

**“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE
FOREVER” -John 11:25**

Preparing a Funeral Mass
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The Church, through its Funeral Rites, commends those who have died to God's merciful love and affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven. Though separated from the living, the dead are still one with the community of believers here on earth and benefit from our prayers and intercession. In the Funeral Rites, we proclaim our belief that all the faithful will be raised up and reunited in the new heavens and a new earth, where death will be no more.

The purpose of this book is to assist you in planning a Funeral Mass according to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church here at St. Mary's Parish.

The Order of Christian Funerals is composed of three stations or movements: A Vigil Prayer Service at the Funeral Home, a Funeral Mass at the Church and a Committal at the place of burial. This book concentrates on the Funeral Mass itself. The other two moments of prayer can be planned by the priest or presiding minister in consultation with the family of the deceased.

The Funeral Mass at Church consists of 5 parts, each of which is briefly explained:

A. Introductory Rites

Greeting and Sprinkling with Holy Water
Placing of the Pall
Entrance Procession
Placing of Christian Symbols
Opening Prayer

B. Liturgy of the Word

Scripture Readings
Homily
General Intercessions

C. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation and Preparation of the Bread and Wine
Eucharistic Prayer
Holy Communion

D. Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer
Song of Farewell and Incense
Prayer of Commendation

E. Procession to the Place of Committal

Planning the Funeral

As family members, we invite you to participate in the planning of the Funeral Mass. While there is a specific structure to the Funeral Mass, there are opportunities within that structure to make specific choices, including the Scripture Readings and hymns as well as those who will actively participate in the Mass. These various options are explained in the book. Please take a few moments to read through the book and complete the enclosed Funeral Mass Selection Card with your selections. One of our parish priests is available to assist you with this process and will meet with you to discuss your selections and answer any questions or concerns that you might have.

A. The Introductory Rites

When the family and friends accompanying the body or remains of the deceased have arrived at the Church, the priest and other ministers greet them at the door of the Church. As a reminder of the deceased person's entrance into the faith through Baptism, the casket containing the remains of the deceased is sprinkled with holy water and a white pall is placed over it. It is encouraged that members of the family assist in the placing of the pall. The funeral procession then proceeds into the Church as a hymn is sung. Family and friends are invited to take their seats in the front of the Church and remain standing for the opening prayer of the Mass.

In the front of the Church, after everyone is in place, a member of the family may place a symbol of the Christian life, e.g. a cross or a Bible, on the casket. The symbol should be carried in by one of the family members in the procession.

B. The Liturgy of the Word

The community now gathers to listen to God's Word as proclaimed in Holy Scripture. Generally, three readings are proclaimed: the first from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures), the second from the New Testament (Letters) and, finally, the Gospel.

In the appendix of this book you will find the selection of Scripture readings for the Funeral Mass. If there is another reading from Scripture that you would like to suggest, please discuss this with the priest.

It is appropriate to have members of the family or friends read the selected Scripture passages at Mass. It is preferable to have a different reader for each of the first two readings. The priest or the deacon will proclaim the Gospel. If there is no one able or willing to read at Mass, a lector will be available from the parish community.

The response to the first reading is a psalm which is generally selected and sung by the leader of song. You may contact the parish music minister if you have any suggestions.

The homily follows the Scripture readings and is given by the priest or deacon. If you have any particular suggestions to offer in this regard in light of the life of faith of the deceased, please speak with the priest. The purpose of the homily is to focus on God's compassionate love and on the Easter mystery of death leading to resurrection and how we are called to live in the light of this mystery of our faith.

After the homily, the General Intercessions, or Prayer of the Faithful, are offered. Two models are offered in the appendix of this book. You may adapt these to reflect the particular circumstances for the funeral. Please consult with the priest.

When you have decided on the Scripture passages and General Intercessions, please mark your choices on the form provided.

C. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Two to four family members are invited to bring the gifts of bread and wine to be received by the priest. These are located on a small table in front of the first row. The Funeral Director will assist the family members at the appropriate time. Please indicate on the form who will bring up the gifts and how many bearers there will be.

The usual order of Mass follows. After the Eucharistic Prayer, we recite the Lord's Prayer, exchange a sign of peace and prepare to receive Holy Communion. Those of the Catholic faith, who are spiritually prepared to receive our Lord in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, are invited to come forward down the center aisle and return by the side aisle. Those who are not receiving this Sacrament of the Church are asked to remain at their seats during this time and offer a "Spiritual Communion" for the intention of the deceased.

Following the Prayer after Communion, words of remembrance (eulogy) may be offered. By no means is this required. The parish policy is that only ONE person is invited to offer these words. These remarks must always be in keeping with the sanctity and reverence of Holy Mass and should be no longer 3-5 minutes in length and must be written down since this is obviously an emotional and difficult time for a loved one. The words of remembrance should speak of the

life of the deceased and how he/she bore witness to the faith through their example, and practice of living the faith in their daily lives. Above all, it should never be forgotten that these remarks are in the context of the most Sacred Liturgy of the Catholic Church, the Mass. This Liturgy is offered to pray for our deceased loved one, and to bring comfort and hope to family and friends. Care should be taken to continue providing this vision of the Catholic faith through the words of remembrance.

