

Introduction

It is important and a measure of concern for those we love to make plans for our own funerals. It is equally important to honor the wishes of our loved ones when making their arrangements. This brochure is intended to assist in making those plans for yourself or for someone you love. The information contained in this brochure will help guide you through making decision and planning the service. On the last page you will find the Burial Planning Form to put your wishes in writing. There also is a Burial Service Form to list the specifics of the Burial or Memorial service. We encourage you to speak with one of the clergy from The Church of St. Michael & St. George. They can help you in this sometimes difficult process.

Liturgy

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus or Lord.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. Therefore, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 507

General Information

The Service

A funeral or memorial service is, above all, a service of worship. The celebration of the Eucharist is particularly appropriate. The readings are selected based on the choice of service and the lessons intrinsic to each service. The singing of hymns is a corporate expression of faith and can provide comfort and spiritual strength. Hymns, which express praise, faith and affirmation of the resurrection, are particularly appropriate. Favorite secular pieces, while meaningful in a private gathering, are not appropriate for a service of worship. All burials from The Church of St. Michael & St. George use the forms according to *The Book of Common Prayer*, pages 468-487.

Burial from the Church

Baptized Christians, having been nurtured in the Church, are properly buried from the Church. Services may be in the main church or in one of the chapels, depending on the number of people expected to attend. It is traditional for the casket or urn to be brought into the church at the time of the funeral, and then taken directly from the church to the place of interment.

A memorial service, with no casket or urn present, may be held immediately following death or at a future date.

Funeral Home Chapel Service

If the chapel of a funeral home is used as the place for the funeral service, only the Burial Office is said (no Requiem Holy Eucharist). The Committal follows, if there is one. There are occasions when the Committal portion only is read at the request of the deceased's prior stipulation or that of the family, the location of which would be either the graveside at the cemetery or the columbarium niche.

The Pall for the Coffin or Veil for the Urn

At a funeral, where the casket or urn is present, The Church of St. Michael & St. George provides a large white cloth pall to cover the casket, or a veil to cover an urn containing cremated remains during the service. The pall reminds us of the equality before God of all people. The color white symbolizes Easter and Resurrection. The casket remains closed during the service and is not re-opened thereafter.

Pre-Planning

Christians recognize the inevitability of death, but believe that God, through Jesus Christ, has conquered death. Because it can be difficult under emotional stress to plan or act wisely, it is important and a token of concern for those we love to make plans for our own funerals. There are many options to consider. You may choose to fill out the Burial Planning Form to insure that the church and family members will have the details of your wishes for your funeral or memorial service. The clergy of The Church of St. Michael & St. George are available to help with your burial planning. The completed forms are kept in a confidential file in the rector's office and can be revised at any time. Please contact The Church of St. Michael & St. George before making specific funeral arrangements.

Earth Burial or Cremation

Either earth burial or cremation is traditional, with some people choosing donation to medical science. The new life into which the Christian enters after death brings with it its own form of existence. The earthly body, which has been the temple of the spirit in this life, is laid aside. The cremated remains may be interred at a cemetery or placed in the Columbarium at The Church of St. Michael & St. George, which is located outdoors on the church property. More information about The Church of St. Michael & St. George's Columbarium is available in the church office.

Wills and Other Papers

It is important for each of us to acknowledge the inevitability of death and to spare those who love us the confusion and extra expense that ensues when we have not adequately planned for death and when we have not discussed those plans with those for whom we care. Please make sure that your will, insurance papers, tax and Social Security papers, bank accounts, etc. are accessible and up-to-date, accurate, and a true representation of your wishes.

Do not leave the only copy of your will or other important papers locked in a safety-deposit box where they may be inaccessible for a time following your death. Be certain that your attorney and someone in your family have copies of all such documents. Consult with your attorney regarding bank accounts and similar matters.

In addition, if you have completed a Living Will or Health Care Proxy (concerning health care measures should you become unable to communicate), be certain that you have discussed these with your physician and family and that they have completed, signed copies. The Church of St. Michael & St. George will be glad to keep a copy of your Living Will or Health Care Proxy on hand as well, along with any other instructions you care to entrust to us.

