

Funeral Liturgy Planning Booklet

The Catholic Parishes of Medfield and Norfolk



Main Office

St Edward: 508 359 2633
St Jude: 508 508 0170

Bereavement Facilitator

St Edward: Fred Horgan 508 878 3878
St Jude: Mary Sheedy 508 320 6918

Email Address

St Edward: BF-StEd@ejcatholic.church
St Jude: BF-StJude@ejcatholic.church

Dear Friends:

On behalf of our parish family, please accept our deepest sympathy on the loss of your loved one. We understand that this is a most difficult time with many needs that must be addressed in a short period of time. Our hope is that the funeral liturgy will be helpful and a source of grace and comfort for you.

This booklet is intended to help you choose readings from Scripture and music that will make the funeral meaningful for you and all who attend. To assist with that planning, a representative from our parish will contact you prior to the wake and funeral Mass to set up a time to meet with you and any family members or friends to help you with your choices.

There are many ways to involve others at the Mass. You may choose individuals to lead the Scripture readings and the Prayer of the Faithful. Others may bring up the sacramental gifts or serve as pallbearers. We can help you with those choices as well.

We have found that often the most difficult time for those who have lost a loved one are those weeks and months following a death. We want to assure you of our continued prayers and our desire, as your parish family, to continue to be of assistance in the days that lie ahead. Whatever we can do to ease your burden and help with your loss is both an honor and a privilege.

Approximately one month after the funeral, the repose of the soul of the deceased and the comfort and healing of the family will be a specific intention at Mass. We will invite you and your family to that Mass.

Wishing you God's peace and grace throughout this difficult time.

The Catholic Parishes of Medfield and Norfolk

Funeral Liturgy Planning Booklet The Catholic Parishes of Medfield and Norfolk

Table of Contents

1. <i>Funeral Liturgy Overview</i>	4
2. <i>Reading I from the Old Testament</i>	8
3. <i>Responsorial Psalm (Always Sung)</i>	10
4. <i>Reading II from the New Testament</i>	12
6. <i>Prayer of the Faithful</i>	14
7. <i>Words of Remembrance (Optional)</i>	15
8. <i>Funeral Planning Worksheet (Complete and Return)</i>	16
<i>Appendix - Funeral Music Selections</i>	19
<i>Appendix - Reading I from the Old Testament - Full Text</i>	22
<i>Appendix - Reading II from the New Testament - Full Text</i>	35

Please note the Funeral Liturgy Planning Booklet is also available online at:

www.ej catholic.org

1. Funeral Liturgy Overview

The funeral rites of the Church are celebrated to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to Him. Through these rites the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased, and also ministers to those who are sorrowing with the strength and comfort of God's word and the sacrament of the Eucharist. The Funeral Mass is a prayer for God's mercy for the deceased and a solace for the living, including the entire faith community.

The Order of Christian Funerals is divided into three rites.

- 1. Vigil (Wake) and related Rites and prayers:** The Vigil for the deceased is the principal rite celebrated by the Christian community in the time following death and before the funeral liturgy. Words of Remembrance may be spoken at this time without any limitations to the number of speakers.
- 2. Funeral Liturgy:** This is the central liturgical celebration for the deceased and should be scheduled for a time that permits as many of the Christian community as possible to be present. Please see further description below.
- 3. Rite of Committal (Cemetery or Other Arrangements):** The Rite of Committal at the conclusion of the funeral rites is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body or ashes of the deceased. When possible, it should be celebrated at the site of committal, which is beside the open grave or place of interment.

Cremated Remains - For funerals that will include cremated remains, please note the following guidelines.

Since 1997, cremated remains have been allowed to be present at funeral Masses and are given the same respect as remains in a casket.

The Church strongly prefers cremation to take place *after* the full funeral liturgy with the body. The presence of the body most clearly brings to mind the life and death of the person and better expresses the values that the Church affirms in its rites. These rites are sacred acts that help bereaved families on their journey over several days through mourning, prayer, consolation and separation from their deceased loved one, in the company of friends and neighbors. The body forcefully brings to mind our belief that our

human bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and destined for future glory at the resurrection of the dead.

The Church also teaches that the cremated remains be interred just as a body, in a cemetery, crypt or other appropriate burial place. The Church allows burial at sea providing that the cremated remains of the body are buried in a heavy container and not scattered. Scattering ashes or keeping them at home is not part of the Catholic tradition. In some cases, family members and friends that have opted to scatter the ashes have later regretted that choice because there is no place where they can go to honor the deceased. In the case when ashes are retained by the family, future generations often feel burdened having to dispose of the ashes of unremembered kin.

Brief descriptions of the important parts of the funeral Mass are below.

- **Holy Communion:** Communion will be offered under one species in the appearance of bread, at the funeral liturgy.
- **Music Selections:** St. Edward and St. Jude Parishes have separate Music Ministries. Each church provides a list of hymns and psalms appropriate for a funeral liturgy ([see Funeral Music Selections](#)). If other music is preferred, please contact the Bereavement Facilitator for discussion and possible approval.
- **Pallbearers:** Up to six family members or friends of the deceased may be selected as pallbearers. This should be coordinated with the funeral director.
- **Placing of the Pall:** A funeral pall, reminding us of the garment given at baptism and symbolizing our life in Christ, is draped over the coffin at the beginning of the liturgy by funeral home staff or family members.
- **Prayer of the Faithful:** The prayers are intercessions to express the congregation's prayerful concerns for the deceased and the family. The family is asked to complete the template provided herein ([see Prayer of the Faithful](#)) and may draft their own prayer. Each prayer concludes with "We pray to the Lord" to which the congregation will respond "Lord, hear our prayer".
- **Presentation of Gifts:** Family members or friends may bring the gifts of bread and wine to the altar. Two or three individuals may be selected.
- **Readings:** There are four selections from Scripture:
 - The first reading is chosen from the Old Testament ([see Reading I](#)) and may be read by a representative of the family.
 - The Responsorial Psalm, selected by the family, is sung by the Cantor ([see Responsorial Psalm](#)).
 - The second reading is chosen from the New Testament ([see Reading II](#)).
 - The Gospel reading is chosen by the priest.
- **Readers:** You may invite family members or friends to do a reading from the Old Testament and a second reading from the New Testament ([see Index of the Readings for all options](#)). Copies of the chosen readings will be provided for the readers ahead of the liturgy to practice as needed. The readings will be on the lectern for the convenience of each reader.

- **Symbols of the Christian life:** One symbol of the Christian life, provided by the family, may be carried in the procession, and placed on or near the coffin at the conclusion of the entrance procession.
- **Words of Remembrance (OPTIONAL):** One family member or friend may offer prepared Words of Remembrance conveying the consolation of God's love, grace, and mercy on the deceased. The words should not exceed 5 minutes. Please read the specific instructions and guidelines ([see Words of Remembrance](#)). The script should be emailed to the Bereavement Facilitator by 5 PM the day prior to the funeral.

2. Reading I from the Old Testament

The family may select one Scripture reading from the list of the New Testament readings below.

This section provides the list of reading options and a summary; for the full text, please use the [Appendix](#).

- Pentecost through Lent - Old Testament
 - 1 through 13 are all option but note that 1 and 13 are normally used when a woman predeceases her husband otherwise then infrequently.
- From Easter to Pentecost, New Testament Readings 14 through 17 must be used

No.	Reading	Summary
R1-1 ¹	Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31	<i>The woman who honors the Lord is to be praised.</i>
R1-2	2 Maccabees 12: 43-46	<i>He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.</i>
R1-3	Job 19: 1, 23-27a	<i>I know that my Vindicator lives.</i>
R1-4	Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9 (short form)	<i>As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.</i>
R1-5	Wisdom 3: 1-9 (long form)	<i>As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.</i>
R1-6	Wisdom 4: 7-15	<i>An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.</i>
R1-7	Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9	<i>He will destroy death forever.</i>
R1-8	Isaiah 40: 1-5	<i>Take comfort, God has taken on our guilt and set our path straight.</i>
R1-9	Lamentations 3: 17-26	<i>It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.</i>
R1-10	Daniel 12: 1-3	<i>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.</i>

R1-11	Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11 (long form)	<i>To acknowledge that God is all, that all is made by God; and that everything is good.</i>
R1-12	Ecclesiastes 3: 1-9 (short form)	<i>To acknowledge that God is all, that all is made by God; and that everything is good.</i>
R1-13 ¹	Sirach 26: 1-4	<i>Honoring a woman for the gift of a joyful marriage.</i>
Note: <i>From Easter to Pentecost, Reading II from the New Testament must be used in place of the Old Testament Reading</i>		
R1-14	Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-36, 42-43 (short form)	<i>He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.</i>
R1-15	Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43 (long form)	<i>He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.</i>
R1-16	Revelation 14: 13	<i>Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.</i>
R1-17	Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7	<i>There shall be no more death.</i>

¹ Normally used when a woman predeceases her husband and then infrequently.

3. Responsorial Psalm (Always Sung)

The Responsorial Psalm is sung after the first reading. The psalms below are listed by church. Please select one from the church where the funeral will be celebrated and include the selection on the Funeral Music Selections.

Funerals at St. Edward the Confessor

Selection #	Responsorial Title	Parish Hymnal #
RP-1	Shepherd Me, O God	#35 Ps. 23
RP-2	To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul	#39 Ps. 25
RP-3	The Lord is Kind and Merciful	#75 Ps. 103
RP-4	Be With Me Lord	#65 Ps. 91
RP-5	On Eagle's Wings	#691 Ps. 91
RP-6	The Lord is My Light	#41 Ps. 27
RP-7	Shelter Me, O God	#717 Ps. 16
RP-8	In You O Lord, I Found My Peace	#89 Ps. 131

Funerals at St. Jude

Selection #	Responsorial Title	Parish Hymnal #
RP-9	Be With Me Lord	#783 Ps. 91
RP-10	To You, O Lord (I Lift My Soul)	#748 Ps. 2
RP-11	The Lord is My Shepherd	#58 R&A Ps. 23
RP-12	Shepherd Me, O God	#457 Ps. 23

RP-13	Shelter Me, O God	#464 Ps. 16
RP-14	The Lord is My Light	#680 Ps. 27
RP-15	The Lord is Kind and Merciful	#42 R&A Ps.103
RP-16	I Know that my Redeemer Lives	#678 Ps. 27

4. Reading II from the New Testament

The family may select one Scripture reading from the list of the New Testament readings below.

This section provides the list of reading options and a summary; for the full text, please use the [Appendix](#).

No.	Reading	Summary
R2-1	Romans 5: 1-5	<i>Hope does not disappoint; through Christ we are promised Peace with God.</i>
R2-2	Romans 5: 5-11	<i>Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.</i>
R2-3	Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9 (short form)	<i>We too might live in newness of life.</i>
R2-4	Romans 6: 3-9 (long form)	<i>We too might live in newness of life.</i>
R2-5	Romans 8: 14-23	<i>We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.</i>
R2-6	Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39	<i>What will separate us from the love of Christ?</i>
R2-7	Romans 14: 7-9, 10c-12	<i>Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.</i>
R2-8	1 Corinthians 12: 31-13, 13: 8a	<i>Acting with Love never fails.</i>
R2-9	1 Corinthians 15: 20-23	<i>So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.</i>
R2-10	1 Corinthians 15: 51-57	<i>Death is swallowed up in victory.</i>
R2-11	2 Corinthians 4: 14- 5:1	<i>What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.</i>

R2-12	2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10	<i>We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.</i>
R2-13	Philippians 3: 20-21	<i>He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.</i>
R2-14	1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18	<i>Thus we shall always be with the Lord.</i>
R2-15	2 Timothy 2: 8-13	<i>If we have died with him we shall also live with him.</i>
R2-16	1 John 3: 1-2	<i>We shall see him as he is.</i>
R2-17	Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-36, 42-43 (short form)	<i>He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.</i>
R2-18	Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43 (long form)	<i>He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.</i>
R2-19	Revelation 14: 13	<i>Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.</i>
R2-20	Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7	<i>There shall be no more death.</i>

6. Prayer of the Faithful

The family **may** compose a prayer of the faithful. Each prayer should conclude with “We pray to the Lord” and the response from the congregation is “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Below is a sample that may be used or modified accordingly.

Opening Prayer said by the Priest.

For (deceased name) 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. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

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

We pray to the Lord. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For all those people who ministered to (deceased name) during (his/her) illness, that they may be blessed in abundance with God’s love for them.

We pray to the Lord. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For the deceased members of the _____ family, grant them an everlasting home with your Son. *(You may wish to name some immediate family members, but a large list would not be appropriate.)*

We pray to the Lord. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For the family and friends of our brother (sister) (deceased name), 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. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

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. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Closing Prayer said by the Priest.

7. Words of Remembrance (Optional)

A Guide for the Speaker at a Funeral Liturgy

Offering Words of Remembrance at the Funeral Liturgy is **optional**. It is not intended to be a eulogy or historical review of the deceased's life, but rather to convey the consolation of God's love, grace and mercy in their Christian life.

At the funeral liturgy at the Church, the focus shifts to what Jesus has done for us and how our faith offers us hope. It marks the end of an earthly journey that began in the context of faith at baptism and continues with a new life in God. It is within this context that you are asked to prepare your remembrance and to remember the ways the deceased was faithful to his (her) Baptism call by loving God and loving his (her) neighbor.

- Decide with family members if Words of Remembrance will be given (this part of the mass is optional). Remember there are many opportunities for individuals to share remembrances before or after the mass, perhaps at the wake or cemetery.
- Only **one** person may speak on behalf of the family. Please keep your remembrance simple, brief and prepared, **no longer than 5 minutes**. That is about one page of printed text.
- Additional speakers may not speak at the funeral liturgy, however they are encouraged to share remembrances at the wake, cemetery and/or collation (reception) following the service.
- **Begin by praying** that you will honor the person you are speaking about and that your words will be witness to his or her faith and a blessing to family and friends. Avoid inside jokes or humor that may be misunderstood.
- The text of the Words of Remembrance **must** be sent to the bereavement facilitator one day in advance of the funeral mass. This allows the priest to review the text and help prepare for the homily.

Thank you for following the guidelines stated above, as they are intended to respectfully remember your loved one. Please contact the funeral planning facilitator if you have any questions regarding the Words of Remembrance.

8. Funeral Planning Worksheet (Complete and Return)

Please complete the worksheet and return to the church office **at least 2 days prior** to the funeral. Completed form can be sent to the Bereavement Facilitator (mentioned on [Cover Page](#)).

Introduction	
For (Name)	
Date of Birth	
Date of Death	
Funeral Home Name or Obituary Link/URL	
Date and Time of Wake	
Responsible Party	
Name	
Relationship to Deceased	
Address	
Phone Number (Home)	
Phone Number (Mobile)	
Email Address	

Details	
Date and time of funeral	
Casket or Urn	
Cemetery	
Celebrant	
FB Live	
Estimated # of People	
Reading Selections (Selection and Reader)	
<u>Reading I - Old Testament</u>	
Reader I Name	
<u>Responsorial Psalm (Sung)</u>	
<u>Reading II - New Testament</u>	
Reader II Name	
Prayer of the Faithful	
Prayer Reader	
Presentation of the Gifts (2 or 3 individuals) (Names)	

Words of Remembrance (Optional)	
Musical Selections (Name and # for each)	
Entrance	
Offertory	
Communion	
Closing	
Other Notes	

Appendix - Funeral Music Selections

St. Edward Funeral Music

Hymns may be placed in other categories.

Entrance/Gathering Hymns

Here I Am, Lord	#777
Be Not Afraid	#683
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	#724
Amazing Grace	#645
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	#955
Lord of all Hopefulness	#663
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	#712

Responsorial Psalm (must be based on psalm)

Shepherd Me, O God	#35 Ps. 23
To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul	#39 Ps. 25
The Lord is Kind and Merciful	#75 Ps. 103
Be With Me Lord	#65 Ps. 91
On Eagle's Wings	#691 Ps. 91
The Lord is My Light	#41 Ps. 27
Shelter Me, O God	#717 Ps. 16
My Soul Is Still ("In you, O Lord, I have found my peace")	#89 Ps. 1182

Preparation of Gifts (Offertory)

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	#889
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace ("Prayer of St. Francis")	#828
Blest Are They	#735
Come to Me	#731
Eye Has Not Seen	#728
We Walk by Faith	#680
Christ, Be Our Light	#590
Only This I Want	#782
Hosea	#484
There is a Longing	#653
Ave Maria – Schubert	n/a
May the Road Rise to Meet You by Lori True	n/a

Communion

Panis Angelicus – Franck	n/a
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart ("Gift of Finest Wheat")	#940
I Am the Bread of Life	#945
You Are All We Have	#586

We Remember	#681
Shelter Me, O God	#717
You Are Mine	#721
These Alone are Enough	#650
Now We Remain	#785
What Wondrous Love Is This	#642

Closing/Recessional

How Great Thou Art	#578
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	#527
Let There Be Peace on Earth	#829
For All the Saints	#884
Wideness in God's Mercy	#644
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	#615
Lift High the Cross	#881

St. Jude Funeral Music

Hymns may be placed in other categories.

Entrance/Gathering Hymns

On Eagles Wings	#436
Be Not Afraid	#431
Here I Am, Lord	#378
Amazing Grace	#432
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	#467
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	#688
Lord of All Hopefulness	#402

Responsorial Psalm (must be sung)

Be With Me Lord	Ps. 91	#783
To You, O Lord (I Lift My Soul)	Ps. 25	#748
The Lord is My Shepherd	Ps. 23	#58 R&A
Shepherd Me, O God	Ps. 23	#457
Shelter Me, O God	Ps. 16	#464
The Lord is My Light	Ps. 27	#680
The Lord is Kind and Merciful	Ps. 103	#42 R&A
I Know that my Redeemer Lives	Ps. 27	#678

Preparation of the Gifts (Offertory)

Ave Maria	#704
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	#678
Like A Shepherd	#607
There Is a Longing	#401
Because the Lord is My Shepherd	#465
Only This I Want	#498
Come to Me	#460
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	#467
Christ Be Our Light	#596
Hosea	#666

Communion

Panis Angelicus – Frank	
You Are Mine	#456
Now We Remain	#507
I Am the Bread of Life	#363
Blest Are They	#629
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	#705
Shepherd Me O God	#457
Unless a Grain of Wheat	#506
Prayer of St. Francis	#523
Eye Has Not Seen	#461
We Remember	#494

Closing/Recessional

How Great Thou Art	#424
Lift High the Cross	#712
Irish Blessing	#391
We Will Rise Again	#439
Sing With All the Saints in Glory	#611
Lights of the City	n/a
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	#123
For All the Saints	#722
Let There Be Peace on Earth	#526

Appendix – Reading I from the Old Testament – Full Text

The family may select one Scripture reading from the list of the Old Testament readings below.

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor and extends her arms to
the needy.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

2 Maccabees 12: 43-46

A reading from Maccabees

He 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 in mind;

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

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 absolved from their sin.

The Word of the Lord.

Job 19: 1, 23-27a**A reading from the Book of Job**

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:
Oh, would that my words were written down!
 Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead
 they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,
 and that he will at least 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.

Wisdom 3: 1-9 (long form)**A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of Himself.
As gold in the furnace, He proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall 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.**(Or short form on next page)**

Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9 (short form)**A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed they be punished
yet is their hope full of immortality.
Chastised a little,
they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of Himself.

As gold in the furnace, He proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to Himself.
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.

Wisdom 4: 7-15**A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not
with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported,
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;
For the witchery of paltry things
obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.
Having become perfect in a short while.
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain He will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;
He will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of His people He will remove
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked 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.

Isaiah 40: 1-5**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service
is at end, her guilt is expiated:

Indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all
her sins.

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be
made low;

The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a
broad valley.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

And all mankind shall see it together;

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

Lamentations 3: 17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
His mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is His faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
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.

Daniel 12: 1-3**A reading from the Book of Daniel**

At that time there shall arise Michael,
the great prince, guardian of your people;

It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since the nation 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 to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting
disgrace.

But those with insight 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.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11 (long form)

A reading from The Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,
 And a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant,
 And a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
 A time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
 A time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
 A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
 A time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
 A time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
 A time of war, and a time of peace.
What advantage has the worker from his toil?

I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to
be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time
and has put the timeless into their hearts,
without men's ever discovering,
from the beginning to the end,
the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord

(Or short form on next page)

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 – 9 (short form)**A reading from The Book of Ecclesiastes**

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born,
and a time to die;
A time to plant,
and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill,
And a time to heal;
A time to tear down,
and a time to build.
A time to weep,
and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn,
and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones,
and a time to gather them;
A time to embrace,
and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek,
and a time to lose;
A time to keep,
and a time to cast away.
A time to rend,
and a time to sew;
A time to be silent,
and a time to speak.
A time to love,
and a time to hate;
A time of war,
and a time of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Sirach 26: 1-4**A reading from the Book of Sirach**

Happy the husband of a good wife, twice-lengthened are his days;

A worthy wife brings joy to her husband peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;

Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
And a smile is ever on his face.

The Word of the Lord.

Appendix - Reading II from the New Testament – Full Text

The family may select one Scripture reading from the list of the Old Testament readings below.

Romans 5: 1- 5

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Now that we have been justified by faith,
we are at peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Him we have gained access by faith
to the grace in which we now stand,
and we boast of our hope
for the glory of God.

But not only that,
we can boast of our afflictions!

We know that afflictions make for endurance,
and endurance for tested virtue,
and tested virtue for hope.

And this hope will not leave us disappointed,
because the love of God
has been poured out in our hearts
through the Holy Spirit
who has been given to us.

The Word of the Lord.

Romans 5: 5-11**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our
hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been
given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty
does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.

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

How much more then,
since we are now justified by His Blood,
will we be saved through Him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God
through the death of His Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by His life.

Not only that, but we also boast of God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Romans 6: 3-9 (long form)**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into
Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

We were indeed buried with Him
through baptism into death,

So that, just as Christ was raised
from the dead by the glory of the Father,
We too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with Him
through a death like His,
we shall also be united with Him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with Him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with Him.

We know that Christ,
raised from the dead, dies no more:
Death no longer has power over Him.

The Word of the Lord.

(Or short form on next page)

Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9 (short form)**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into
Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

We were indeed buried with Him through baptism
into death, so that, just as Christ was raised
from the dead by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

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.

Romans 8: 14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, *Abba*, "Father!"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with Him
so that we may also be glorified with Him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation
the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord
but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning
in labor pains even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?
He did not spare His own Son
but handed Him over for us all,
Will He not also give us everything else along with Him?
Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,
who also is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly
through Him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Romans 14: 7-9, 10c-12**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself,
and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's

For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother?

Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
for it is written:

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12: 31-13: 8a

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

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.
But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues
but do not have love,
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy
and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,
and if I hand my body over so that I may boast
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.
It is not jealous, is not pompous,
It is not inflated, it is not rude,
It does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered,
it does not brood over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15: 20-23

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

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead
came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:

Christ the first fruits;
then, at His coming,
those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

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 this which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
and this which is mortal clothes 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.

The Word of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4: 14-5:1

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

Brothers and sisters:

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.

2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

We are always courageous,
although we know that
while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body
and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please Him,
whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear
before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body,
whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

Philippians 3: 20-21**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body
to conform with His glorified Body
by the power that enables Him also
to bring all things into subjection to Himself.

The Word of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest,
who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those
who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel
and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

2 Timothy 2: 8-13

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

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.*

The Word of the Lord.

1 John 3: 1-2**A reading from the first Letter of Saint John**

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know Him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like Him,
for we shall see Him as He is.

The Word of the Lord.

Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43 (short form)**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation

 whoever fears Him and acts uprightly

 is acceptable to Him.

You know the word that He sent to the children of Israel

 as He proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ,

 who is Lord of all.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

(Or long form on next page)

Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43 (Long form)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears Him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him.

You know the word that He sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. We are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put Him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that He be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

To Him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name."

The Word of the Lord.

Revelation 14: 13**A reading from the Book of Revelation**

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say,
"Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

Yes," said the Spirit,
"let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord.

Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7**A reading from the Book of Revelation**

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.

He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning,
wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away."

The One who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new."

I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.

The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son."

The Word of the Lord.