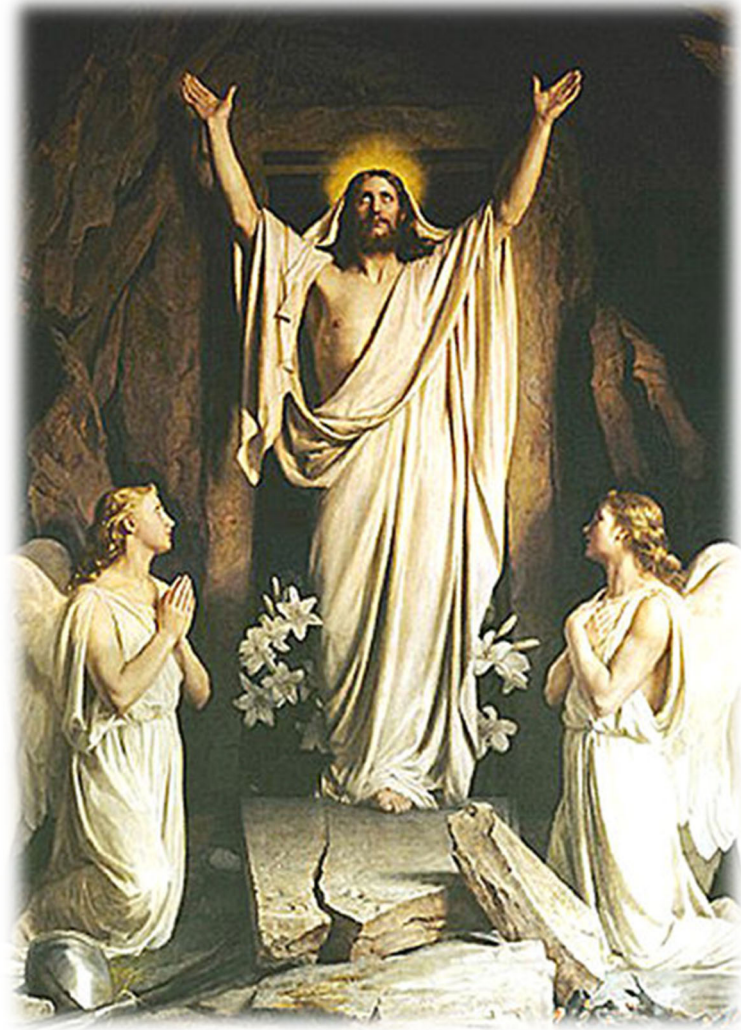


# **The Catholic Funeral Rites**

## ***A Planning Guide***



*I am the Resurrection and the Life.*

*Saint Catherine Labouré Parish*

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the face of the death of a loved one, our Catholic faith offers us the hope that for those who believe *"life is not ended but merely changed."* The Funeral Rites that we celebrate offer in prayer what many of us cannot find the words to express. They are intended to comfort the family and friends of the deceased as well as to assist the soul of the departed person as they enter eternal life.

The Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church consist of a series of prayers and liturgies, celebrated at various places and times, in the days between the death of a Christian and his or her burial. Saint Catherine Labouré Parish has compiled this booklet to help those who are mourning the loss of their loved one to find consolation in our Faith and to assist in the planning of the Funeral Liturgy as it will be celebrated in our parish church.

Our parish pastoral associate will take the opportunity to meet with you in order to provide consolation in light of our Faith at your time of loss as well as to assist you in planning the Funeral Mass according to diocesan and parish guidelines and to answer any particular questions.

May the Risen Lord fill your heart with hope at this time of sorrow, trusting in His Resurrection.

*The Clergy and Staff of  
Saint Catherine Labouré Parish*

## THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES

### ***A. The Vigil Service***

The **Vigil for the Deceased** typically takes place at the funeral home during the visitation hours. Normally members of our parish will visit the funeral home to visit with the family and celebrate the Vigil liturgy which contains readings from the Sacred Scriptures and prayers for the repose of the deceased soul.

