

CELEBRATING THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS



THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH
of St. Bonaventure

The Franciscan Friars and the parish community are with you in prayer as you make these solemn preparations. We have prepared this booklet to assist you. After you read and complete this booklet, return it to the Ministry Centre for us to prepare the liturgy.

Making the Funeral Arrangements

Your family is invited to contact a funeral home as soon as possible to make arrangements. We encourage you to look at the back page of the *Bonnie News* parish bulletin for the funeral homes that support our parish. They are professionals who will provide a central point of contact between you and all those involved in assisting you during this difficult time.

Keep this in mind while preparing the funeral:

- A funeral is an act of worship of God. We celebrate funerals to thank God for the person and to pray for the person. The focus is on God. The choices in music, texts and arrangements we make need to reflect that this is a liturgical celebration and worship of God.
- We invite you to reflect Christian simplicity and moderation in the choices made.
- We believe in the Resurrection of the Body. Our human bodies are holy and are destined for eternity. Please resist any effort to dispose of the body too quickly. It is important for you, your family and friends to have the time to say good-bye until we all meet again.
- The church allows for cremation. It is *strongly recommended* to have cremation after the funeral liturgy. Only in exceptional circumstances is it possible to have the cremation first and the funeral in the presence of the ashes.

St. Bonaventure Church does not charge a fee for funerals. Families are welcome to make a donation as they see fit either through the funeral home or directly to the church.

The Three Parts of a Catholic Funeral

1. The Vigil: this takes place at the funeral home, (or at Church) during the visitation time. It is led by members of the parish, lay or clergy, and is the first time that we are invited to pray together after the death.

2. The Funeral Liturgy: this always takes place in church. It usually includes Mass, but not necessarily.

Flowers at Church

A few flowers adorn the altar, the ambo (where the Word of God is read) and perhaps by the Easter candle. *Only two arrangements may be brought to the church. Nothing may be placed on the casket besides the Pall.* The flowers we

bring to church are there as an expression of our prayer and praise to God. They are not there as an homage to the deceased. The placing of flowers should reflect this principle. All flowers must be removed from the church after the funeral. Other objects may not be placed near the casket.

Readings

The readings that you can select from begin on page 7. Select one reading from the Old Testament, *and/or* one reading from the New Testament and a Gospel. During the Easter Season both the 1st (and the 2nd if there is one) are taken from the New Testament. If you are not sure if we are in the Liturgical Easter Season, contact the Ministry Centre. The Presider or Deacon will read the Gospel.

Select one or two people to read.

<i>Reading</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Reader</i>
Old Testament and/or		
New Testament		
Gospel		Priest/Deacon

The Psalm is sung by the cantor. The Psalms that you can select from begin on page 15. We will provide a larger print version of the readings at the ambo from which to read at the funeral. Indicate the reading number (for example OT # 1, 2 etc, or NT #1, 16 etc) and the name of the person who will read.

<i>Psalm #</i>	<i>Sung by cantor</i>

Intercessions

The funeral liturgy also includes the opportunity for prayers for the deceased, for the family and for the world. There are three sets of prayers available. Choose one of the three sets (A, B or C). The selections are on page 22. Select someone to read these prayers.

<i>Intercessions A, B or C</i>	<i>Reader</i>

Preparation of the Gifts

Two family members may bring up the gifts of bread and wine to the altar. Please select two people to do this.

<i>Names:</i>

Music

To celebrate the Catholic Funeral liturgy well requires music and singing. Our organists and cantors are knowledgeable of funeral liturgies. The fee is \$150 for each. If this is a hardship a discounted rate can be negotiated. *Guest organists, cantors, singers or soloists are not permitted.*

The family may want to consider the hymns they would prefer to be sung at the funeral. The church will make every effort to respect your choices. Our musicians are experienced at making excellent choices in these circumstances if you do not indicate any preferences.

Preferred hymns:

Eulogies

It is appropriate for members of the family or friends to offer a reflection based on the deceased person's life and impact on them. This is suitable during the Vigil at the Funeral Home, during the Committal at the cemetery or during the reception after the Funeral. *The Catholic Church does not allow for eulogies during the funeral mass. No exceptions will be made to this rule.*

Homily

The Presider or Deacon will preach the homily at the Funeral Liturgy. This will be based on the readings picked and on the Resurrection. There may be aspects of the deceased's life that might help him prepare for this homily. Please do not hesitate to offer suggestions or write down some salient points or events in the deceased's life that might help in crafting the homily. Remember that the point of the homily is not to praise the deceased but to thank God for the gift the person was to us and to renew our faith in the Resurrection.

