

Prayers, Readings, and other Text Selections for Masses of Christian Burial



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Entrance Rites:

Sign of the Cross/Introductory Greeting

Sprinkling of Holy water:

For a body:

**In the waters of Baptism,
N. died with Christ and rose with Him to new Life
May he/she now share with Him eternal glory.**

For a cremation:

**As our brother/sister died with the Lord,
So may he/she live with Him in glory.**

Placement of the Pall (Body – omitted for cremation)

Placement of Christian Symbols (optional)

Book of the Gospels/Bible:

**In life N. cherished the Gospel of Christ.
May Christ now greet him/her with these words of eternal
life:
Come, blessed of my Father!**

Cross:

**In baptism N. received the sign of the cross.
May he/she now share
in Christ's victory over sin and death.**

Entrance Procession/Gathering hymn

Opening Collect

Collect prayers from the Roman Missal

Outside Easter time, A 1 (RM p. 1217)

O God, almighty Father,
our faith professes that your Son died and rose again;
mercifully grant, that through this mystery
your servant N., who has fallen asleep in Christ,
may rejoice to rise again through him.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Outside Easter time, A 2 (RM p. 1217)

O God, whose nature
is always to forgive and to show mercy,
we humbly implore you for your servant N.,
whom you have called (this day) to journey to you,
and, since he (she) hoped and believed in you,
grant that he (she) may be led to our true homeland
to delight in its everlasting joys.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Outside Easter time, B 1 (RM p. 1219)

O God, who are mercy for sinners
and the happiness of your Saints,
give, we pray, to your servant N.,
for whom (today) we perform the fraternal offices of burial,
a share with your chosen ones in the blessedness you give,
so that on the day of resurrection,
freed from the bonds of mortality,
he (she) may come before your face.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Outside Easter time, B 2 (RM p. 1219)

O God, who have set a limit to this present life,
so as to open up an entry into eternity,
we humbly beseech you,
that by the grace of your mercy
you may command the name of your servant N.
to be inscribed in the book of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

During Easter time, C 1 (RM p. 1220)

Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord:
as our faith in your Son,
raised from the dead, is deepened,
may our hope of resurrection for your departed servant N.,
also find new strength.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

During Easter time, C 2 (RM p. 1220)

O God, who through the ending of present things
open up the beginning of things to come,
grant, we pray, that the soul of your servant N.
may be led by you
to attain the inheritance of eternal redemption.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Other Prayers for the Funeral Mass, D (RM p. 1221)

O God, who alone are able to give life after death,
free your servant N. from all sins,
that he (she), who believed in the Resurrection of your Christ,
may, when the day of resurrection comes,
be united with you in glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayers from the Order of Christian Funerals

1 General (OCF p. 334)

God of faithfulness,
in your wisdom you have called your servant N. out of this
world;
release him/her from the bonds of sin,
and welcome him/her into your presence,
so that he/she may enjoy eternal light and peace
and be raised up in glory with all your saints.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

2 General (OCF p. 334)

Lord, in our grief we turn to you.
Are you not the God of love
always ready to hear our cries?
Listen to our prayers for your servant N.,
whom you have called out of this world:
lead him/her to your kingdom of light and peace
and count him/her among the saints in glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

3 General (OCF p. 334)

Holy Lord, almighty and eternal God,
hear our prayers for your servant N.,
whom you have summoned out of this world.
Forgive his/her sins and failings
and grant him/her a place of refreshment, light, and peace.
Let him/her pass unharmed through the gates of death
to dwell with the blessed in light,
as you promised to Abraham and his children for ever.
Accept N. into your safe-keeping
and on the great day of judgment
raise him/her up with all the saints
to inherit your eternal kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

4 General (OCF p. 335)

Into your hands, O Lord,
we humbly entrust our brother/sister N.
In this life you embraced him/her with your tender love;
deliver him/her now from every evil
and bid him/her enter eternal rest.
The old order has passed away:
welcome him/her then into paradise,
where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain,
but the fullness of peace and joy
with your Son and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

5 General (OCF p. 335)

Almighty God and Father,
it is our certain faith
that your Son, who died on the cross, was raised from the dead,
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Grant that through this mystery
your servant N., who has gone to his/her rest in Christ,
may share in the joy of his resurrection.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

6 General (OCF p. 336)

O God,
glory of believers and life of the just,
by the death and resurrection of your Son, we are redeemed:
have mercy on your servant N.,
and make him/her worthy to share the joys of paradise,
for he/she believed in the resurrection of the dead.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

7 General (OCF p. 336)

Almighty God and Father,
by the mystery of the cross, you have made us strong;
by the sacrament of the resurrection
you have sealed us as your own.
Look kindly upon your servant N.,
now freed from the bonds of mortality,
and count him/her among your saints in heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