In the event that the family wishes to offer reflections not in keeping with the above guidelines, speak with the Funeral Director for a more appropriate time, perhaps during the wake.

D. Final Commendation

After a brief invitation to pray in silence, the remains of the deceased are reverently incensed and the Prayer of Commendation is offered. If a Christian symbol was placed on the casket, it would be removed at this time. The priest and assisting ministers precede the casket/remains; the family and friends follow. The pall is removed from the casket by the Funeral Director at the door.

E. Procession to the Place of Committal

Led by the Church ministers and priest, the body of the deceased is reverently brought to the back of the Church, followed by the family members and all those who have worshipped at the Mass. An appropriate hymn is sung.

Music Ministry

The music for the Funeral Mass is provided by one of our parish organists and cantor. Like a regular Sunday Mass, the music chosen at a Funeral Mass is such to encourage the congregation to participate. If there are any particular hymns that you would like sung at the Funeral Mass, you are asked to speak to the priest. Only hymns and songs of a Sacred nature will be allowed for the Funeral Mass.

Cremation

It is preferred that the wake and Funeral Mass precede cremation of the body. When cremation has preceded the Mass, however, the remains of the deceased may be carried in and placed on a small table which will be in the front of the altar. No pall is placed on the urn nor are pictures of the deceased or other symbols placed near the urn. It is assumed, in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church, that cremated remains of a loved one are to be buried in keeping with the dignity and reverence of the body.

If neither the body nor the cremated remains will be present at the Mass, a Memorial Mass, not a Funeral Mass, will be celebrated. Please speak with the priest if there are any questions.

Summary

As Catholics, we celebrate the Funeral Rites to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just. It is our prayer that our assistance and presence as a Church to your family may lighten the burden of your loss and assure you, with the confidence that only faith can give, that your loved one will one day share in the promise of life eternal for all who place their lives in His hands.

APPENDIX 1

Scripture Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1 A reading from the book of Job 19:1, 23-26

I know that my Redeemer lives.

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,

And that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

My own eyes, not another's, shall behold him,

And from my flesh I shall see God;

My inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

Longer form:

2A A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-9

He accepted them as a holocaust.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Shorter form:

2B A reading from the book of Wisdom

3:1-6, 9

He accepted them as a holocaust.

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

The Word of the Lord.

A blameless life is a ripe old age.

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not with the
passing of time,

nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;

He who lived among sinners was transported-
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is
right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the
fullness of a long career;

for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,

therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

The Lord God 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!”

The Word of the Lord.

5 A reading from the book of Lamentations

3:17-26

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

6 A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

12:1-2

Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake.

[I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:]

“At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress

since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

7 A reading from the second book of Maccabees 12:43-46

It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.

Judas [the ruler of Israel] then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

1A Longer form:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-43

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

1B Shorter form:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-36, 42-43

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that

everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

2 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 5:5-11

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for the good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

3 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 5:17-21

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

4A Longer form:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

6:3-9

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

4B Shorter form:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

6:34, 8-9

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

5 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

8:14-23

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, *Abba*, "Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with

Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

6 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

7 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

14:7-9, 10b-12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written:

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

8A Longer form:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

15:20-23, 24b-28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then' comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the One who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

8B Shorter form:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

15:20-23

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

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

15:51-57

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

"Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

The Word of the Lord.

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

4:14-5:1

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

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

5:1, 6-10

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

12 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

3:20-21

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

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

4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers [and sisters], about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

14 A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

2:8-13

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.

The Word of the Lord.

15 A reading from the first letter of John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him, Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

16 A reading from the first letter of John 3:14-16

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers [and sisters]. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers [and sisters].

The Word of the Lord.

17 A reading from the book of Revelation 14:13

I heard a voice from heaven say,
"Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
"Yes," said the Spirit,
"let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord.

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This-pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe away 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 live-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be by my son."

The Word of the Lord.

APPENDIX 2

General Intercessions – Two Models Either A or B

Model A

The priest begins:

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:

Assisting minister:

Please respond: Hear our prayer.

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.

Assisting minister:

Our brother/sister N. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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.

Assisting minister:

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

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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.

Assisting minister:

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.

Assisting minister:

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.

OPTIONAL:

Assisting minister:

For all of the deceased, may they rest in God's peace forever, especially N1, N2, etc.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

The priest then concludes:

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.

R. Amen.

Model B

The priest begins:

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

Assisting minister:

Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister

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.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Optional:

Assisting minister:

For all of the deceased, may they rest in God's peace forever, especially N1, N2, etc.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

The priest then concludes:

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.