It is certainly appropriate to remember The Church of St. Michael & St. George in your will. Should you wish to do so, our Stewardship Director can assist you in that regard.

Memorial Gifts

Many designate the memorial fund of The Church of St. Michael & St. George as the recipient of gifts in honor of the one who has died. This fund provides permanent additions to the fabric of the parish to enhance our worship and ministries. It is completely independent of the operating budget. The families of those so honored often have in mind special projects that can be arranged as memorials. We acknowledge each individual gift and provide to the family a list of all donors, which does not include the amount of the gift.

Flowers

The custom of the church dictates that floral arrangements are to be used only on the Altar and/or Chancel area. Any additional flowers can be used at a reception following the service. The family is responsible for making the floral arrangements. The following are the florists recommended due to their extensive experience providing floral arrangements for The Church of St. Michael & St. George:

Andy Martin

314.406.3282

Funeral Expenses

There is no charge for the use of the church or for the ministry of the clergy; however, many families choose to give the Officiant an honorarium. In addition, many families also choose to make a direct memorial contribution to the church as a thank offering. There is a set fee for the Organist which can be discussed with the clergy or organist. If an instrumental or vocal soloist is requested, that fee is paid separately. A reception can be arranged following the service; there would be a small rental fee depending on the room you choose. If a reception is held after the service, a fee of \$150 is charged for the sexton. The Events Coordinator can help you with all these matters. \$300 for Live Streaming (availability is not guaranteed). All set fees are due before or on the day of the service.

Music

Planning and Selecting Music for the Service

The officiating Priest or the Organist and Choirmaster must be consulted and will assist in the selection of all music for the service. Like the clergy, church musicians have significant training in liturgy and years of experience with funerals and other services of the church, and the Organist and Choirmaster can help guide you in making decisions about the music for the funeral or memorial service. You may contact Nicholas Bidler, our Organist and Choirmaster, with questions at any time by calling him at 314.721.1502, or emailing him at nick@csmmsg.org.

Style of Music

The Book of Common Prayer prescribes all services in the Episcopal Church including funerals. Specific guidelines as to what music can or cannot be used in the funeral liturgy are peculiar to each parish, but your own musical tastes should not supersede the traditions and practices of The Church of St. Michael & St. George. Music at funerals at The Church of St. Michael and St. George is drawn from the classical and sacred classical traditions. Selections that are overtly secular or written in a popular style are not appropriate and are not permitted in the service.

Organists

The Organist and Choirmaster is responsible for all music at The Church of St. Michael & St. George. On the rare occasions that he is unavailable to play the organ for the funeral service, he will engage an excellent substitute organist at no additional expense to play for the service and will pass the particulars of the service on to the substitute organist. You may, with the Organist and Choirmaster's permission, invite another organist to play at the service, but the Organist and Choirmaster must first approve all guest organists. The fee for the Organist is \$350. An additional fee of \$50 will be assessed for rehearsal with the choir, singer(s), and/or instrumentalist(s).

Singers, Soloists, and other Musicians

There are points in the service that provide an opportunity for additional music. In addition to the organ, and with the permission of the Organist and Choirmaster and Rector, singers and/or other instrumentalists may also participate in the service. If singers or instrumentalists are requested, the Organist and Choirmaster will contract professional musicians, subject to time and availability. The fees associated with extra musicians are paid separately. The cost of singers is generally \$125 each while the cost of instrumentalists can vary widely, though through the church's agreement with the local musicians' union, the minimum fee is \$130.

Hymns

Congregational hymn singing, while not necessary, is always appropriate and it affords those attending an opportunity to take an active part in the service. The following is a list of hymn recommendations from the Hymnal 1982 for congregational participation, though it is by no means a complete or exhaustive list.

208 The strife is o'er
287 For all the saints
429 I'll praise my maker while I've breath
473 Lift high the cross
618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
620 Jerusalem, my happy home
623 O what their joy and their glory must be
625 Ye holy angels bright
645 The King of love my shepherd is
657 Love, divine, all loves excelling
662 Abide with me
664 My shepherd will supply my need
671 Amazing grace
680 O God, our help in ages past
688 A mighty fortress is our God

Above all, our aim is to help you plan a service that is beautiful, and runs as smoothly as possible, and to ensure that the music offered is performed to the highest possible standard.

The Liturgy of the Word

You may select the scripture readings that would be included in the service. These may be read by family members or friends. Once again, the Officiant will assist the family in the selection of prayers, readings from scripture and other details of the service. The readings that follow are in the order that they would appear within the service.

From the Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined.

And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation

Isaiah 61: 1-3

The Good News of Deliverance

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good tidings to the afflicted;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion --
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

The Destiny of the Righteous

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be an affliction,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
For though in the sight of men they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his elect,
and he watches over his holy ones.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is thy faithfulness.
“therefore I will hope in him.”
The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
For the Lord will not
cast off for ever,
but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for
he does not willingly afflict
or grieve the sons of men.

Job 19:21-27a

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!
Why do you, like God, pursue me?
Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?
“Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were graven in the rock for ever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then from my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

Psalms

Psalms appear in the service following the first and second lessons. (A hymn or canticle may be selected in place of a psalm.)

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; *
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his
Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; *
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies; *
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.
Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days
of my life;
To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *
and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the LORD will sustain me. Show me your way,
O LORD; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the LORD *
in the land of the living!
O tarry and await the LORD'S pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the LORD.

Psalm 42

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, *
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night, *
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?
Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself; *
for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into
the house of God;
Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why art thou so disquieted within me?
O put thy trust in God; *
for I will yet thank him, which is the help of my
countenance, and my God.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;
Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”

The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say, *
“Go back, O child of earth.”
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday
when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.
You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty; *
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?
So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? *
be gracious to your servants.
Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us *
and the years in which we suffered adversity.
Show your servants your works *
and your splendor to their children.
May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; *
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.

Psalm 106

Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?
Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have
 for your people, *
 and visit me with your saving help;
 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
 and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
 that I may glory with your inheritance.
 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
 we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
 In Egypt they did not consider your marvelous works,
 nor remember the abundance of your love; *
 they defied the Most High at the Red Sea.
 But he saved them for his Name's sake, *
 to make his power known.
 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up, *
 and he led them through the deep as through a desert.
 He saved them from the hand of those who hated them *
 and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.
 The waters covered their oppressors; *
 not one of them was left.
 Then they believed his words *
 and sang him songs of praise.
 But they soon forgot his deeds *
 and did not wait for his counsel.
 A craving seized them in the wilderness, *
 and they put God to the test in the desert.
 He gave them what they asked, *
 but sent leanness into their soul.
 They envied Moses in the camp, *
 and Aaron, the holy one of the LORD.
 The earth opened and swallowed Dathan *
 and covered the company of Abiram.
 Fire blazed up against their company, *
 and flames devoured the wicked.
 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
 and worshiped a molten image;
 And so they exchanged their Glory *
 for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
 They forgot God their Savior, *
 who had done great things in Egypt,
 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
 and fearful things at the Red Sea.
 So he would have destroyed them,
 had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
 to turn away his wrath from consuming them.
 They refused the pleasant land *
 and would not believe his promise.
 They grumbled in their tents *
 and would not listen to the voice of the LORD.
 So he lifted his hand against them, *
 to overthrow them in the wilderness,