8 General (OCF p. 336)

God of loving kindness,
listen favorably to our prayers:
strengthen our belief that your Son has risen from the dead
and our hope that your servant N. will also rise again.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

9 General (OCF p. 336)

To you, O God, the dead do not die,
and in death our life is changed, not ended.
Hear our prayers
and command the soul of your servant N.
to dwell with Abraham, your friend,
and be raised at last on the great day of judgment.
In your mercy cleanse him/her of any sin
which he/she may have committed through human
frailty.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

10 General (OCF p. 337)

Lord God, in whom all find refuge,
we appeal to your boundless mercy:
grant to the soul of your servant N.,
a kindly welcome,
cleansing of sin,
release from the chains of death,
and entry into everlasting life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

11 General (OCF p. 337)

God of all consolation,
open our hearts to your word,
so that, listening to it, we may comfort one another,
finding light in time of darkness
and faith in time of doubt.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

12 General (OCF p. 337)

O God,
to whom mercy and forgiveness belong,
hear our prayers on behalf of your servant N.,
whom you have called out of this world;
and because he/she put his/her hope and trust in you,
command that he/she be carried safely home to heaven
and come to enjoy your eternal reward.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

13 General (OCF p. 338)

O God,
in whom sinners find mercy and the saints find joy,
we pray to you for our brother/sister N.,
whose body we honour with Christian burial,
that he/she may be delivered from the bonds of death.
Admit him/her to the joyful company of your saints
and raise him/her on the last day
to rejoice in your presence for ever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Prayers 14-23 are for Pope, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious

24 One who working in the service of the Gospel (OCF p. 341)

Faithful God,
we humbly ask your mercy for your servant N.,
who worked so generously to spread the Good News,
grant him/her the reward of his/her talents,
and bring him/her safely to your promise land.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

25 A baptized child (OCF p. 341)

Lord, in our grief we call upon your mercy:
open your ears to our prayers,
and one day unite us again with N.,
who, we firmly trust,
already enjoys eternal life in your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

26 A baptized child (OCF p. 342)

To you, O Lord,
we humbly entrust this child,
so precious in your sight.
Take him/her into your arms
and welcome him/her into paradise,
where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain,
but the fullness of peace and joy
with your Son and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

27 A young person (OCF p. 342)

Lord,
your wisdom governs the length of our days.
We mourn the loss of N.,
whose life has passed so quickly,
and we entrust him/her to your mercy.
Welcome him/her into your heavenly dwelling
and grant him/her the happiness of everlasting youth.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

28 A young person (OCF p. 342)

Lord God,
source and destiny of our lives,
in your loving providence
you gave us N.
to grow in wisdom, age, and grace.
Now you have called him/her to yourself.
As we grieve over the loss of one so young,
we seek to understand your purpose.
Draw him/her to yourself
and give him/her full stature in Christ.
May he/she stand with all the angels and saints,
who know your love and praise your saving will.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

29 Parents (OCF p. 343)

Lord God, who commanded us to honor father and mother,
look kindly upon your servants N. and N.,
have mercy upon them
and let us see them again in eternal light.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

30 A parent (OCF p. 343)

God of our ancestors in faith,
by the covenant made on Mount Sinai
you taught your people to strengthen the bonds of family
through faith, honor, and love.
Look kindly upon N.,
a father/mother who sought to bind his/her children to you.
Bring him/her one day to our heavenly home
where the saints dwell in blessedness and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

31 A married couple (OCF p. 343)

Lord God, whose covenant is everlasting,
have mercy upon the sins of your servants N. and N.;
as their love for each other united them on earth,
so let your love join them together in heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

32 A married couple (OCF p. 343)

Eternal Father,
in the beginning you established the love of man and
woman
as a sign of creation.
Your own Son loves the Church as a spouse.
Grant mercy and peace to N. and N. who,
by their love for each other,
were signs of the creative love
which binds the Church to Christ.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
R. Amen.

33 A married couple (OCF p. 344)

Lord God,
giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious,
you created in marriage a sign of your covenant.
Look with mercy upon N. and N.
You blessed them in their companionship,
and in their joys and sorrows you bound them together.
Lead them into eternal peace,
and bring them to the table where the saints
feast together in your heavenly home.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

34 A wife (OCF p. 344)

Eternal God,
you made the union of man and woman
a sign of the bond between Christ and the Church.
Grant mercy and peace to N.,
who was united in love with her husband.
May the care and devotion of her life on earth
find a lasting reward in heaven.
Look kindly on her husband and family/children
as now they turn to your compassion and love.
Strengthen their faith and lighten their loss.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

35 A husband (OCF p. 344)

Eternal God,
you made the union of man and woman
a sign of the bond between Christ and the Church.
Grant peace and mercy to N.,
who was united in love with his wife.
May the care and devotion of his life on earth
find a lasting reward in heaven.
Look kindly on his wife and family/children
as now they turn to your compassion and love.
Strengthen their faith and lighten their loss.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

36 A deceased non-Christian married to a Catholic (OCF p. 345)

Almighty and faithful Creator,
all things are of your making,
all people are shaped in your image.
We now entrust the soul of N. to your goodness.
In your infinite wisdom and power,
work in him/her your merciful purpose,
known to you alone from the beginning of time.
Console the hearts of those who love him/her
in the hope that all who trust in you
will find peace and rest in your kingdom.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
R. Amen.

37 *An elderly person (OCF p. 345)*

God of endless ages,
from one generation to the next
you have been our refuge and strength.
Before the mountains were born
or the earth came to be,
you are God.
Have mercy now on your servant N.
whose long life was spent in your service.
Give him/her a place in your kingdom,
where hope is firm for all who love
and rest is sure for all who serve.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

38 *An elderly person (OCF p. 345)*

God of mercy,
look kindly on your servant N.
who has set down the burden of his/her years.
As he/she served you faithfully throughout his/her life,
may you give him/her the fullness of your peace and joy.
We give thanks for the long life of N.,
now caught up in your eternal love.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus who is our risen
Lord
now and for ever.
R. Amen.

39 *One who died after a long illness (OCF p. 346)*

God of deliverance,
you called our brother/sister N.
to serve you in weakness and pain,
and gave him/her the grace of sharing the cross of your
Son.
Reward his/her patience and forbearance,
and grant him/her the fullness of Christ's victory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

40 One who died after a long illness (OCF p. 346)

Most faithful God,
lively is the courage of those who hope in you.
Your servant N. suffered greatly
but placed his/her trust in your mercy.
Confident that the petition of those who mourn
pierces the clouds and finds an answer,
we beg you, give rest to N.
Do not remember his/her sins
but look upon his/her sufferings
and grant him/her refreshment, light, and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

41 One who died after a long illness (OCF p. 346)

O God,
you are water for our thirst
and manna in our desert.
We praise you for the life of N.
and bless your mercy
that has brought his/her suffering to an end.
Now we beg that same endless mercy
to raise him/her to new life.
Nourished by the food and drink of heaven,
may he/she rest for ever
in the joy of Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

42 One who died suddenly (OCF p. 347)

Lord, as we mourn the sudden death of our brother/sister,
show us the immense power of your goodness
and strengthen our belief
that N. has entered into your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

43 One who died accidentally or violently (OCF p. 347)

Lord our God,
you are always faithful and quick to show mercy.
Our brother/sister N.
was suddenly [and violently] taken from us.
Come swiftly to his/her aid,
have mercy on him/her,
and comfort his/her family and friends
by the power and protection of the cross.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

44 One who died by suicide (OCF p. 347)

God, lover of souls,
you hold dear what you have made
and spare all things, for they are yours.
Look gently on your servant N,
and by the blood of the cross
forgive his/her sins and failings.
Remember the faith of those who mourn
and satisfy their longing for that day
when all will be made new again
in Christ, our risen Lord,
who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

45 One who died by suicide (OCF p. 348)

Almighty God and Father of all,
you strengthen us by the mystery of the cross
and with the sacrament of your Son's resurrection.
Have mercy on our brother/sister N.
Forgive all his/her sins and grant him/her peace.
May we who mourn this sudden death be comforted and
consoled by your power and protection.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

46 Several persons (OCF p. 348)

O Lord,
you gave new life to N. and N.
in the waters of baptism;
show mercy to them now,
and bring them to the happiness of life in your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

47 Several persons (OCF p. 348)

All-powerful God,
whose mercy is never withheld
from those who call upon you in hope,
look kindly on your servants N. and N.,
who departed this life confessing your name,
and number them among your saints for evermore.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament readings Lectionary IV, 1011

OT-1 He acted in an excellent and noble way, as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.

Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the Book of Maccabees (12:43-46)

Judas, the ruler of Israel,

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.

OT-2 I know that my Vindicator lives.

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.

The word of the Lord.

OT-3 Long As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Wisdom 3:1-9

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 in the eyes of 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 their 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.

OT-3 Short Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

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 in the eyes of 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.

OT-4 An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

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,
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 them 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.

OT-5 He will destroy death forever.

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.

OT-6 It is good to hope in silence for the saving help 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.

OT-7 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet 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 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.

Not one technically Approved- There is a time for everything.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, 19-22

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 beginning to end, the work which God has done.

For the lot of man and of beast is one lot; the one dies as well as the other. Both have the same life-breath, and man has no advantage over the beast; but all is vanity.

Both go to the same place; both were made from the dust, and to the dust they both return.

Who knows if the life-breath of the children of men goes upward and the life-breath of beasts goes earthward?

And I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to rejoice in his work; for this is his lot. Who will let him see what is to come after him?

The Word of the Lord

Easter readings Lectionary IV, 1012

(Note that these can be used as the Second Reading outside of the Easter season)

Easter-1 Long He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

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.

