

FUNERAL SERVICE

I. INTRODUCTORY RITES:

Entrance Song: _____

II. LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: No. _____
(Scripture Passage)

Read By: _____

Responsorial Psalm:

Sung by Choir **Y / N**

Reading II: No. _____
(Scripture Passage)

Read By: _____

Gospel (usually chosen by Celebrant): No. _____
(Scripture Passage)

FOR FUNERALS WITH MASS

III. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts **Y / N**

Presented by: _____

Offertory Song: _____

Extraordinary Ministers (if needed): _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Meditation Hymn (optional): _____

IV. FINAL COMMENDATION

V. PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Song During Procession: _____

APPROPRIATE SONGS FOR MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Hymns, songs and music serve an important part in Catholic liturgy, worship and devotional life. There are many acclamations and songs that are presumed to be always sung such as the Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation, the Great Amen, and the Lamb of God.

There are four hymns that may be chosen from a wide variety of choices, keeping in mind the sacredness and solemnity of the sacred rites. In addition, the meditation hymn *Ave Maria* may be selected and sung after the Communion Hymn.

1. Entrance Hymn
2. Song during the Preparation of the Gifts
3. Communion Hymn
4. Meditation (Optional, Normally *Ave Maria*)
5. Recessional

Below are a number of suggested hymns. Some hymns may be more appropriate for particular parts of the Mass, such as Communion.

Because the Mass is a sacred prayer and directed towards God, under no circumstances is secular music

TRADITIONAL SONGS:

Amazing Grace
How Great Thou Art
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
The Strife is O'er
Ave Maria
Lord of All Hopefulness
What Wondrous Love is This
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
All Creatures of Our God and King
For All the Saints
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

OTHER SONGS:

Here I am Lord
On Eagle's Wings
I Am the Bread of Life
Be Not Afraid
Lord of All Hopefulness
Blest Are They
Prayer of St. Francis
Let There Be Peace on Earth

ADVENT SEASON:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Creator of the Stars of Night
O Come, Divine Messiah
On Jordan's Bank
Soon and Very Soon

CHRISTMAS SEASON:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Good Christians, All, Rejoice

LENTEN SEASON:

Because of the solemnity and penitential nature of this season, hymns for funerals should not contain the word *Alleluia*.

EASTER SEASON:

Jesus Christ is Risen Today
Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Ye Sons and Daughters
Jesus is Risen
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia No. 1
To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King

Reading Selections

First Reading

1.) **Wisdom 3:1-9 (short form, 3:1-6, 9)**

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

- Omit the words in bolded brackets [] for the short form of this reading.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
[In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.]
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

2.) **Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

He will destroy death forever.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

3.) Lamentations 3:17-26

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the LORD.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the LORD are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the LORD, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the LORD to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the LORD.

Readings for Easter Time only:

4.) Revelation 14:13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

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."

5.) Revelation 20:11—21:1

The dead were judged according to their deeds.

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.

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

There shall be no more death.

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."

Psalm

7.) Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

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

or:

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

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
in verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name sake. **R/.**

Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage. **R/.**

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **R/.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come. **R/.**

8.) Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. **R/.**

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you. **R/.**

Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **R/.**

You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me. **R/.**

9.) Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8
R/. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.
or:
R/. I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication. **R/.**

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered. **R/.**

I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the LORD
more than the sentinels wait for the dawn. **R/.**

More than the sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the LORD,
For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption. **R/.**

And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities. **R/.**

Second Reading

10.) 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Death is swallowed up in victory.

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 this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

*Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?*

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

11.) Philippians 3:20-21

He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.

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.

12.) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

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.

13.) 2 Timothy 2:8-13

If we have died with him we shall also live with him.

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David:
such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering,
even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen,
so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him
we shall also live with him;

if we persevere
we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him
he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

Gospel

14.) John 11:17-27 (short form, 11:21-27)

I am the resurrection and the life.

- Omit the words in bolded brackets [] for the short form of this reading.

[When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus
had already been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.
Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary
to comfort them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,
she went to meet him;
but Mary sat at home.]
Martha said to Jesus,
"Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,
God will give you."
Jesus said to her,
"Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him,
"I know he will rise,
in the resurrection on the last day."
Jesus told her,
"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?"
She said to him, "Yes, Lord.
I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,
the one who is coming into the world."

15.) John 14:1-6

In my Father's house there are many dwellings.

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
If there were not,
would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself,
so that where I am you also may be.
Where I am going you know the way."
Thomas said to him,
"Master, we do not know where you are going;
how can we know the way?"
Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."

16.) John 11:32-45

Lazarus, come out!

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,
she fell at his feet and said to him,
"Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died."
When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping,
he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,
"Where have you laid him?"
They said to him, "Sir, come and see."
And Jesus wept.
So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."
But some of them said,
"Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man
have done something so that this man would not have died?"
So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.
It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.
Jesus said, "Take away the stone."
Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him,
"Lord, by now there will be a stench;
he has been dead for four days."
Jesus said to her,
"Did I not tell you that if you believe
you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone.
And Jesus raised his eyes and said,
 "Father, I thank you for hearing me.
I know that you always hear me;
 but because of the crowd here I have said this,
 that they may believe that you sent me."
And when he had said this,
 he cried out in a loud voice,
 "Lazarus, come out!"
The dead man came out,
 tied hand and foot with burial bands,
 and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to the crowd,
 "Untie him and let him go."
Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary
 and seen what he had done began to believe in him.