### ***B. The Mass of Christian Burial***

The **Mass of Christian Burial** is at the center of the Funeral Rites. The Mass makes present for us the Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross which remains the source of our hope in eternal life. The Eucharist is where Christians encounter the Risen Lord Jesus who reveals to us the new life of the Resurrection and where the Lord gives Himself to us as our strength and nourishment. *Funeral Masses are typically celebrated at Saint Catherine Labouré Parish at 10:30 am--Monday through Saturday. The time of the funeral is determined by the funeral director and the parish. On certain Holy Days and Feasts funeral masses are not permitted to be celebrated by Church norms.*

### ***I. Planning the Funeral Mass***

Often families are comforted by helping to plan the Funeral Mass and by inviting family members or close friends to take some part in the Mass. Our parish is also present to your family in our prayers and in those who will assist with and participate in the liturgy.

The sections printed on the following pages explain the parts of the Mass where you might like to make some selection of music or Scripture readings, and the opportunities for you to invite others to participate.

Included with this booklet is a brief form that can serve as a guide in making your choices. We encourage you to read over these next few pages and complete the planning sheet. The funeral director, parish priest and pastoral associate will be happy to help you.

## ***II. Liturgical Music***

Our organist will be happy to honor choices for hymns which you make from this list. If you have any special requests, be sure to make them known and we will do our best to accommodate your wishes. Please understand that in Church, during the Funeral Mass, only liturgical music from our Catholic tradition is used. At times songs which have special meanings for families, and are not appropriate during Mass, may be played in the funeral home after the Vigil Service or during the Committal Service at the cemetery.

### **Entrance hymns:**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

I Know that My Redeemer Lives (traditional)

I Know that My Redeemer Lives (contemporary)

Lord of All Hopefulness

Day Is Done

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (not during Lent)

The Strife Is O'er (not during Lent)

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones (not during Lent)

Amazing Grace

How Great Thou Art

**Preparation of the Gifts:**

The Lord Is My Light (Walker)

Be Not Afraid

Prayer of St. Francis

Only This I Want

These Alone Are Enough

Hosea

Ave Maria

Hail Mary: Gentle Woman

**Communion:**

Gift of Finest Wheat

I Am the Bread of Life

Eat this Bread

One Bread, One Body

O Sacrament Most Holy

Panis Angelicus (traditional hymn)

Panis Angelicus (Franck)

The Supper of the Lord

Eye Has Not Seen

Here I Am, Lord

You Are Near

**Closing hymn:**

(Also, any of the hymns listed for Entrance)

For All the Saints (not during Lent)

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Jesus, Remember Me

Abide with Me

Beautiful Savior

We Walk by Faith

Irish Blessing

On Eagle's Wings

Sing with All the Saints in Glory (Ode to Joy)

Lift High the Cross

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

*(Note that some of these suggestions are interchangeable)*

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### ***III. Scripture Readings***

You may choose from among the readings which are listed beginning on page ten. Please make ***one selection each*** from the Old Testament and the New Testament. (*During the Easter season it is customary to utilize two New Testament readings—the first from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation*). If you prefer, you can also allow the priest who will celebrate the Mass to select readings which he feels are most appropriate.

You can ask two friends or family members to serve as lectors (readers), one who will read the first reading, and one to read the second. If you prefer, a parish lector will be happy to fill that role. The priest will choose and read the Gospel.

The Responsorial Psalm, sung after the first reading, is typically Psalm 23, ***“The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.”***

### ***III. The Homily***

The homily, given by the priest or deacon, is to “illumine the mystery of Christian death in the light of the risen Christ” (CCC, 1688) as proclaimed in the readings from Sacred Scripture. It is not a eulogy. The priest or deacon will speak of the Paschal mystery and how it is made present in the life and death of the deceased person.

### ***IV. The Offertory Gifts***

After the homily the offertory rites begin. Our gifts of bread and wine symbolize that the Lord takes what we offer Him and fills it with His Life. Some members of the family (usually 2) are welcome to bring these gifts from the offertory or gift table to the priest.

## ***V. Personal Reflection (Eulogy)***

Often families will take the opportunity to remember their departed loved one by asking someone to offer a brief reflection on their life. The *Vigil for the Deceased* or the *Committal rites* at the cemetery are the most fitting times for individuals to give a eulogy or personal reflection in order to share remembrances of the deceased. During the repast, or meal that is often shared following the funeral, there is also this opportunity. The remarks ought to be simple, brief, and prepared, with the tone remaining one of faith and hope.

While we do not encourage the delivery of a eulogy or reflection at the Funeral Mass, **one** brief reflection (of 3 minutes) will be permitted in church near the end of the Mass. Please submit a copy of the eulogy ahead of time for the priest to review. Please be sure to discuss this possibility beforehand when planning the Funeral Mass.

## ***VI. What does the Church teach concerning Cremation?***

For various reasons a family may choose to have the body of their deceased loved one cremated, and for some this can be a difficult decision. Many are aware that the Church, as a testimony to our real belief in the Resurrection of the body, once discouraged this burial practice. Responding to the fact that this choice is an increasingly frequent one in our culture and that it is only very rarely a conscious rejection of our faith in the Resurrection, *the Catholic Church now permits Catholics to choose cremation.*

The Church still holds that reverence is to be shown to the body and to the cremated remains. Whenever possible, Catholics are encouraged to honor the body of their loved one by bringing it to church for a Funeral Mass, after which the body may be cremated. In situations where this is not possible, the cremated remains should be brought to the church for the Funeral Mass.



Maintaining our tradition as a witness to our belief in the Resurrection and the sacredness of our earthly bodies, the Church instructs Catholics that the cremated remains are to be kept intact (that is, not divided), neither are they to be scattered nor kept in the home. They are to be laid to rest by burial in a cemetery or reposed in a mausoleum. Without committal and burial the funeral rites are not permitted to be celebrated. Please feel free to discuss any concerns or questions which you may have with the parish priest.

### ***VII. The Committal or Burial Service***

The cemetery or place of burial is where we celebrate the **Rite of Committal**. The prayers of this last farewell, which often include a blessing of the grave, is normally celebrated by the priest. When the burial takes place at a later time or when a priest is unable to attend, it may be celebrated by our parish deacon, pastoral associate or even by the funeral director.

### ***VII. The Funeral Luncheon or Repast***

If you so desire, we will arrange for the family of the deceased, a repast, upon availability of our facilities. We will put you in touch with our Repast volunteers. They will provide information concerning the food and costs.



## **A. Old Testament Readings**

(Please choose one of the following)

**#1**

**Job 19:1, 23-27**

### **A Reading from the Book of Job**

Then 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.

**#2**

**Wisdom 3:1-9**

### **A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

But 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 the elect.

**#3**

**Wisdom 4:7-14**

**A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

But 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.



**#4**

**Isaiah 25: 6. 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!"

**#5** **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.

**#6** **Daniel 12:1-3**  
**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel**

[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.

**#7** **2 Maccabees 12:43-46**  
**A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees**

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.

**#8**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**

**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 give birth, 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 profit have workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be busied about. God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.



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 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.

### **#3**

### **Romans 5:17-21**

#### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

For 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.

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**#4**

**Romans 6:3-9**

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

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.

**#5**

**Romans 8:14-23**

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

For 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.

**#6** **Romans 8:31-35. 37-39**  
**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

What then shall we say to this? 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 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.

**#7** **Romans 14:7-9. 10-12**  
**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

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).

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**#8** **1 Corinthians 15:20-24. 25-28**  
**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits 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 first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. 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.

**#9** **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**  
**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised

incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**#10**

**2 Corinthians 5:1. 6-10**

**A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

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. 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.

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**#11**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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.

**# 12** **Philippians 3:20-21**  
**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians**

But 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.

**#13** **2 Timothy 2:8-13**  
**A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy**

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.

**#14** **2 Timothy 4:6-8**  
**A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy**

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of

my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

**#15**

**1 John 3:1-2**

**A Reading from the First Letter of John**

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.

**#16**

**1 John 3:14-16**

**A Reading from the First Letter of John**

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. 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.

**#17**

**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."

**#18**

**Revelation 20:11-21:1**

**A Reading from the Book of Revelation**

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing

before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**#19** **Revelation 21:1-5. 6-7**  
**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."

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