Easter-1 Short He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

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 of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

Easter-2 Blessed are the dead who die in 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.

Easter-3 The dead were judged according to their deeds.

Revelation 20:11- 21:1

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Next 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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Easter-4 There shall be no more death.

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.

Psalm Responses IV, 1013

Note that the Psalm should be sung, and the setting used may have slight variations from the following texts.

Psalm -1 *Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6*

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

 In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me:
 he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
 for his name's sake.

Response

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

Response

You spread the table before me
 in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.

Response

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

Response

Psalm -2 *Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21*

Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Or No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever be put to shame.

Remember that your compassion, O Lord,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

Response

Relieve the troubles of my heart;
and bring me out of my distress.
Put an end of my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins.

Response

Preserve my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
because I wait for you, O Lord.

Response

Psalm -3 *Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14*

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Or I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

Response

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple.

Response

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Your presence, O Lord, I seek.
hide not your face from me.

Response

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

Response

Psalm -4 *Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5*

Response: My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

As the hind longs for the running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

Response

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God?

Response

I went with the throng and led them in procession
to the house of God.
Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival.

Response

Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
And bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling-place.

Response

Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
O God, my God!

Response

Why are you so downcast, O my soul?
Why do you sigh within me?
Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking him,
in the presence of my savior and my God.

Response

Psalm -5 *Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9*

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

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

Response

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

Response

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

Response

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

Response

Psalm -6 *Psalm 103:8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18*

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Or The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
 slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
 nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

Response

As a father has compassion on his children,
 so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed,
 he remembers that we are dust.

Response

Man's days are like those of grass;
 like a flower of the field he blooms;
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,
 and his place knows him no more.

Response

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity,
 to eternity toward those who fear him,
And his justice toward children's children
 among those who keep his covenant
 and remember to fulfill his precepts.

Response

Psalm -7 *Psalm 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac*

Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Gracious is the Lord and just;
 yes, our God is merciful.

Response

The Lord keeps the little ones;
 I was brought low, and he saved me.

Response

I believed, even when I said.
 “I am greatly afflicted”;
I said in my alarm,
 “No man is dependable.”

Response

Precious in the eyes of the Lord
 is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant,
 you have loosed my bonds.

Response

Psalm -8 *Psalm 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9*

*Response: I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.
Or Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

I rejoiced because they said to me,
 "We will go up to the house of the Lord."
And now we have set foot
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Response

To it the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the Lord.
According to the decree for Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
In it are set up judgment seats,
 seats for the house of David.

Response

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
 May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
 prosperity in your buildings.

Response

Because of my relatives and friends
 I will say "Peace be within you!"
Because of the house of the Lord, our God,
 I will pray for your good.

Response

Psalm -9 *Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8*

*Response: Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.
Or I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.*

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

Response

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities,
 Lord, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
 that you may be revered.

Response

I trust in the Lord;
 my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the Lord
 more than the sentinels wait for the dawn.

Response

More than the sentinels wait for the dawn,
 let Israel wait for the Lord,
For with the Lord is kindness
 and with him is plenteous redemption.

Response

And he will redeem Israel
 from all their iniquities.

Response

Psalm-10 *Psalm 143:1-2, 5-6, 7ab and 8ab, 10*

Response: O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer;
 hearken to my pleading in your faithfulness;
 in your justice answer me.
And enter not into judgment with your servant,
 for before you no loving man is just.

Response

I remember the days of old;
 I meditate on all your doings;
 the works of your hands I ponder.
I stretch out my hands to you;
 my soul thirsts for you like parched land.

Response

Hasten to answer me, O Lord;
 for my spirit fails me.
At dawn let me hear of your mercy,
 for in you I trust.

Response

Teach me to do your will,
 for you are my God.
May your good spirit guide me
 on level ground.

Response

New Testament readings Lectionary IV, 1014

NT-1 Since we are now justified by His blood, we will be saved through Him from the wrath.

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.

NT -2 Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more
Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters:

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 6 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.

NT -3 Long We, too, might live in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-9

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.

NT -3 Short

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

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.

NT -4 We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

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.

NT -5 What will separate us from the love of Christ.

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.

NT -6 Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
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.

NT -7 Long So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

A reading from the first Letter of St. 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.]

The word of the Lord.

NT -7 Short So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the first Letter of St. 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.

The word of the Lord.

NT -8 Death is swallowed up in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
 in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,
 the dead will be raised incorruptible,
 and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
 and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

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

 Death is swallowed up in victory.

 Where, O death, is your victory?

 Where, O death, is your sting?

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

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

The word of the Lord.

NT -9 What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Knowing 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.

NT -10 We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the Second Letter of St. 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.

NT -11 He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.

Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of St. 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.

The word of the Lord.

NT -12 Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the First Letter of St. 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.

NT -13 If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.

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.

NT -14 We shall see him as he is.

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.

