

# PREPARING THE FUNERAL MASS



## Guide to Hymns & Readings

Our Lady of the Snow  
Ministry of consolation

Dear Family Member,

We hope that the contents of this booklet will be of value to you as you begin to consider how to prepare the liturgy for your loved one's Funeral Mass. We offer this booklet for you and other family members to read ahead of time as you consider your choices for hymns and readings. A member of the Ministry of Consolation will meet with you personally to review your choices and answer questions that you may have.

A minister will be in touch with you shortly. Bring your concerns and needs to the meeting. We are available to support and assist you in any way we can and we hope to help you make the Mass a prayerful and consoling experience for you and your family.

Sincerely Yours,

The Ministry of Consolation Team

## Hymn of Gathering (Choose One)

AMAZING GRACE

HERE I AM, LORD

I HAVE LOVED YOU

ALL I ASK OF YOU

WE REMEMBER

BE NOT AFRAID

# First reading (Choose one & A Reader)

## **(1) A reading from the book of Job—Chapter 19:1, 23-27**

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 up-  
on 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 in-  
most begin is  
consumed with longing.

The Word of the LORD.

## **(2b) A reading from the book of Wisdom—Chapter 3:1-6, 9**

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 af-  
fliction  
and their going forth from us,  
utter destruction.  
But they are in peace.  
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,  
yet is their hope of full  
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 him-  
self.  
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.

## **(3) A reading from the book of Wisdom—Chapter 4:7-15**

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

## **(4) A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah—Chapter 25:6a, 7-9**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts  
will provide for all peoples.  
On this mountain he will destroy the veil that  
veils all peoples,  
The web that is woven over all  
nations;  
he will destroy death forever.  
The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all  
faces;  
The reproach of his people he will remove from  
the whole earth;  
for the Lord has spoken.  
On that day it will be said:  
“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save  
us!  
This is the Lord for whom we looked;  
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”  
The Word of the LORD.

**(5) A reading from the book of  
Lamentations—Chapter 3:17-26**

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 I will 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

## **Second reading (Choose one & And a Reader)**

**(1b) A reading from the Acts of the Apostles—Chapter 10:34-36, 42-43**

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

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

The Word of the LORD.

**(4b) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans—Chapter 6:3-4, 8-9**

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

The Word of the LORD.

**(5) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans—Chapter 8:14-23**

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you receive 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 firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the LORD.

**(6) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans—Chapter 8:31b-35, 37-39**

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the LORD.

**(7) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans—Chapter 14:7-9, 10b-12**

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

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the LORD.

**(8b) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians – Chapter 15:20-23**

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

The Word of the LORD.

**(12) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians—Chapter 3:20-21**

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

The Word of the LORD.

**(15) A reading from the first letter of John—Chapter 3:1-2**

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

The Word of the LORD.

**(19) A reading from the book of Revelation—Chapter 21:1-5a, 6b-7**

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.”

The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of 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.

**CHOOSE GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (A) or (B) AND A READER**

**General Intercessions (A)**

*The Priest Begins:*

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

*Assisting Minister:*

In baptism, \_\_\_\_\_ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. Lord, in your mercy:

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Our sister/brother \_\_\_\_\_ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome her/him into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy:

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. Lord, in your mercy:

HEAR OUR PRAYER

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

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. Lord, in your mercy:

HEAR OUR PRAYER

The family and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. Lord, in your mercy:

HEAR OUR PRAYER

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our sister/brother \_\_\_\_\_. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. Lord, in your mercy:

HEAR OUR PRAYER

*The Priest Then Concludes:*

Lord God,  
giver of the peace and healer of souls,  
hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ,  
and the voices of your people,  
whose lives we purchased by the blood of the Lamb.  
Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ  
and grant them a place in the kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

**CHOOSE GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (A) or (B) AND A READER**

**General Intercessions (B)**

*The Priest Begins:*

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

*Assisting Minister:*

For \_\_\_\_\_ who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of saints. We pray to the Lord:

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For our sister/brother \_\_\_\_\_ who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord:

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For 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:

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

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:

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For the family and friends of our sister/brother \_\_\_\_\_, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord:

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

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

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

*The Priest Then Concludes:*

God, our shelter and our strength,  
you listen in love to the cry of your people:  
hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters.  
Cleanse them of their sins  
and grant them the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

**Gifts Brought by TWO People:**

Hymn at the Presentation of Gifts

(Choose One)

AVE MARIA

ALL I ASK OF YOU

BE NOT AFRAID

HERE I AM, LORD

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

YOU ARE MINE

COME TO ME

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Communion Hymn

(Choose One)

WE REMEMBER

ALL I ASK OF YOU

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

YOU ARE MINE

I HAVE LOVED YOU

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

BLEST ARE THEY

HERE I AM, LORD

HOW GREAT THOU ART

HAIL MARY, GENTLE WOMAN

COME TO ME

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

WE WILL RISE AGAIN

# Hymn of Departure

## (Choose One)

AMAZING GRACE

BE NOT AFRAID

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

I HAVE LOVED YOU

WE WILL RISE AGAIN

ALL I ASK OF YOU

HOW GREAT THOU ART

WE REMEMBER

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE