

FUNERAL LITURGY OF THANKSGIVING

THE LITURGY WILL FOLLOW THIS FORMAT

Gathering Hymn/Music

This one is usually a hymn.

Words of Remembrance

One (or two) people to speak about the loved one's life.

Reflection Hymn or Music (Optional)

You can choose some music to play here while everyone reflects.

Placing of the Christian Symbols

The symbols are: Lighting of Paschal Candle,
 Placing of the Pall/white cloth over coffin,
 Placing of book of Scriptures/Bible,
 Placing of a Cross,
 Placing of Rosary Beads - *optional*

You will need someone for each of these. The Pall will need 2-4 people.

First Reading

Usually from the Old Testament.

If you are only having one reading this reading can be from either the Old or New Testament.

You will need a Reader.

Psalm

Choose a psalm.

You can use a hymn in place of the psalm – there is a sung version of The Lord is My Shepherd.

You will need a reader if you don't have a hymn.

Second Reading

Usually from the New Testament.

This reading is *optional* if you only want to have one reading.

You will need a Reader.

Gospel

Taken from the Book of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

The Priest will read this.

Prayer of the Faithful (also called Universal Prayer/General Intercessions)

There are sample prayers already prepared to choose from or you can create your own.

You will need a reader or readers for this.

Procession of Gifts (If you are having full Mass)

Usually two people are needed to take the bread and wine forward.

Choose a hymn while this is happening.

Communion Hymn (If you are having full Mass)

Hymn/s or music to play while everyone is coming forward for communion.

Thanksgiving Hymn (to be played after Communion for reflection)

Hymn/s or music to play while everyone is giving thanks and reflecting after Communion.

Recessional Music/Hymn

Music to play as the coffin is taken from the church.

You can choose Pall bearers to help with the coffin.

First Reading from the Old Testament (choose 1)

1

Longer form

Wis 3:1-9

(For one who suffered – God tests and chooses us, Peace, Hope, Trust)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation;
but they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it,
their hope was rich with immortality;
slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.

God has put them to the test
and proved them worthy to be with him;
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,
and accepted them as a holocaust.

When the time comes for his visitation, they will shine out;
as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.

They shall judge nations, rule over peoples,
and the Lord will be their king for ever.

They who trust in him will understand the truth,
those who are faithful will live with him in love;
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

or

Shorter form

Wis 3:1-6. 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation;
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God has put them to the test
and proved them worthy to be with him;
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,
and accepted them as a holocaust.

They who trust in him will understand the truth,
those who are faithful will live with him in love;
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

or

2

Wis 4:7-15

(For a young person or one who died too soon – A blameless life, God's Love)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest.
Length of days is not what makes age honourable,
nor numbers of years the true measure of life;
understanding, this man's grey hairs,
untarnished life, this is ripe old age.
He has sought to please God, so God has loved him;
as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.
He has been carried off so that evil may not wrap his understanding
or treachery seduce his soul;
for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade,
and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.
Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life;
his soul being pleasing to the Lord,
he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.
Yet people look on, uncomprehending;
it does not enter their heads
that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord,
and protection, his holy ones.

Or

3

Is 25:6-9

(For a child, a person not baptised or where death caused particular sorrow – Consolation, God saves us)

A reading from the book of Isaiah

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us.

or

4

Lam 3:17-26

(For a child as well as an adult – Recover hope, God is kind and faithful, Trust God)

A reading from the book of Lamentations

My soul is shut out from peace;
I have forgotten happiness.
And now I say, 'My strength is gone,
that hope which came from the Lord'.
Brooding on my anguish and affliction
is gall and wormwood.
My spirit ponders it continually
and sinks within me.
This is what I shall tell my heart,
and so recover hope:
the favours of the Lord are not all past,
his kindnesses are not exhausted;
every morning they are renewed;
great is his faithfulness.
'My portion is the Lord' says my soul
'and so I will hope in him.'
The Lord is good to those who trust him,
to the soul that searches for him.
It is good to wait in silence
for the Lord to save.