NT -15 We know we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.

1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia Verse before the Gospel Lectionary IV, 1015

Typically, this would be sung with the Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation.

1. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. (See Matthew 11:25)
2. Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:34)
3. God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. (John 3:16)
4. This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. (John 6:39)
5. This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that all who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day. (John 6:40)
6. I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. (John 6:51a)
7. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. (John 11.25-26)
8. Our true home is in heaven, and Jesus Christ, whose return we long for, will come from heaven to save us. (Philippians 3:20)
9. If we die with Christ, we shall live with him, and if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him. (2 Timothy 2:11b-12a)
10. Jesus Christ is the firstborn from the dead; glory and kingship be his for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:5a, 6b)
11. Blessed are those who have died win the Lord; let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them. (Revelation 14:13)

Gospel readings Lectionary IV, 1016

G -1 **Beatitudes:** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven.

Matthew 5:1-12a

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G -2 Gentle mastery of Christ: Come to me and rest.

Matthew 11:25-30

+ **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

At that time Jesus answered:

“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to the childlike.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-3 **Parable of the Virgins:** Behold, the Bridegroom! Come to meet him!

Matthew 25:1-13

+ **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-4 Parable of the sheep and goats: Come you who are blessed by my Father.

Matthew 25:31-46

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-5 Long Death of Jesus according to Mark: Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

[When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.]

The gospel of the Lord.

G-5 Short Death of Jesus according to Mark: Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Mark 15:33-39

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-6 **Widow's son at Nain:** Young man, I tell you arise.

Luke 7:11-17

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain,
 and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.
As he drew near to the gate of the city,
 a man who had died was being carried out,
 the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.
A large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her,
 he was moved with pity for her and said to her,
 “Do not weep.”

He stepped forward and touched the coffin;
 at this the bearers halted,
 and he said, “Young man, I tell you, arise!”

The dead man sat up and began to speak,
 and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming,
 “A great prophet has arisen in our midst,”
 and “God has visited his people.”

This report about him spread through the whole of Judea
 and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-7 Be Ready: You must also be prepared.

Luke 12:35-40

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said, "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-8 The Repentant thief: Today you will be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:33, 39-43

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-9 Long Death of Jesus According to Luke: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus. After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

[At daybreak on the first day of the week the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."]

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-9 Short Death of Jesus According to Luke: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus. After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-10 Long Road to Emmaus: Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?

Luke 24:13-35

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the week,

two of the disciples of Jesus were going
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,

Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

[He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?"

They stopped, looking downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,

"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know of the things
that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,

who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers
both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.

But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;
and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:

they were at the tomb early in the morning
and did not find his body;
they came back and reported
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb

and found things just as the women had described,
but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!

How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!
Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things
and enter into his glory?"]

As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.

But they urged him, "Stay with us,

for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
 he took bread, said the blessing,
 broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
 but he vanished from their sight.
Then they said to each other,
 “Were not our hearts burning within us
 while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?”
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
 where they found gathered together
 the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,
 “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”
Then the two recounted
 what had taken place on the way
 and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.
The Gospel of the Lord.

G-10 Short Road to Emmaus: Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?

Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the week,

two of the disciples of Jesus were going
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,

Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.

But they urged him, "Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other,

"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted

what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-11 Who ever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.

John 5:24-29

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-12 **Beginning of the Bread of Life Discourse:** Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day.

John 6:37-40

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will
but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me,
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,
but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-13 The Bread of Life Discourse: Whoever eats my flesh will live forever, and I will raise them on the last day.

John 6:51-59

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
 and the bread that I will give is my Flesh
 for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,
 “How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them,
 “Amen, amen, I say to you,
 unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood,
 you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood
 has eternal life,
 and I will raise him on the last day.

For my Flesh is true food,
 and my Blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood
 remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me
 and I have life because of the Father,
 so also the one who feeds on me
 will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven.
Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,
 whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-14 Long Beginning of Raising of Lazarus Narrative: I am the Resurrection and the life.

John 11:17-27

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

[When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.

And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.]

Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her,

“Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him,

“I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her,

“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord.

I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-14 Short Beginning of Raising of Lazarus Narrative: I am the Resurrection and the life.

John 11:21-27

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,
God will give you.”

Jesus said to her,

“Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him,

“I know he will rise,
in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her,

“I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord.

I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,
the one who is coming into the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-15 Raising of Lazarus: I am the Resurrection and the Life
John 11:32-45

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-16 The Grain of Wheat: If it dies, it produces much fruit.
John 12:23-26

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you,

 unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,

 it remains just a grain of wheat;

 but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life will lose it,

 and whoever hates his life in this world

 will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,

 and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-17 The Way, the Truth, the Life: In my Father's house, there are many dwellings.

John 14:1-6

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

 would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

 I will come back again and take you to myself,

 so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way.”

