

**FUNERAL  
READINGS & MUSIC**  
Planning The Funeral Liturgy



**A Word of Welcome**

You have received this booklet because you are planning ahead for your own funeral or because you are responsible for planning the funeral of a loved one. Please accept the condolences on the part of the clergy and staff of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church for the loss of your loved one and be assured of the prayers of our parish family. Here at St. Anthony's, we believe that it is a Corporal Work of Mercy to bury the dead with honor, dignity and devotion.

Every November 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrate a Solemn Mass on All Souls' Day for the repose of the souls of every person who has been buried from our church in the previous year. We have a Book of the Dead that enables the faithful to record the names of those who have died, and so that our Mass will be offered for them. We hope and pray that this parish may be of continual support for you as you plan this funeral.

**The Catholic Way of Death**

In the preface for the Funeral Mass, the priest prays, "For your faithful people, LORD, life is changed, not ended." Every man and woman is created

in the image and likeness of God and every human life is sacred and willed by God. The moment when we pass from death to the after life is a great mystery, and the Church surrounds her children in that moment with hope and love.

“I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the LORD. He who believes in me, though he die, shall live” (John 11:25). Every Sunday in the Creed the Church sings, “I believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” We have faith that we will rise with Him on the last Day, and that at the end of your earthly life we shall each appear before Christ, the Merciful and Just Judge, who will judge us according to our merits. Because on this Earth, none can know what that decree will be, to eternal life or eternal death, we surround the dead with prayers.

The central act with which the Church surrounds the dead and their families is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Because the Eucharist is seen as the font of immortality, the Church celebrates Mass for the living and the dead. The central rite which accompanies the dead is the Funeral Mass. It is not a celebration of the life of the dead, or a moment to comfort those left behind. It is a powerful encounter with the Mystery of Christ’s triumph over death by His Resurrection through prayer and the sacraments.

A medieval chant sang, “In the midst of life we are in death.” We do not know when our last moment shall be, and so every moment should be spent in view of eternity with God. We should endeavor to avoid sin, do good, and live faithful to Christ and His Church at every moment. That is the best way to prepare for death and for our entry into eternal friendship with God.

## **FUNERAL OF UNBAPTIZED CHILDREN**

The Church commends the souls of unbaptized children to God. If a child has died without the sacrament of Baptism, there is a special formulary of prayer and burial for that child. The rite may also include prayers of blessing and comfort for the parents and those left behind.

## **FUNERAL OF BAPTIZED CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF REASON**

In the case of those children who are baptized, but under the age of reason (around age 7), the Church traditionally celebrates the Mass of the Angels in white vestments. Because the Church is sure of the child's presence in paradise as a saint, the liturgical celebration of such a funeral is marked by a more joyful character.

## **FUNERAL OF ADULTS: THE VIGIL**

After the age of reason, a person is considered an adult for purposes of planning a funeral. There is a tendency today to see a funeral as an incredibly sad occasion which should be gotten over and done with as soon as possible. For Catholics, however, it is a moment of profound prayer and contemplation.

It is traditional that the night before the Funeral Mass, a Vigil be celebrated. The Vigil can be celebrated in the home during a visitation of the family, or at the funeral home. We encourage families to have a visitation in the Funeral Home with a vigil.

The Vigil may take several forms. A deacon may come to the funeral home and celebrate the Vigil as contained in the liturgical books of the Roman Rite. A Deacon or lay Catholic may also come and pray the Holy Rosary with the family. The family may also choose to have a visitation and a Vigil that they organize on their own. It is appropriate and most fitting at such a Vigil to have eulogies or speeches commemorating the deceased.

## **FUNERAL OF ADULTS: THE FUNERAL MASS**

The Funeral Mass is celebrated according to the liturgical books of the Roman Rite. A Funeral Mass can be celebrated at St. Anthony's Monday through Friday at 11am.

The funeral always begins with a recollection of the deceased's baptism. For in baptism, we are all born into our life with Christ. Remembering our baptism by the sprinkling of the remains, be they cremated or not, we recall that we have entered into life with Christ and that the passing from this life to the next is a transition. The clothing with the funeral pall is another baptismal symbol and a strong sign of resurrection. Finally, the Paschal Candle burns bright giving us a sign of the presence of Christ here in our midst. Although there is sadness in parting, we cling to the hope and assurance that we will be together with the angels and saints in paradise. We never lose sight of the promise that Jesus "goes before us to prepare a place for us."

For this reason, we choose music that clearly reflects and affirms what we as Roman Catholics believe about the promise of life everlasting and the glory to come. The Church has given us clear guidelines about what is and what is not appropriate. Trust in the ministers to assist you in choosing music that will honor the deceased and strongly proclaim our hope, our faith and our joy in the resurrection. For these reasons we must sing some texts that are themselves the prayers of the funeral mass. Likewise, there are other songs that would be better suited for a time when the family gathers informally, for example after the funeral when people come together to share a meal and memories of the deceased. Please allow the staff of St. Anthony of Padua to assist you in choosing meaningful, dignified and beautiful music for these sacred moments of prayer. What is sacred belongs in the Church itself. What is not sacred is better suited for another time and place.

The overall effect of this Funeral Mass is not dreadful, nor is it terrifying. It is truth telling. This ritual does not avert its eyes from the mysteries of life and death and the beautiful hope offered by the graces of the sacrament. To attend this most Sacred Liturgy is painful in the way that discovering truth always is, but it is also comforting.

## **CREMATION**

Cremation is permissible for Catholics only if it is not chosen for motives against the faith or as a denial of the doctrine of the Resurrection of the Body. We discourage cremation, as it can tend to encourage a cavalier attitude towards the remains of the dead, which are often not disposed of properly. Cremation should take place after the Funeral Mass, although the Funeral Mass can be celebrated in the presence of cremated remains.

The cremated remains must be treated with the same respect as a body to be buried. It is not permitted for them to be scattered, divided, or made into anything. They should all be gathered in one dignified, water-proof receptacle. The cremated remains should be enclosed in the niche of a columbarium.

## **HYMN OPTIONS FOR THE FUNERAL MASS**

“Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love.” (Order of Christian Funerals, no. 30) Music chosen to be used in the church before, during or after the liturgy should always reflect what we as Catholic Christians believe and profess about life everlasting. Some songs from other Christian traditions are not appropriate for use in the Roman Catholic Church due to theological differences. Please choose songs from the list below.

## **PRELUDE**

The Prelude Hymn will be *Ave Maria* or *I Will Rise*

## **ENTRANCE HYMN**

*Amazing Grace*, or *10,000 Reasons/Bless the Lord*, or *How Great is Our God*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

Here I am Lord, *or* Be Not Afraid, *or* Ubi Caritas

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

On Eagle's Wings, *or* Taste and See, *or* Remembrance

## **SONG OF FAREWELL**

The Song of Farewell will be "Saints of God"

## **PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL**

The Procession Song will be "May the Angels lead You into Paradise"

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Either one or two readings plus a psalm (a sung acclamation which precedes the Gospel reading) are used. If two readings are used (the preferred option), the family selects one text from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and a Gospel. *Non-biblical texts may not replace the scripture readings at a funeral mass.*

While the family chooses the readings for the Funeral Mass, St. Anthony's parish has trained Lectors who will proclaim the Word of God during the Liturgy. In this way, the family can be attentive to the Word of God, and not feel burdened with seeking to find someone to read that may be uncomfortable, or not know how to proclaim the Word of God within the Sacred Liturgy.

**Note:** During the Easter season, reading number 1, 17, 18 or 19 from the New Testament is used as the first reading instead of a reading from the Old Testament.

**Please Select:**

- One Old Testament Reading
- One Psalm (sung)
- One New Testament Reading
- One Gospel Reading

## **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

1. Job 19:1, 23-26 - *I know that my redeemer lives. (344-1)*

Then 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.

## 2. **Wisdom 3:1-9** - *He accepted them as a holocaust. (344-2)*

But 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.

**Or the Short Version: *Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9*:** But 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.

## 3. **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.

**4. 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.

**5. Lamentations 3:17-26 - *It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God***

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.

**6. Daniel 12:1-3 - *Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will wake.***

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.

## 7.2 Maccabees 12:43-45 - *It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.*

Judas (the ruler of Israel), He 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.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALMS**

The Psalms are the ancient hymns of the bible. As such, they ought to be sung during public worship.

A trained cantor will assist the assembly with this part of the Liturgy of the Word by intoning the Psalm first, then leading the assembly in the repeated refrain. The cantor will sing the verses of the psalms.

1. **Psalm 23** - The Lord is my shepherd

**Response:** *The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.*

2. **Psalm 25** - To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

**Response:** *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul*

3. **Psalm 27** - The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Response:** *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

4. **Psalm 63** - My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

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

5. **Psalm 103** - The Lord is kind and merciful.

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

6. **Psalm 116** - I walk in the presence of the Lord.

**Response:** *I will walk before the Lord in the Land of the Living.*

7. **Psalm 122** - I rejoiced when I heard them say.

**Response:** *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

8. **Psalm 130** - Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

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

## **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS**

During the Easter season, # 1, 17, 18 or 19 is used as the first reading instead of a reading from the O.T.

1. **Acts 10:34-38** - *God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead*

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "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."

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **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.

6. **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.

**7. Romans 14:7-12 - *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. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

**8. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 - *All people will be brought to life in Christ***

But now 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.

**9. 1 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 this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

10. **2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1** - *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.

11. **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10** - *We have an everlasting home in heaven.*

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. 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.

12. **Philippians 3:20-21**- *Jesus will transfigure these 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.

**13. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - *We shall stay with the Lord forever.***

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sister, 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.

**14. 2 Timothy 2: 8-13 : *If we have died with him, then 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.

**15. 1 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.



**16. 1 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 or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters

**17. 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."

**18. 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.

**19. Revelation 21:1-5a,6b-7** - *There will be no more death (345-NT19)*

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. 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.

## **GOSPEL READINGS**

### **1. Matthew 5:1-12a - *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven***

When he saw the crowds, he 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.

### **2. Matthew 11:25-30 - *Come to me and I will give you rest.***

At that time Jesus said in reply, "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 your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

### **3. Matthew 25:1-13 - *Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.***

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.

#### 4. **Matthew 25:31-46** - *Come, you whom my father has blessed.*

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."

**5. 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.

**6. 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.

**7. Luke 12:35-40 - *Be prepared.***

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."

**8. Luke 23:33, 39-43 - *Today you will be with me in paradise.***

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him 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."

**9. 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, had not consented to their plan of action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God. 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 they 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.

10. **Luke 24:13-35** - *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?*

Now that very day two of them 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.

**11. John 5:24-29** - *Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life. (345-G11)*

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.

**12. 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.*

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."

13. **John 6: 51-59**- *All who eat this bread will live for ever; and I will raise them up on the last day.*

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."

14. **John 11:17-27** - *I am the resurrection and the life.*

When Jesus arrived, 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.



15. **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.

16. **John 12:23-28** - *If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Jesus answered them, "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."

17. **John 14:1-6** - *There are many rooms in my Father's house*

"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.

18. **John 17:24-26** - *Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am.*

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."

19. **John 19:17-18, 25-30** - *Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Jesus, carrying the cross himself he 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.

## **PRAYER FOR FAMILIES**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and with the blessed Virgin Mary and all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.