



# Planning for Catholic Funerals

At Holy Family Parish

&

St. Mary & St Mark Parish

Planning for Catholic Funerals



## Planning for Catholic Funerals

If you are reading this because you are preparing for the funeral of a loved one, the staff and parishioners of Holy Family, St Mary, and St. Mark would like to offer our condolences and offer our prayers.

The death of a Loved One is a difficult time, both emotionally, financially, and legally. We highly encourage the use of a Funeral Home. They handle these problems on a daily basis and can take a lot of the burdens off of you. This is your time to mourn and pray for the deceased.

We would also like to encourage taking care of a lot of this for yourself. By preparing ahead of time you can save your loved ones a lot of grief, and ensure that you have a proper Catholic Funeral.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

## INTRODUCTION

“...When a member of Christ’s Body dies, the faithful are called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of one whom they love... The Church calls each member of Christ’s Body – priest, deacon, and layperson – to participate in the ministry of consolation: to care for the dying, to pray for the dead, to comfort those who mourn... The community’s principal involvement in the ministry of consolation is expressed in its active participation in the celebration of the funeral rites, particularly the vigil for the deceased, the funeral liturgy, and the rite of committal. For this reason, these rites should be scheduled at times that permit as many of the community as possible to be present”.

Thus, the Funeral Liturgy of the Catholic Church is not the personal prayer of the deceased or of the family of the deceased. As with every Liturgy of the Church, the Funeral Liturgy is an official, public prayer of the Church. In the case of the Funeral Liturgy, it is the Church’s prayer for the immortal soul of the deceased and for the consolation of those loved ones left behind. The prayers, readings, intercessions, and musical selections should represent the “Prayer of the Church” and still be universal in nature.

In the celebration of the funeral rites, the laity may serve as readers, musicians, ushers, pallbearers, and, if they are already commissioned to do so, as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The family is encouraged to assist the parish ministers in planning the funeral rites: in the choice of readings from the prescribed scriptural texts, the selection of music appropriate for the rites, and in the designation of liturgical ministers, such as servers and readers.

## MUSIC

The selection of music must be liturgical and express our Christian belief in the gift of the resurrection. Religious hymns should speak to the mysteries of our Faith regarding death and resurrection. While popular music may warm the hearts of those who are left behind, it must never replace sacred music, and is not suitable for a Funeral liturgy. Such music is better suited to be played during the visitation or during the luncheon, if applicable. Every effort must be made to accompany the funeral rites with appropriate hymns, responses, and acclamations. The pastoral Minister will assist and guide the family in appropriate musical selections for the Liturgy.

No taped music of any kind will be permitted immediately before or during the liturgy or during any of the three formal parts of the “Order of Christian Funerals” (Vigil, Funeral Mass/Liturgy, or Rite of Committal).

We do not label or title our funeral Mass as a "Celebration of the Life of..." That label is frequently used in our culture for the funerals of celebrities. Every Catholic funeral is a celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – a Eucharistic celebration. The deceased

is remembered as one who shared in Christ's life through baptism. We believe that God is faithful to us, and so we believe that the deceased lives in Christ forever.

## **THREE PARTS TO A CATHOLIC FUNERAL**

In these three sequential rites, the Church offers to those who are mourning a way to prepare themselves spiritually and emotionally, to say their goodbyes. More and more Catholics are eliminating one or more of these three rites. Except in extraordinary circumstances this should not be the case. The burial of the body or cremains should take place in a reasonable time after death has occurred. The prayer of the Church is seen as a timely way to say farewell and to offer prayers for the immortal soul of the deceased. To delay the Rites of Christian Burial simply for convenience is inappropriate.

### **The Vigil (Wake)**

At the Vigil, the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ's presence. The Catholic Vigil is a prayer service, usually held the evening before the funeral. The community of friends and family will usually gather for a service at the funeral home/mortuary. In some cases (especially if many people are expected), the Vigil may be held in the church. The Vigil includes the rosary, scripture readings, homily, and prayer for both the deceased and the grieving family. Also, a eulogy may be read at the Vigil. Visitation usually follows the Vigil, or Wake, service.

### **The Funeral Mass**

The core of the Catholic funeral celebration is the Mass. The Eucharist is at the center of the Catholic faith – the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Scripture readings and prayer also play a prominent role in the Catholic funeral service, along with songs, hymns, and a brief message. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral. While following the directives of the Church's ritual in planning the liturgical celebration, the choice of music, biblical readings, and homily should reflect the family's wishes, while emphasizing as well the community aspect of faith which remains unbroken in death.

The Funeral Mass is customarily celebrated on the day of burial. However, for pastoral reasons the Mass may be celebrated at some other time before the burial, such as the previous evening. In any event, there should be only one Funeral Mass.

Since the proper setting for Mass is a sacred place, Mass is not to be celebrated in a funeral home or similar facility. The body of the deceased should be present in church for the Funeral Mass or "Mass of Christian Burial." The term "Mass of the Resurrection" is incorrect for the Funeral Mass.

Keeping in mind that liturgical roles are to be fulfilled only by Catholics, members of the family who are Catholic are encouraged to assume the role of readers and assist in the offertory procession. They may receive Holy Communion under both species. In accordance with the Church's teaching, Holy Communion is not given to non-Catholics, but they may serve as pallbearers.

The casket remains closed during the Funeral Mass and should be covered with a white pall in remembrance of the baptismal garment. In addition to its liturgical significance, the pall serves a very practical purpose: it avoids ostentation, prevents possible embarrassment of the poor and emphasizes Christians' equality before God.

Apart from distinctions based on sacred orders and the honor due to civic dignitaries, no special honors are paid to any private person or classes of persons, whether in the ceremony or by external display.

## **The Rite of Committal (Burial/Interment)**

In the Catholic faith, there is great respect for the body. Catholics believe that the body is "the temple of the Lord" and that at the End of Days, there will be a resurrection of the body. This service at the cemetery is the last farewell, in which the Christian community honors one of its members before the body is buried or entombed. With priest and mourners accompanying the body to the cemetery, the rite is celebrated at the grave or tomb or in a cemetery committal chapel.

Whenever possible, those who were part of the Catholic community are buried in a Catholic cemetery. As well as being a sacred place, it recalls the community of all the faithful, living and deceased. When a Catholic is to be interred in other than a Catholic cemetery, the priest will bless the individual space and then follow the usual ritual.

When a non-Catholic is to be buried in a Catholic cemetery, the minister of the deceased's faith community may conduct the burial service according to the minister's own ritual. If the family of the non-Catholic deceased person requests a Catholic priest to conduct the burial service, the priest will celebrate a rite which is appropriate.

For those involved in civic organizations and those with additional affiliations, patriotic or fraternal services may also be conducted following the burial rite.

## **OTHER DETAILS**

### **Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass**

The funeral liturgy outside of Mass is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church/chapel, but may be celebrated in the home of the deceased, a funeral home, or in a cemetery chapel. Generally speaking, Mass may not be offered as part of the funeral rites for those not entitled to a Catholic funeral according to Church law. Following careful consideration of the deceased's relationship with the Church, the needs and wishes of the bereaved family, and the attitude of the community, the pastor may offer a funeral liturgy outside Mass. This rite may also be Planning for Catholic

Funerals Page 9 appropriate for a deceased Catholic when no members of the family practice the faith. The body of the deceased should be present for the service.

Even though Mass may not be celebrated as part of the funeral rite in these situations, it may be offered at another time for the repose of the soul of the deceased and for the spiritual wellbeing of the relatives and friends.

## **Ecumenical Considerations**

When requested by the Catholic relatives of a deceased baptized non-Catholic, a priest may conduct a prayer service for the non-Catholic in a funeral home. In particular circumstances where the deceased non-Catholic was well disposed to the Church, and the family requests Mass, it may be celebrated with the body present in church.

## **Cremation**

In recent years, Catholic funeral practices have been impacted by the increasing popularity of cremation as a means of providing for the final disposition of the body. As a result, a number of burial practices have been embraced by some Catholics which are not permitted according to the “Order of Christian Funerals.” In order to help in funeral planning and allow you to follow the teachings of the Catholic Church, please review the following principles regarding Cremation in the Catholic Church.