Or

5

Dn 12:1-3

(The Last Day, God's judgement, The Book of Life)

A reading from the book of Daniel

I, Daniel, was doing penance, when I received this message from the Lord:

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.

Or

6

2 Mc 12:43-45

(Resurrection, Prayer for the dead, Forgiveness of sin)

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae, and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered from the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

Responsorial Psalm – Choose 1 or can choose a hymn

1

Ps 22. R. v.1 or v.4

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

or

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

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

or

2

Ps 24:6-7. 17-18. 20-21. R. v.1 Alt R. v.3

(R.) No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever put to shame.

or

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
2. Relieve the anguish of my heart
and set me free from my distress.
See my affliction and my toil
and take all my sins away. (R.)
3. Preserve my life and rescue me.
Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge.
May innocence and uprightness protect me:
for my hope is in you, O Lord. (R.)

or

3

Ps 26:1. 4. 7-9. 13-14. R v.1. Alt. R v.13

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

or

(R.) I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. (R.)
3. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face. (R.)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

or

4

Ps 41:2. 3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

1. Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God. (R.)
2. My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God? (R.)
3. These things will I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng wild with joy. (R.)

or

5

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. You have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

or

6

Ps 102:8. 10. 13-18. R. v.8. Alt R. Ps 36:39

(R.) The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

or

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
2. As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust. (R.)
3. As for man, his days are like grass;
he flowers like the flower of the field;
the wind blows and he is gone
and his place never sees him again. (R.)
4. But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth. (R.)

or

7

Ps 114:5-6; 115:10-11. 15-16. R. Ps 114:9

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

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me. (R.)
2. I trusted even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted,'
and when I said in my alarm:
'No man can be trusted'. (R.)
3. O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds. (R.)

or

8

Ps 121. R. v.1. Alt. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

or

(R.) I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. (R.)
3. For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)
4. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces peace!' (R.)
5. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: "Peace upon you!"
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

or

9

Ps 129. R. v.1. Alt. R. see v.5

(R.) I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.

or

(R.) Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark my guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak. (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. (R.)

or

10

Ps 142:1-2, 5-8. 10. R. v.1

(R.) O Lord, hear my prayer.

1. Lord, listen to my prayer:
turn your ear to my appeal.
You are faithful, you are just; give answer.
Do not call your servant to judgement
for no one is just in your sight. (R.)
2. I remember the days that are past:
I ponder all your works.
I muse on what your hand has wrought
and to you I stretch out my hands.
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you. (R.)
3. Lord, make haste and give me answer:
for my spirit fails within me.
In the morning let me know your love
for I put my trust in you. (R.)
4. Teach me to do your will
for you, O Lord, are my God.
Let your good spirit guide me
in ways that are level and smooth. (R.)

Second Reading - from the New Testament

1

Rom 5:5-11 (Christ has died to save us from our sins. Reconciled to God)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

Or

2

Rom 5:17-21 (For all who are 'outsiders' - God's grace is greater than our sins, Jesus brings life.)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. When law came, it was to multiply the opportunities of falling, but however great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater; and so, just as sin reigned wherever there was death, so grace will reign to bring eternal life, thanks to the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or

3

Rom 6:3-4. 8-9 (For a baptised child or adult – Dying with Christ – rising to life with Christ.)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

Or

4

Rom 8:14-23

(For a disabled person or one who suffered – The Spirit brings us to glory, Death is liberation, A great act of giving birth – new creation)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

or

5

Rom 14:7-12

(For a child as well as an adult – Our lives are for God, Christ: Lord of living and dead, God's judgment)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as Scripture says: By my life – it is the Lord who speaks – every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

or

6

Longer form

1 Cor 15:20-28

(For a child or an adult – All will be brought to life in Christ, Resurrection, God is Lord of all)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. – Though when it is said that everything is subjected, this clearly cannot include the One who subjected everything to him. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

or

Shorter form

1 Cor 15:20-23

(For a child or an adult – All will be brought to life in Christ, Resurrection, God is Lord of all)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their

proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him.