To cast out their seed among the nations, *
and to scatter them throughout the lands.
They joined themselves to Baal-Peor *
and ate sacrifices offered to the dead.
They provoked him to anger with their actions, *
and a plague broke out among them.
Then Phinehas stood up and interceded, *
and the plague came to an end.
This was reckoned to him as righteousness *
throughout all generations for ever.
Again they provoked his anger at the waters of Meribah, *
so that he punished Moses because of them;
For they so embittered his spirit *
that he spoke rash words with his lips.
They did not destroy the peoples *
as the LORD had commanded them.
They intermingled with the heathen *
and learned their pagan ways,
So that they worshiped their idols, *
which became a snare to them.
They sacrificed their sons *
and their daughters to evil spirits.
They shed innocent blood,
the blood of their sons and daughters, *
which they offered to the idols of Canaan,
and the land was defiled with blood.
Thus they were polluted by their actions *
and went whoring in their evil deeds.
Therefore the wrath of the LORD was kindled against
his people *
and he abhorred his inheritance.
He gave them over to the hand of the heathen, *
and those who hated them ruled over them.
Their enemies oppressed them, *
and they were humbled under their hand.
Many a time did he deliver them,
but they rebelled through their own devices, *
and were brought down in their iniquity.
Nevertheless, he saw their distress, *
when he heard their lamentation.
He remembered his covenant with them *
and relented in accordance with his great mercy.
He caused them to be pitied *
by those who held them captive.
Save us, O LORD our God,
and gather us from among the nations, *
that we may give thanks to your holy Name
and glory in your praise.
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting; *
and let all the people say, "Amen!"
Hallelujah!

Psalm 116

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of
my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever
I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *

I came to grief and sorrow.
Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”
Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.

The LORD watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
Turn again to your rest, O my soul. *
for the LORD has treated you well.

For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of the LORD *
in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said,
“I have been brought very low.” *
In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”

How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the LORD’S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Hallelujah!

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The LORD shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O LORD, who could stand?
For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;
With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Psalm 139

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.
How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!
If I were to count them, they would be more in number
than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to
be like yours.
Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God! *
You that thirst for blood, depart from me.
They speak spitefully against you; *
your enemies take your Name in vain.
Do I not hate those, O LORD, who hate you? *
and do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
I hate them with a perfect hatred; *
they have become my own enemies.
Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.
Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

From the New Testament

The second reading may be selected from one of the following:

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule 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. But some one will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy 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. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we sigh with anxiety; not that we

would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage; 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. We are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 21:2-7

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son."

The Gospel

The Deacon or Minister appointed reads the Gospel. The following are appropriate readings:

John 5:24-27

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. “Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, and has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of man.

John 6:37-40

All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 10:11-16

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd.

John 11:21-27

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world.”

John 14:1-6

“Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, 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, but by me.

Burial Planning Form

Full name: _____

Familiar name: _____

Address: _____

Do you have a Living Will or Health Care Proxy? _____

If yes, you may wish to include a copy with this form.

Name, address and phone number of primary care physician _____

Do you have a will? _____

If yes, attorney's name, address, and phone number _____

Is it your wish for your organs to be donated? _____

If yes, please specify: _____

Is it your wish to donate your body to a medical school? _____

If yes, please specify: _____

Would you like to be cremated? _____

Do you have a cemetery plot or a niche in the parish (or other) columbarium? _____

If yes, please specify: _____

Name, address and phone number of preferred funeral home _____

At the burial service, will the casket or urn be present? _____

At a memorial service, will the casket or urn be present? _____

Please see the Burial of the Dead, (Service Planning Form) to record your wishes regarding the service.

Burial of the Dead

(Service Planning Form)

Full Name of the deceased: _____

Familiar name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Date of death: _____

Date and time of the service: _____

Clergy Officiant/ Celebrant: _____

Burial order only: _____ Yes _____ No Holy Eucharist: _____ Yes _____ No

Casket present: _____ Yes _____ No Urn present: _____ Yes _____ No

Cemetery: _____

Inurnment: _____

Prelude: _____

Hymn: _____

Opening Anthem: _____

First Reading: _____

Reader: _____

Psalm _____ or Hymn _____

Second Reading: _____

Reader: _____

Psalm _____ or Hymn _____

Gospel: _____

Remarks by family/friends (brief, before the liturgy begins): _____ Yes _____ No

Names: _____

Homily: _____ Yes _____ No

Preacher: _____