Thomas said to him,

 “Master, we do not know where you are going;

 how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-18 Prayer for Unity: I wish that were I am, they also may be with me.

John 17:24-26

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to Heaven and said:

Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, * that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-19 **Death of Jesus according to John:** Bowing his head, he handed over his spirit.

John 19:17-18, 25-39

+ **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself
 he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull,
 in Hebrew, *Golgotha*.

There they crucified him, and with him two others,
 one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother
 and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
 and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother
 and the disciple there whom he loved,
 he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother."
And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished,
 in order that the scripture might be fulfilled,
 Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine.
So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop
 and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,
 "It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Now since it was preparation day,
 in order that the bodies
 might not remain on the cross on the sabbath,
 for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,
 the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken
 and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and
 then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus
 and saw that he was already dead,
 they did not break his legs,
 but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,
 and immediately blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;
 he knows that he is speaking the truth,
 so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened
so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled:
“Not a bone of it will be broken.”
And again another passage says:
“They will look upon him
whom they have pierced.”
After this, Joseph of Arimathea,
secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus.
And Pilate permitted it.
So he came and took his body.
Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night,
also came bringing a mixture of myrrh
and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.
The Gospel of the Lord

General Intercessions

Intercessions Set 1

In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord...

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

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. We pray to the Lord...

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. We pray to the Lord...

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. We pray to the Lord...

The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord...

Many struggle with faith or are no longer practicing. May they come to experience the love of God and return to the practice of the Faith. We pray to the Lord...

The Lord calls many to follow as priests and religious. That their labors may lead many to heaven. We pray to the Lord...

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. We pray to the Lord...

Intercessions Set 2

For N., who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that «HeShe» may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that «HeShe» may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

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.

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.

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.

For many more to hear and to follow the call of Christ in this life as priests and religious, and for those that faithfully serve the Church, that their labors may lead many to heaven. We pray to the Lord.

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.

Intercessions Set 3

That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the words they proclaim. We pray to the Lord...

That those in public office may promote justice and peace. We pray to the Lord...

That many more hear and follow the call of Christ in this life as priests and religious. We pray to the Lord.

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God. We pray to the Lord...

That God may deliver the soul of His servant N. from punishment and from the powers of darkness. We pray to the Lord

That God may blot out all N. offences. We pray to the Lord...

That God may establish N. in light and peace. We pray to the Lord...

That God may call N. to happiness in the company of all the saints. We pray to the Lord...

That God may welcome into His glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life. We pray to the Lord...

That God may give a place in the Kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed. We pray to the Lord...

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Song

Collect Prayer sets from the Roman Missal

A. Outside Easter Time (RM 1217-1218)

Entrance Antiphon Cf. 4 Esdr 2: 34-35

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Or:

Eternal rest grant unto him (her), O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him (her).

Collect

O God, almighty Father,
our faith professes that your Son died and rose again;
mercifully grant, that through this mystery
your servant N., who has fallen asleep in Christ,
may rejoice to rise again through him.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

O God, whose nature
is always to forgive and to show mercy,
we humbly implore you for your servant N.,
whom you have called (this day) to journey to you,
and, since he (she) hoped and believed in you,
grant that he (she) may be led to our true homeland
to delight in its everlasting joys.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

As we humbly present to you
these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,
for the salvation of your servant N.,
we beseech your mercy,
that he (she), who did not doubt your Son
to be a loving Savior,
may find in him a merciful Judge.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Communion Antiphon Cf. 4 Esdr 2: 34-35

Let perpetual light shine upon them,
with your Saints for ever, for you are merciful.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them,
with your Saints for ever, for you are merciful.

Or:

Let perpetual light shine upon him (her),
with your Saints for ever, for you are merciful.
Eternal rest grant unto him (her) O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him (her),
with your Saints for ever, for you are merciful.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, whose Son left us,
in the Sacrament of his Body,
food for the journey,
mercifully grant that, strengthened by it,
our brother (sister) N. may come
to the eternal table of Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

B. Outside Easter Time (RM 1219-1220)

Entrance Antiphon

May the Lord open to him (her) the gates of Paradise,
that he (she) may return to that homeland
where there is no death, where eternal joy endures.

Collect

O God, who are mercy for sinners
and the happiness of your Saints,
give, we pray, to your servant N.,
for whom (today) we perform the fraternal offices of burial,
a share with your chosen ones in the blessedness you give,
so that on the day of resurrection,
freed from the bonds of mortality,
he (she) may come before your face.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or

O God, who have set a limit to this present life,
so as to open up an entry into eternity,
we humbly beseech you,
that by the grace of your mercy
you may command the name of your servant N.
to be inscribed in the book of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Be near, O Lord, we pray, to your servant N.,
on whose funeral day
we offer you this sacrifice of conciliation,
so that, should any stain of sin have clung to him (her)
or any human fault have affected him (her),
it may, by your loving gift, be forgiven and wiped away.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon Phil 3: 20-21

We await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
who will change our mortal bodies,
to conform with his glorified body.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that your servant N.,
who (today) has journeyed from this world,
may by this sacrifice be cleansed and freed from sin
and so receive the everlasting joys of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

C. During Easter Time (RM 1220-1221)

Note: only used in the Easter season

Entrance Antiphon 1 Thes 4: 14; 1 Cor 15: 22

Just as Jesus died and rose again,
so, through Jesus, God will bring with him
those who have fallen asleep;
and as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ will all be brought to life, alleluia.

Collect

Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord:
as our faith in your Son,
raised from the dead, is deepened,
may our hope of resurrection for your departed servant N.,
also find new strength.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

O God, who through the ending of present things
open up the beginning of things to come,
grant, we pray, that the soul of your servant N.
may be led by you
to attain the inheritance of eternal redemption.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look favorably on our offerings, O Lord,
so that your departed servant N.
may be taken up into glory with your Son,
in whose great mystery of love we are all united.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon Jn 11: 25-26

I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord.
Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that your servant N.,
for whom we have celebrated this paschal Sacrament,
may pass over to a dwelling place of light and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

D. Other Prayers for the Funeral Mass (RM 1221-1222)

Collect

O God, who alone are able to give life after death,
free your servant N. from all sins,
that he (she), who believed in the Resurrection of your Christ,
may, when the day of resurrection comes,
be united with you in glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Almighty and merciful God,
by means of these sacrificial offerings,
wash away, we pray, in the Blood of Christ,
the sins of your departed servant N.,
and purify unceasingly by your merciful forgiveness
those you once cleansed in the waters of Baptism.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Having received the Sacrament of your Only Begotten Son,
who was sacrificed for us and rose in glory,
we humbly implore you, O Lord,
for your departed servant N.,
that, cleansed by the paschal mysteries,
he (she) may glory in the gift of the resurrection to come.
Through Christ our Lord.

E. For the Funeral of a Baptized Child (RM1222-1223)

Entrance Antiphon Mt 25: 34

Come, you blessed of my Father, says the Lord;
receive the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world (E.T. alleluia).

Collect

Most compassionate God,
who in the counsels of your wisdom
have called this little child to yourself
on the very threshold of life,
listen kindly to our prayers
and grant that one day we may inherit eternal life with him (her),
whom, by the grace of Baptism, you have adopted as your
own child
and who we believe is dwelling even now in your Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Sanctify these offerings we bring you, O Lord,
that the parents, who now entrust to you
the child you gave to them,
may come to embrace him (her) with joy in your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Rom 6: 4, 8

Buried with Christ through baptism into death,
we believe that we shall also live with Christ (E.T. alleluia).

Prayer after Communion

Having received the Communion
of your Son's Body and Blood, O Lord,
we ask you faithfully
to comfort amid the sorrows of this life
those whom you have graciously nourished
by these sacred mysteries,
so as to strengthen their hope of life eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

Other Prayers (for young child) (RM 1223-1224)

Collect

O God, who know that our hearts
are weighed down by grief
at the death of this young child,
grant that, while we weep for him (her),
who at your bidding has departed this life so soon,
we may have faith that he (she) has gained
an eternal home in heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Graciously accept this offering, O God,
as a sign of our devotion,
so that, trusting in the designs of your providence,
we may be raised up by your gentle and fatherly care.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by your divine gifts,
we pray, O Lord,
that, just as you have given this little child
a place at the table in your heavenly Kingdom,
we, too, may find a place there.
Through Christ our Lord.

F. For the Funeral of a Child Who Died before Baptism (RM 1224-1225)

Entrance Antiphon Rev 21: 4

God will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death
or mourning, crying or pain,
for former things have passed away.

Collect

Receive the prayers of your faithful, Lord,
and grant that those you allow to be weighed down
by their longing for the child taken from them
may be raised up by faith to hope in your compassion.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

O God, searcher of hearts and most loving consoler,
who know the faith of these parents,
grant that, as they mourn their child,
now departed from this life,
they may be assured
that he (she) has been entrusted to your divine compassion.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Graciously accept this offering, O God,
as a sign of our devotion,
so that, trusting in the designs of your providence,
we may be raised up by your gentle and fatherly care.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon Is 25: 8

The Lord God will destroy death for ever.
He will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

Prayer after Communion

Having received the Communion
of your Son's Body and Blood, O Lord,
we ask you faithfully
to comfort amid the sorrows of this life
those whom you have graciously nourished
by these sacred mysteries,
so as to strengthen their hope of life eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prefaces

Preface I For the Dead (RM p. 474)

The hope of resurrection in Christ
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.
In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned,
that those saddened by the certainty of dying
might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come.
Indeed for your faithful, Lord,
life is changed not ended,
and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust,
an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven.
And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

Preface II For the Dead (RM p. 476)

Christ died so that we might live
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.
For as one alone he accepted death,
so that we might all escape from dying;
as one man he chose to die,
so that in your sight we all might live for ever.
And so, in company with the choirs of Angels,
we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

Preface III For the Dead (RM p. 478)

Christ, the salvation and the life
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.
For he is the salvation of the world,
the life of the human race,
the resurrection of the dead.
Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty
and rejoices in your presence for ever.
May our voices, we pray, join with theirs
in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

Preface IV For the Dead (RM p. 480)

From earthly life to heavenly glory
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For it is at your summons that we come to birth,
by your will that we are governed,
and at your command that we return,
on account of sin,
to that earth from which we came.
And when you give the sign,
we who have been redeemed by the Death of your Son,
shall be raised up to the glory of his Resurrection.
And so, with the company of Angels and Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

Preface V For the Dead (RM p. 482)

Our resurrection through the victory of Christ
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For even though by our own fault we perish,
yet by your compassion and your grace,
when seized by death according to our sins,
we are redeemed through Christ's great victory,
and with him called back into life.
And so, with the Powers of heaven,
we worship you constantly on earth,
and before your majesty
without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, and Agnus Dei

Communion Song

Reflection Song (optional)

Words of Remembrance (discouraged on the whole)

Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

1

Before we go our separate ways,
let us take leave of our brother/sister.

May our farewell express our affection for him/her; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

2

Trusting in God, we have prayed together for N. and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see N. again and enjoy his/her friendship. Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of his kingdom. Therefore let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Song of Farewell

To the Tune *Old Hundredth*

Come to his aid, O Saints of God,
Come meet him angels of the Lord.
Receive his soul, O holy ones;
Present him now to God Most High.

May Christ who called you, take you home
Angels lead you to Abraham.
Receive her soul, O holy ones;
Present her now to God Most High.

Give him eternal rest, O Lord,
May light unending shine on him.
Receive his soul, O holy ones;
Present him now to God Most High.

I know that my Redeemer lives,
The last day I shall rise again.
Receive his soul, O holy ones;
Present him now to God Most High

Other Songs of Farewell

Saints of God, come to his/her aid!
Hasten to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!
R. Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the
Most High.
May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.
R. Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the
Most High.
Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.
R. Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the
Most High.

Lord our God, receive your servant,
for whom you shed your blood.

R. Remember, Lord, that we are dust: like grass, like a
flower of the field.

Merciful Lord, I tremble before you,
ashamed of the things I have done.

R. Remember, Lord, that we are dust: like grass, like a
flower of the field.

You knew me, Lord, before I was born.

You shaped me into your image and likeness.

R. I breathe forth my spirit to you, my Creator.

Merciful Lord, I tremble before you:

I am ashamed of the things I have done;

do not condemn me when you come in judgment.

R. I breathe forth my spirit to you, my Creator.

I know that my Redeemer lives:

on the last day I shall rise again.

R. And in my flesh I shall see God.

or

R. On the last day I shall rise again.

I shall see him myself, face to face;

and my own eyes shall behold my Saviour. R.

Within my heart this hope I cherish:

that in my flesh I shall see God. R.

I know that my Redeemer lives,

And on that final day of days,

His voice shall bid me rise again:

Unending joy, unceasing praise!

This hope I cherish in my heart:

To stand on earth, my flesh restored,

And, not a stranger but a friend,

Behold my Saviour and my Lord.

Lazarus you raised, O Lord, from the decay of the tomb.
R. Grant your servant rest, a haven of pardon and
peace.
Eternal rest, O Lord,
and your perpetual light. R.

You shattered the gates of bronze
and preached to the spirits in prison.
R. Deliver me, Lord, from the streets of darkness.
A light and a revelation
to those confined in darkness. R.
'Redeemer, you have come,'
they cried, the prisoners of silence. R.
Eternal rest, O Lord,
and your perpetual light. R.

May the Choirs of Angels
May the Choirs of Angels
Come to greet you.
May they lead you to paradise.
May our Lord enfold you, in his mercy,
May he give you eternal life.

Prayer of Commendation

1. Into your hands, Father of mercies,
we commend our brother/sister N.
in the sure and certain hope
that, together with all who have died in Christ,
he/she will rise with him on the last day.
[We give you thanks for the blessings
which you bestowed upon N. in this life:
they are signs to us of your goodness
and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.]
Merciful Lord,
turn toward us and listen to our prayers:
open the gates of paradise to your servant
and help us who remain
to comfort one another with assurances of faith,
until we all meet in Christ
and are with you and with our brother/sister for ever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

2. To you, O Lord, we commend the soul of N. your servant;
in the sight of this world he/she is now dead;
in your sight may he/she live for ever.
Forgive whatever sins he/she committed through human weakness
and in your goodness grant him/her everlasting peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen

Procession to the place of Committal

In peace, let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest.

Recessional Song