3. The Committal Prayers at the Burial: the last part of the Funeral takes place immediately after the funeral at the cemetery. At the committal one of the church's ministers (priest, deacon, brother or lay minister from the parish or from Catholic Cemeteries) will be present to lead prayers. In case of cremation the committal takes place at a later date. The Church requires that the body or the ashes of the deceased be shown respect by being either buried in the ground or entombed.

We encourage you to make use of our own Catholic Cemeteries, which are a not-for-profit organization of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The Reception after the Funeral

Many families will want to gather and have a reception for their guests. Most of the time, the family go to the cemetery immediately after the funeral and then return for the reception. This is the preferred sequence as it allows for a clear completion of the Funeral Rites. Some people do not like this approach because the guests who do not go to the cemetery are kept waiting.

Other families choose to have the burial after the reception. The disadvantage is that there needs to be a time limit on the reception so that the family can go to the cemetery. If the family chooses this sequence of events it is quite probable that the parish priest or deacon may not be able to attend to the cemetery and a deacon from Catholic Cemeteries will need to be used.

Several rooms in our Parish Centre are available for receptions. There is no rental fee for our parishioners. Contact the Ministry Centre staff to reserve a room.

Caterers are required to provide the food for the reception (this can range from cookies and coffee, through "finger food" to a more elaborate meal). Parishioners who have been registered for more than two years can hire whichever caterer they prefer. New parishioners (less than two years) must use one of the following caterers.

- Mrs. Malcolm 905.475.0088
- Paul Shannon 905.731.1380
- Signature Foods 416.562.7801
- Calvert Catering 416.755.5244
- Decadent Catering 416.755.4344

Ensure that you arrange with your caterer to provide all linens, dishes, glassware and cutlery. You must have a permit to serve alcohol. Your caterer can arrange for permit.

Worship Aid Program or Booklet for the Funeral

Most of the time people are quite familiar with the format of Catholic funerals and there is no need for a program. However there are times when it might be useful especially for those of other faith traditions. If you would like to prepare a booklet use the following outline.

FUNERAL LITURGY

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Sign of the Cross & Greeting
Sprinkling with Holy Water
Placing of the Pall
Entrance Procession
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading
Psalm
Second Reading (*optional*)
Gospel
Homily
General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts
Eucharistic Prayer
Rite of Communion
Prayer after Communion

FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer
Sacred Silence
Signs of Farewell
Prayer of Commendation

PROCESSION TO COMMITTAL

The texts of the readings and the prayers may not be printed in the booklet.

The hymns used should be picked from the green *Catholic Book of Worship III* or the burgundy *Gather Comprehensive II* hymnals which are in the church pews.

It is not permitted to print the words of a hymn or the refrain in the booklet unless copyright permission is obtained.

For permission to print the texts in the booklet contact:

www.OneLicense.net

OneLicense.net includes many significant publishers of hymn texts, hymn tunes, and songs for worship that are not currently represented by any other joint licensing entity. Through OneLicense.net you are able to reproduce words and/or music for the assembly.

www.HymnPrint.net

A groundbreaking tool that brings you the convenience of downloading high quality, electronic print versions of your favourite hymns from GIA hymnals and reprint boxes from your favourite GIA songs. Creating worship aids and service bulletins for your congregation was never so easy. Best of all, the only cutting and pasting you'll do will be on your computer.

Public Domain: Some hymns created in 1922 or earlier may be in the Public Domain and not require copyright permission. Hymns created in the year 1923 or after will remain under copyright protection until at least the year 2048. Hymns consist of three elements: text, melody, and harmony. Any or all of these may be individually copyrighted.

The Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure does not allow worship aids in the church that do not comply with copyright laws.

Selection of Readings

Your choice of funeral readings must come from this selection. Choose one from the Old Testament, and another from the New Testament if you want a second reading. Most funerals include both. During the Easter Season both the 1st and 2nd readings are from the New Testament. The Psalm which you choose will always be sung by the cantor. Pick a Gospel reading which the presiding priest or deacon will read.

We encourage you to share the readings from this booklet with those who will be reading. However, at the church there will be a larger-print copy of the readings from which to read. Readers do not need to bring their copy with them to the Ambo (pulpit).

First Reading/ Old Testament (Outside the Easter Season)

During the Easter Season the First Reading is taken from the New Testament

(OT1) Job 19: 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

Job said to those who reproached him:

O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book!

O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the
earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see
God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!
The Word of the Lord.

(OT2) Wis. 3: 1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever
touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their
departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their
destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were
punished, their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God
tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he
tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks
through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over
them forever.

Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with
him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches
over his elect.