On March 21, 1997, the Holy See granted an indult to *The Order of Christian Funerals*, giving permission to the U.S. Latin-rite bishops to allow the celebration of the funeral liturgy in the presence of cremated remains. This practice was never intended to be viewed as an “equally” good alternative to the traditional funeral rites of the Church which entail the burial of the body intact. Permission to cremate and to celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of cremated remains was intended to be granted on a case-by-case basis. At Holy Family, St Mary, & St Mark, the pastor will determine what is appropriate in each given situation.

Whenever a family chooses cremation over traditional burial, families should be made aware of the preference to honor the body before cremation.

On October 4, 1997, the appendix to *The Order of Christian Funerals* was published for use in the funeral rites involving the presence of the cremated remains. At Holy Family, St Mary, St Mark Parish, the Pastor and/or Deacon, for pastoral reasons, may permit the funeral liturgy to be celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains. However, the following should always be observed:

- The remains should be placed in a worthy vessel.
- The paschal candle should be placed in a prominent position as it is when the body is present for a funeral.
- Explicit references to baptism must be omitted when blessing the cremated remains.



- A white cloth should not be used to cover the cremated remains, as this mimics the practice of draping the funeral pall upon the body which clearly connects the body to baptism.
- The cremains may be incensed out of respect for the deceased's cremated body.
- The cremated remains may be sprinkled with holy water.

When cremation of the body is chosen, the Church still prefers that the body be cremated **after** the Funeral, thus allowing for the presence of the body at the Funeral Mass. When circumstances require it, however, cremation and committal may take place even before the Funeral liturgy. As mentioned above, most of the usual rites which are celebrated in the presence of the body of the deceased may also be celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains. The primary symbols of the Roman Catholic Funeral Liturgy are retained even when the funeral liturgy is celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains. The cremains may be carried in procession and/or placed on a table where the casket normally would be.

The cremated remains of the deceased must be given the same respect as a body is given during the Rite of Committal. A worthy vessel must carry the cremated remains of the deceased to the place of internment. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering ashes over the sea, on the ground, or from the air is not permitted for Catholics and is not considered to be the reverent disposition of the cremated remains. The cremated remains may be buried at sea as long as they are intact and placed in a worthy vessel that will carry the remains to the bottom of the sea bed. Burial of cremated remains at sea should observe all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Catholics should never retain the cremated remains in their homes, places of work, or any other personal space. Neither should Catholics divide and share the cremated remains of the deceased. The Church requires that the cremated remains be buried or placed in a recognized area of reverence for the dead. If the final disposition of the cremated remains does not take place according to the teaching of the Church with reverence and in a sacred place, the remains will not be permitted to be brought into the Church for the Funeral Liturgy.

## Readings

Readings are provided in *The Order of Christian Funerals* to give grieving families an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their fears and in their sorrows, offering hope in the midst of their pain. The biblical readings may never be replaced by non-biblical readings. The Word proclaimed is God's way of speaking to us and can never be replaced by conventional wisdom or poetry.

If the family wishes to use additional readings that are not contained within *The Order of Christian Funerals*, they can do so at the conclusion of the Vigil for the Deceased, at the conclusion of the Rite of Committal, or during the funeral meal.

Two readings may be selected for use during the Funeral Liturgy. These readings are to be chosen from *The Order of Christian Funerals*. The first reading is taken from the Old Testament and the second is selected from the New Testament options. The responsorial psalm should always be sung. The psalm should never be replaced by a regular hymn which contains no psalmody. The Gospel will be selected by the Presider. The Gospel may only be proclaimed by a



priest or deacon. Only those priests or deacons in good standing, who have been granted faculties by the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois may celebrate, concelebrate, or preach at a funeral liturgy.

## **Viewing the Body**

This practice is highly encouraged, because it helps remove doubts that the loved one has truly died. The body should be viewed at the funeral home. At the time of the Mass of Christian Burial the casket is closed; however, viewing may take place in the church/chapel prior to the Mass. If the vigil/rosary is held in the church/chapel, viewing can take place in the church/chapel before and after the vigil service.

## **Funeral Mass and Vigil Times**

Funeral Masses generally will begin at 10:00 a.m., Monday - Saturday. This should be coordinated with the funeral director and the pastor. No funeral Masses may be scheduled for Sundays or holydays.

## **Luncheon**

You may choose to have the luncheon after the funeral and burial in the cafeteria (large room) or Friendship Room (small room). Both are located in the lower level of the Community Center. This is something that should be discussed with the Pastoral Minister:

## **Church Stipend and Fees**

Most funeral directors itemize all costs within their billings. This is something that should be discussed with them. Included should be payments for these services:

Church Stipend	\$100.00
Priest Stipend	\$100.00
Choir	\$75.00
Organist	\$75.00

## Funeral Planning Sheet

Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Funeral: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Part 1: Wake Service

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Wake: \_\_\_\_\_

Eulogy will be offered:  YES  NO

If yes, list name: \_\_\_\_\_

A Wake Prayer Service is recommended to begin **prior** to the beginning of the visitation.

## Part 2: Funeral and / or Memorial Service in Church/Chapel

Opening Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

First Reading (Old Testament): \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading (New Testament): \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel (Father's choice): \_\_\_\_\_

Eulogy will be offered:  Yes  NO

If yes, name: \_\_\_\_\_

Offertory Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Bearers:  Yes  No

Closing Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

### Funeral Luncheon/Reception

As a courtesy, a Funeral Luncheon/Reception may be held in the Friendship Room or the Cafeteria. Both rooms are located in the Basement of the Community Center.

Yes  No Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please contact the Parish Office at (618) 877-71582**

**Maccabees 12:43-46**

A Reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel, 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

**R) Thanks be to God**

**Job 19:1, 23-27a**

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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

**R) Thanks be to God**

**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 dash 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

**R) Thanks be to God**

**Short version: Wisdom 3:1-6, 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 in the eyes of 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.

R) Thanks be to God

**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.

The Word of the Lord

R) Thanks be to God

**Isaiah 25: 6a,7-9**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The Word of the Lord

R) Thanks be to God

**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; there for 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

**R) Thanks be to God**

Reading I From the New Testament During the Season of Easter

**Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

"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 children of Israel 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

**R) Thanks be to God**

**Revelation 14:13**

I John, 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

**R) Thanks be to God**

**Revelation 20:11 – 21:1**

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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. † Easter NT FOUR ~

The Word of the Lord

R) Thanks be to God

**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."

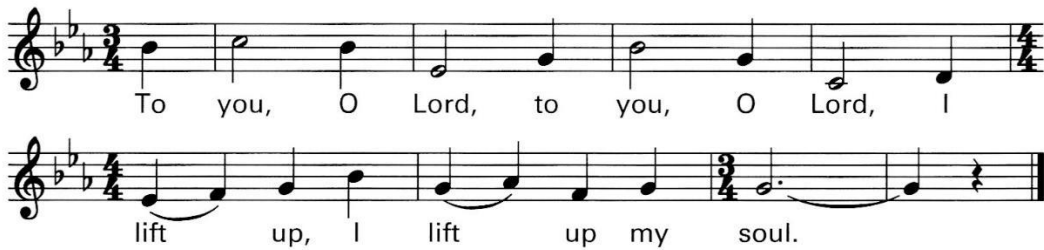
The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



27

PSALM 25: TO YOU, O LORD



To you, O Lord, to you, O Lord, I  
lift up, I lift up my soul.

- |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Your ways, O Lord,<br>make known to me;<br>teach me your paths.<br>Guide me in your truth and teach me,<br>for you are God my savior. | The humble he guides to justice;<br>he teaches the humble his way.                                                                                                                             |
| 2. Good and upright is the Lord;<br>thus he shows sinners the way.                                                                       | 3. Kindness and constancy<br>the paths of the Lord<br>for those who keep covenant with him.<br>The friendship of the Lord<br>with those who revere him,<br>his covenant for their instruction. |

Text: Psalm 25:1, 4-5, 8-10, 14. Refrain © 1969, 1981, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Verses 1-2 © 1970, CCD. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Verse 3, Michael Joncas, b. 1951, © 1985, OCP. All rights reserved. Music: Michael Joncas, © 1985, OCP. All rights reserved.

## PSALM 63: MY SOUL IS THIRSTING/AS MORNING BREAKS 52

My soul is thirst - ing for you, O Lord, thirst -  
 \*As morn - ing breaks I \_\_\_ look to you; be  
 - ing for you, my God. My soul is thirst -  
 my \_ strength this day. As morn - ing breaks  
 - ing for you, O Lord, thirst - ing for you, my God,  
 I \_\_\_ look to you; be my \_ strength this day,  
 thirst - ing for you, my God.  
 be my \_ strength this day.

1. O God, you are my God,  
and I will always praise you.  
In the shadow of your wings  
I cling to you and you hold me high.
2. Through the day you walk with me;  
all the night your love surrounds me.

- To the glory of your name I lift my hands,  
I sing your praise.
3. I will never be afraid,  
for I will not be abandoned.  
Even when the road grows long and  
weary your love will rescue me.

\*Alternate refrain.

Text: Based on Psalm 63:2, 5-9. Refrain © 1969, 1981, ICEL. Alternate refrain fr. *The Liturgy of the Hours* © 1974, ICEL.

All rights reserved. Used with permission. Verses, Steve Angrisano, b. 1965, © 1997, 1998, Steve Angrisano.

Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Music: Steve Angrisano, © 1997, 1998, Steve Angrisano. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

96

PSALM 116: IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord.

I will sing of the good things that God has done for me.

I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord.

Verses: Ordinary Time

1. Love you, I love you;  
you have heard my voice.  
I will call your name, cry out your name,  
as long as I shall live.
2. Comfort me, you care for me,  
you have rescued me.  
You have heard my cry,  
have heard my plea.  
You save my soul from death.
3. Gracious is your hand, O God,  
merciful and just.  
God, your love protects the lowly ones;  
your kindness has no end.
4. Deliver me, deliver me.  
Deliver my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears, my feet from snares.  
In the land of the living, I shall walk.

Verses: Lent

1. In my grief, in my pain  
I believed in you.  
How precious is our death to you,  
how precious in your eyes.
  2. Here I am, your servant, Lord,  
free to speak your name.
  3. I will pay my vows to you,  
here among your people.  
In the presence of your faithful ones,  
I give my life to you.
- Words of thanks and praise be on my lips,  
and ever in my heart.

PSALM 122: LET US GO REJOICING

Let us go re - joic-ing, re-joic-ing to the house of the  
 Lord. Let us go re - joic-ing to the house of the Lord.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. How I rejoiced to hear them say,<br/>             "Let us go to the house of the Lord."<br/>             And now within your walls<br/>             we are standing, O Jerusalem.</p> <p>2. Jerusalem, a city firmly built,<br/>             knit together in unity and strength.<br/>             There the tribes go up,<br/>             the tribes of the Lord,<br/>             making pilgrimage.</p> <p>3. There the tribes give thanks<br/>             to the name of the Lord,<br/>             according to the law of Israel.</p> | <p>There are set the thrones of judgment<br/>             for the house of David.</p> <p>4. Let us pray for the good of Jerusalem,<br/>             and for those who love you<br/>             prosperity and peace,<br/>             peace within your ramparts and your towers,<br/>             peace in your dwellings.</p> <p>5. For the sake of my people and my friends,<br/>             I say peace be to you, Jerusalem.<br/>             For love of God's house<br/>             I pray for you and your prosperity.</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Text: Based on Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9. Refrain © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL. All rights reserved.  
 Used with permission. Verses, Bob Hurd, b. 1950, © 1999, 2000, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.  
 Music: Bob Hurd, © 1999, 2000, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

## Reading II From the New Testament

Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, 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.

Thanks be to God

**Romans 5:17-21**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If, by the transgression of the one, 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 disobedience of one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the 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

R) Thanks be to God

**Romans 6:3-9**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: 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

R) Thanks be to God

**Romans 8:14-23**



A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God, are sons 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

Thanks be to God

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, 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

R) Thanks be to God

**Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: 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 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 accounting of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord

R) Thanks be to God

**Corinthians 15:20-28**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through a man. 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

R) Thanks be to God

### **Corinthians 15:51-5**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: 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 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.

The word of the Lord

R) Thanks be to God

### **2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1**

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

Brothers and sisters: Knowing 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

R) Thanks be to God

### **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**



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

Brothers and sisters: 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 may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord

**R) Thanks be to God**

**Philippians 3:20-21**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

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

**R) Thanks be to God**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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

**R) Thanks be to God**

**2 Timothy 2:8-13**

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendent 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

**R) Thanks be to God**

**1 John 3:1-2**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: 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

**R) Thanks be to God**

**1 John 3:14-16**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. 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 he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord

**R) Thanks be to God**