Or

7

2 Cor 4:14–5:1

(Life is with the risen Christ, Earthly troubles pass; God's glory is eternal)

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

We know that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

or

8

2 Cor 5:1. 6-10

(At home with God. God's judgement.)

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

We know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

We are always full of confidence, then, when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

or

9

Phil 3:20-21

(Heaven, our home. Life is changed)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

or

10

1 Thes 4:13-18 (Hope. Dying, rising with Christ. Consolation)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Or

11

1 Jn 3:1-2 (God's love. We shall be like God.)

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future

has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed

we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

or

12

1 Jn 3:14-16 (For one who died for the sake of another. Love for others)

A reading from the first letter of St John

We have passed out of death and into life,
and of this we can be sure
because we love our brothers.

If you refuse to love, you must remain dead;
to hate your brother is to be a murderer,
and murderers, as you know, do not have eternal life in them.

This has taught us love –
that he gave up his life for us;
and we, too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers.

Gospel

1

Mt 5:1-12 (For those who were gentle. Happiness)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

or

2

Mt 11:25-30 (For a child or a person with childlike simplicity. For those whose life was hard. Eternal rest. Consolation)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You have hidden these things from the learned and have revealed them to children.

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

or

3

Mt 25:1-13 (For one who awaited death or was ready for death. Heaven.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

'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 sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the

bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

or

4

Mt 25:31-46

(For one who helped others. Christ, the Judge. "Whatever you did for these, you did to me." Come to eternal life)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

or

5

Lk 7:11-17

(For a young person. Resurrection. Consolation.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up'. And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

or

6

Lk 12:35-40 (For one who awaited death. Happiness.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

or

7

Lk 23:33. 39-43 (Christ our Saviour. Jesus' promise.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the soldiers reached the place they called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left.

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

or

8

Lk 23:44-46. 50. 52-53 (Jesus' death and resurrection. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit".)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit'. With these words he breathed his last.

Then a member of the council arrived, an upright and virtuous man named Joseph. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid.

or

9

Lk 24:13-16. 28-35 (For one who loved the Mass. Jesus' death and resurrection. Christ in word and sacrament. Consolation)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening,' they said, 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they

recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

or

10

Jn 5:24-29 (For a person of faith. Christ, source of eternal life. Christ, the judge.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews:

'I tell you most solemnly,
whoever listens to my words,
and believes in the one who sent me,
has eternal life;
without being brought to judgement
he has passed from death to life.
'I tell you most solemnly,
the hour will come – in fact it is here already –
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and all who hear it will live.
For the Father, who is the source of life,
has made the Son the source of life;
and, because he is the Son of Man,
has appointed him supreme judge.
Do not be surprised at this,
for the hour is coming
when the dead will leave their graves
at the sound of his voice:
those who did good
will rise again to life;
and those who did evil, to condemnation.'
I can do nothing by myself;
I can only judge as I am told to judge,
and my judging is just,
because my aim is to do not my own will,
but the will of him who sent me.

or

11

Jn 6:37-40 (Christ welcomes us to eternal life. Resurrection.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

'All that the Father gives me will come to me,
and whoever comes to me
I shall not turn him away;
because I have come from heaven,
not to do my own will,
but to do the will of the one who sent me.
'Now the will of him who sent me
is that I should lose nothing
of all that he has given to me,
and that I should raise it up on the last day.
Yes, it is my Father's will
that whoever sees the Son and believes in him

shall have eternal life,
and that I shall raise him up on the last day.'

or

12

Jn 6:51-58 (For one who loved the Mass. "Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the people started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'
they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.
For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.
This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:
they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

or

13

Jn 11:21-27 (Faith in Christ)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that,
even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother', said Jesus to her 'will rise
again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come
into this world.'

or

14

Jn 11:32-45 (Grief and consolation. Faith in Christ. Resurrection.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Mary the sister of Lazarus, went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

or

15

Jn 12:23-26 (A grain of wheat. God glorifies Christ. Life after death)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.'

or

16

Jn 14:1-6 (Christ prepares a place for us.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.'

or

17

Jn 17:24-26 (One with Christ in glory.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Father,
I want those you have given me
to be with me where I am,
so that they may always see the glory
you have given me
because you loved me
before the foundation of the world.
Father, Righteous One,
the world has not known you,
but I have known you,
and these have known
that you have sent me.
I have made your name known to them
and will continue to make it known
so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,
and so that I may be in them.'

or

Jn 19:17-18. 25-39 (Jesus' death – his mother and friends are there)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Carrying his own cross, Jesus went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.'

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now had been completed, and to fulfil the Scripture perfectly he said:

'I am thirsty.'

A full jar of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished'; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath – since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity – the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. This is the evidence of one who saw it – trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth – and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of Scripture:

Not one bone of his will be broken;

and again, in another place scripture says:

They will look on the one whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus – though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews – asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well – the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time – and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about a hundred pounds.

Universal Prayer for Funerals from Life is Changed not ended

Please choose one from each section

- 1**
- 1: For **N.**: a child of God and heir to the kingdom, that he/she may be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 2: That God in his mercy may blot out all **N's** offences, establish him/her in light and peace, and call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 3: That God will receive our praise and thanksgiving for the life of **N.** (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 4: In Baptism, **N.** received the light of Christ. Let us pray that God will now scatter the darkness and lead him/her over the waters of death. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

- 2**
- 1: The family and friends of **N** seek comfort and consolation. Let us pray that God will heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 2: 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. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 3: That all of us, **N's** family and friends, may be comforted in our grief. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 4: For **N's** family (*especially his/her mother, father, brother, sister...*), that they may feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

- 3**
- 1: For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 2: We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister **N**. Let us pray that God will strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of the coming of Christ. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 3: That the Lord Jesus who blesses those who mourn and are in pain will look upon **N's** family and friends who gather around him/her today. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 4: For us the Church, that we may prepare worthily for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name to pass from this world to the next. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

- 4**
- 1: That God may welcome into glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life (*especially..*). (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 2: Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. May God grant them an everlasting home with Christ. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 3: Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Let us pray that all the faithful departed will find in God refreshment, rest and peace. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
 - 4: For all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

5

- 1: That God will grant release to all those who suffer from.... (pause) We pray to the Lord:
- 2: For the doctors and nurses at ... who cared for N, that their works of service may be richly blessed. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
- 3: N fought for peace and freedom. May he/she now rest in peace and may people everywhere live free from oppression. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
- 4: For the work of ..., that those who are left will carry forward that for which N so generously laboured. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

6

- 1: That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
- 2: Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. May God show mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
- 3: For all parents who grieve over the death of their children, that they be comforted in the knowledge that their little ones dwell with God. (pause) We pray to the Lord:
- 4: For those who cannot find hope and who live in the darkness of despair. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

Or

Universal Prayer for Funerals – Adult

Sample 1

Priest: My dear friends, God is tender and merciful. Let us turn to the Lord who hears the cry of those in need.

Reader: For **N.**: may he/she be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all of us, **N.**'s family and friends: may we be comforted in our grief and strengthened by our faith in Christ. (pause). We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who suffer pain in mind or body: may they never feel alone. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have gone before us, especially **N.**: that they may rest peacefully in Christ, their eternal home. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the carers at **N. [institution name]** and all who have looked after **N.** physically and spiritually: may they be blessed for their kindness and compassion. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who have completed this earthly pilgrimage and entered eternal life: may they see Christ face to face in glory. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Loving God, your Son Jesus has given us the hope of eternal life in you. Hear the prayers we offer for **N.** and grant him/her your lasting peace. Comfort us in our sadness and give us renewed hope. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.