The word of the Lord

(OT3) Wis. 4: 7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

But the righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.

For old age is not honoured for length of time, or measured by number of
years; but understanding is grey hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old
age.

There were some who pleased God and were loved by him, and while living
among sinners were taken up.

They were caught up so that evil might not change their understanding or guile
deceive their souls.

For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire
perverts the innocent mind.

Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years;

for their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took them quickly from
the midst of wickedness.

Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, or take such a thing to heart, that
God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy
ones.

The word of the Lord

(OT4) Is. 25: 6, 7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord

(OT5) Lam. 3: 17-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations.

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is;

so I say, "Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the LORD."

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

(OT6) Dan.12: 1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.

"At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

The word of the Lord

(OT7) 2 Mac. 12: 43-46

A reading from the second book of Maccabees.

He also took up a collection, person by person, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honourably, taking account of the resurrection.

For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.

But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.

The word of the Lord

Second Reading_(optional)

New Testament

During Easter the first reading is also chosen from this section

(NT1) Acts 10: 34-43

A reading from the acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,

but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord

(NT2) Rom. 5: 5-11

A reading from a letter to the Romans.

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord

(NT3) Rom. 5: 17-21

A reading from a letter to the Romans.

If, because of the one person's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one person's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one person's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.

For just as by the one person's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one person's obedience the many will be made righteous.

But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord

(NT4) Rom. 6: 3-9

A reading from a letter to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

For whoever has died is freed from sin.

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

The word of the Lord

(NT5) Rom. 8: 14-23

A reading from a letter to the Romans.

For all 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 have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if

children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord

(NT6) Rom. 8: 31-35, 37-39

A reading from a letter to the Romans.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord

(NT7) Rom. 14: 7-9, 10-12

A reading from a letter to the Romans.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord

(NT8) 1 Cor. 15: 20-24, 25-28

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,

but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The word of the Lord

(NT9) 1 Cor. 15: 51-57

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

When this perishable body puts on imperish ability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been 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

(NT10) 2 Cor. 4: 4---5:1

A reading from the second letter to the Corinthians.

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.

So death is at work in us, but life in you.

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture--"I believed, and so I spoke"--we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The word of the Lord

(NT11) 2 Cor. 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter to the Corinthians.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

So we are always confident; even though 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.

Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

(NT12) Phil. 3: 20-21

A reading from a letter to the Philippians.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

The word of the Lord

(NT13) 1 Thess. 4: 13-14, 17-18

A reading from a letter to the Thessalonians

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.
The word of the Lord

(NT14) 2 Tim. 2: 8-13

A reading from the second letter of Timothy.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David--that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord

(NT15) 1 Jn. 3: 1-2

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what 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 will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

The word of the Lord

(NT16) 1 Jn. 3: 14-16

A reading from the first letter of John.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death.

All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalms

Choose one of the following to follow the first reading.

Psalm 27

R: I believe that I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Psalm 116

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

Psalm 23

R: The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.

Psalm 25

R: Those who hope in you, O Lord Shall not be disappointed.

Psalm 42

R: My soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Psalm 103

R: Bless the Lord O my Soul.

Psalm 63

R: O God you are my God, I seek you.

Gospels

(G1) Mt. 5

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(G2) Mt. 11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:

the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?"

What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

(G3) Mt. 25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'

But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

(G4) Mt. 25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.

All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that 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 something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?

And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me 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 nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

(G5) Mk. 15, 16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time.

When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

(G6) Lk 7

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him.

As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town.

When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep."

Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!"

The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favourably on his people!"

This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

(G7) Lk

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;

be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.

If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

(G8) Lk 23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"

And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

(G9) Lk 23-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon,

while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

(G10) Jn 6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away;

for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

(G11) Jn 6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away;

for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

(G12) Jn. 11

A reading of the holy Gospel according to John.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

General Intercessions

Set (A)

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

In baptism N. received the light of Christ.

Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer

Our brother/sister N. was nourished at the table of the Saviour.

Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer

Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

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

Set (B)

Presider: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped, that
they may have the reward of their goodness.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer

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

R. Amen.

Set (C)

Presider: My dear friends, let us join with one another in praying to God, not
only for our departed brother/sister, but also for the Church, for peace in the
world, and for ourselves.

That the ministers of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the word they proclaim.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

That those in public office may promote justice and peace.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer

That God may deliver the soul of his servant N. from punishment and from the powers of darkness.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

That God in his mercy may blot out all his/her offences.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

That God may establish him/her in light and peace.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

That God may call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

Presider: O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of your departed servants release from all their sins. Hear our prayers for those we love and give them the pardon they have always desired. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen