into portions or keeping the remains in the home of a relative are not considered the reverent disposition that the Church requires.

Funeral planning at the Catholic Church of St. Ann

When a death has occurred, the family should contact the Pastoral Care Office to coordinate the day and time of the funeral. Often this is done after making first contact with the Funeral Home. The Pastoral Care Office will coordinate the details of the funeral with the family and will schedule a planning meeting with the family and the priest celebrant.

Catholic funeral options

Funeral Mass (body/ashes present), pages 3-4

Memorial Mass (body/ashes not present, takes place after the funeral Mass & burial), page 4

Funeral service without Mass, page 4

Funeral Mass

A Catholic funeral Mass is held in the church in celebration and thanksgiving for the life of the deceased. This takes place with either the body present or with the cremated remains. The funeral Mass expresses faith in Jesus's victory over death and our personal share in that resurrection. The liturgy should offer both comfort during the present sorrow and great hope for the future. A funeral Mass may be held **ONLY** Tuesday through Thursday at 11:00am or 2:00pm and on Fridays at 11:00am. **All funeral times are dependent on the existing scheduled events in the church.** The family meets with the priest and Pastoral Care staff prior to the funeral to plan the liturgy, select the readings and the music.

The parts of the funeral Mass are:

Introductory Rites

- Greeting (at the door)
- Sprinkling with holy water
- Placing the pall (if casket is present)
- Opening prayer

Liturgy of the Word

- Readings from scripture (page 7-15)
- Homily
- General intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful, pages 15-17)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Offertory procession

Final commendation

Liturgy of the Word

The family chooses three scripture readings for the Funeral Mass: one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and one from the Gospels. (Appropriate texts begin on page 7.) A scriptural text not included in this booklet that seems particularly appropriate may be used only with permission of the celebrant. The biblical readings *may not be* replaced by non-biblical readings at Mass.

It is recommended that family or friends read the first two scripture readings. The priest or deacon will proclaim the Gospel. A third reader can be chosen to read the general intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful). If the family wishes, Pastoral Care will provide the readers.

Homily

The priest will give a brief homily based on your choice of the scriptural readings. The homily focuses on the Word of God, however the homilist would appreciate hearing about highlights and meaningful moments in the life of your loved one during the planning meeting.

Offertory procession

Members of the family may bring the gifts of bread and wine to the priest. Optionally, during the offertory procession, the family may present other gifts that represent their loved one's life and interests.

Final commendation

After a brief invitation to prayer, the body or urn is incensed while the "Song of Farewell" is sung, and a final prayer is offered. Afterwards, one family member will be invited to write their loved one's name in our Book of Remembrance. The Recessional follows with the priest and assisting ministers. Family and friends may follow them, or proceed to the columbarium, or to the church hall, depending on plans made in advance with Pastoral Care.

Memorial Mass

When the body or cremated remains of the deceased are not present because a Funeral Mass and burial have already occurred, the Mass is called a "Memorial Mass". Except for portions of the entrance procession and the final commendation, all other aspects of the Memorial Mass are the same as a Funeral Mass. For Memorial Masses, there is a charge of \$250.00 fee for the church usage and additional suggested stipends (see page 7).

Funeral service without Mass

A funeral liturgy without Mass is normally held at the funeral home. It consists of a Liturgy of the Word with appropriate readings, Gospel reading, homily, prayers and the final commendation. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is not offered.

Future Mass intention

These are to be arranged with the church receptionist or online at st-ann.org/mass-intentions.

Participants in a funeral

A priest presides at a funeral Mass. Priests or deacons may preside at funeral liturgies without Mass, Vigils, and the Rite of Committal. When no priest or deacon is available for the Vigil or the Rite of Committal, a layperson may preside.

Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist should be practicing Catholics commissioned as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. The parish will provide volunteers if desired.

Readers can be family or friends. The parish can provide readers if the family has no preference.

Gift bearers for the offertory procession can be family or friends (this is a good place to have children participate).

Pallbearers (*optional*) can be used to accompany the casket into and out of the church.

Musicians

More than anything else in worship, music affects our feelings and expresses our inner thoughts. The family may choose from the suggested music or may request other appropriate music. The music director will determine the appropriateness of music selections not included on the list and will determine if requested music may be used. Suggested music begins on page 17.

At St. Ann, we are blessed to have wonderful musicians who lead music for a funeral liturgy. Family or friends may assist with music for one or two songs but cannot replace the church musicians, as they would not be familiar with service music or the sound system in the church.

Options during a funeral Mass

The **funeral pall**, reminding us of the garment given at Baptism symbolizing our life in Christ, is placed on the casket in the narthex (foyer). Family members or friends are encouraged to help place the pall. The pall will replace any flower cascade on the casket during the liturgy. If the casket is flag-draped, the flag is removed at the entrance to the church and replaced with the pall at the beginning of the funeral Mass. At the end of the Mass, the pall is removed and the flag is once again placed on the casket.

A **symbol** of the Christian life, such as a rosary or a cross, may be carried in procession and then placed on the casket before taking a seat (*optional*).

A **photo** of the deceased may be put on a table (which will be provided) or on an easel (also provided). Any extra photos or posters may be displayed in the narthex. A reasonable number of flower arrangements are allowed at the front of the church with the rest to be arranged in the narthex.

Audio-visual guidelines

The audio-visual system in the church is used for funerals in the same manner as for Sunday liturgies, with the words to the songs on the screens. Programs are not provided (the celebrant will let the readers know when they are to proclaim the readings).

Funeral Masses may be live-streamed on our website (st-ann.org/watch-live) at the family's request and availability of the AV department.

Videos of the deceased may be shown at the reception following the funeral Mass.

No videos will be shown in the sanctuary before, during, or after Mass.

Videos for the reception must be played through the family's laptop. Please provide your own HDMI cable and adapter if required with your laptop. The church does not provide editing services.

If there is a reception at St Ann, a microphone may be requested in advance for family members and friends to share their thoughts and condolences with each other.

Remarks of remembrance

From the Archdiocese of Atlanta: Remarks of remembrance are words “to express **appreciation for the life** of the deceased or take the **form of a prayer or other inspiration text rather than a traditional eulogy**. Only one family member or friend is to speak, and he or she is to be brief, speaking no more than five minutes.” (Decree from the Office of the Archbishop of Atlanta; March 8, 2021).

As of February 2024, remarks may take place upon the conclusion of communion, are to be in writing, no longer than one page, and a copy should be given to Pastoral Care for review by the priest prior to the funeral.

During the homily, the priest may refer to short stories and spiritual characteristics shared by the family during the funeral planning. **However, a traditional eulogy which includes the life story and personal comments about the deceased may be done at the vigil/wake the day before, at a reception, or at the burial/committal service.**

Other considerations

Visitation and Vigil service

The visitation is the principal time of gathering before the funeral liturgy itself and is celebrated by an assembly of family members and friends. It is typically held the night before the funeral at the funeral home. The primary purpose of the visitation is to allow family and friends to pray together and offer support and condolences.

The Vigil prayer service is usually toward the end of the visitation and consists of a reading from scripture, a brief homily, and prayers with time for eulogies by family and friends. A priest or deacon may lead the Vigil service. Families also may have the devotional prayer of a rosary, usually led by a layperson.

Rite of Committal (burial)

Following the funeral Mass, the priest or deacon can accompany the family in procession to the place of interment. At the cemetery, we celebrate the Rite of Committal, which includes a scripture reading, a prayer of committal, intercessions, the Lord’s Prayer, and a concluding prayer.

The Catholic Church of St. Ann’s columbarium is available for the committal of a St. Ann parishioner’s cremains. Please inform the funeral coordinator, if interested.

If inurnment is chosen at the Catholic Church of St. Ann’s columbarium, the committal will follow immediately after the funeral Mass.

Reception

The parish may offer a **non-alcoholic** reception after a parishioner’s funeral Mass, if space is available. The Pastoral Care team will schedule the reception and contact the reception coordinator to arrange for volunteers to bring food, set up, serve and clean up, at no charge. A catered reception is possible if space is available, at the family’s expense. Receptions are not offered for memorial Masses.

In lieu of flowers

The family is encouraged to designate a charity in lieu of flowers. Donations also can be designated for a particular ministry of St. Ann's or for St. Ann's general fund. All donations will be gratefully acknowledged.

Costs and stipends

There is no charge to registered parishioners for the use of church facilities for funeral Masses. (For memorial Masses, see page 4). It is customary for the family to give a stipend to the celebrant.

Funeral Masses for non-parishioners cost \$250 for use of the church. Additional stipends are expected for the celebrants and the musicians for funerals of non-parishioners.

For memorial Masses, if a staff musician is not available, the music director will provide one for which there will be a charge to the family.

Scripture readings

First readings

1. Job 19:1, 23-27a

A reading from the book of Job

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 shall behold him,

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

2. Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
And shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples
And the Lord shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.
The Word of the Lord.

3. Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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. Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all
peoples
A feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.
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. Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
His mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore, will I hope in him.
Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.
The Word of the Lord.

6. Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

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

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,

And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.
The Word of the Lord.

7. Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

The One who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son."
The Word of the Lord.

8. Acts 10: 34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 all 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.

Second readings

1. Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

2. Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

3. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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.*

4. Romans 14:7-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother or 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

5. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

6. 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not 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.

7. 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

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

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

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.
The Word of the Lord.

8. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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

We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

9. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers 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.

10. 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the letter of John

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

Gospel readings

1. Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

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. Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

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. John 6: 37-40

A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus said to the crowd: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the

will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.

The Gospel of the Lord.

4. John 11:17-27

A reading from the Gospel of John

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. 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 will never die. Do you believe this? She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

5. John 12: 23-26

A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus said to 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 will lose 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.

6. John 14:1-6

A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

General intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful)

Option 1

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

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. We especially pray for (*names of deceased family members can be added*). Grant them an everlasting home with your son. We pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of N. who seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain, and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray:

R Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Option 2

Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save his people, living & dead.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives & friends & for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray especially for (*names of deceased family members can be added*). We pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer

Priest: God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people; hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins & grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Music selections

Opening songs

Be Not Afraid

Hosea ("Long have I Waited....")

Here I Am Lord

Prayer of St. Francis

By Name I Have Called You

Amazing Grace (Traditional/My Chains Are Gone)

Be Still My Soul

Gather Your People

How Great Thou Art

Remember Your Love

Responsorial psalms

Shepherd Me, O God

The Lord is My Shepherd

Be With Me Lord

My Soul is Thirsting

The Lord is My Light

I Lift Up My Soul

Preparation of the gifts

Ave Maria

Be Not Afraid

Here I Am Lord

Journey for Home

In You, O Lord

I Can Only Imagine

Better is One Day
How Great Thou Art
Remember Your Love
Lead Me Home
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Communion and meditation songs (choose two)

Amazing Grace (Traditional/My Chains Are Gone)
Be Not Afraid
Here I Am Lord
Journey for Home
I Am the Bread of Life ("and I will raise")
I Am the Bread of Life ("I...Am...")
I Have Loved You
Reason to Live
Strength for Journey
Bread of Life
Christ in Me Arise

Songs of farewell (during the incensing)

Be Not Afraid
Lead Me Home
In You, O Lord
O Loving God (to the tune of "Danny Boy")
May the Choirs of Angels

Closing

On Eagles Wings
How Great Thou Art
Soon and Very Soon
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Reason to Live
Better is One Day

