

All Saints Anglican Church Conception Bay South

PARISH GUIDELINES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

These parish guidelines exist to assist family members at a time when many decisions have to be made in an environment of grief and confusion. They might also be helpful to an individual who chooses to make arrangements for their own Funeral. We hope that the material found here can help guide you through some of the planning that is a necessary part of Christian death. We will help you prepare for the three parts of the Christian Burial Liturgy: Prayers in the Home or Elsewhere, the Funeral Service, and the Committal.

Part 1.

Prayers in the Home or Elsewhere.

In the time preceding a Funeral Service it is customary for family and friends of the deceased to visit and greet each other as a sign of condolence and support. At a time that is convenient it is also appropriate to have a formal service of prayer. This service often occurs the night before the Funeral Service or at other times on the morning of the Funeral Service itself. This service includes readings from Scripture and prayers. Since tributes/eulogies/reflections given by a family member or close friend are not recommended during the Funeral Service the prayer service during the wake is a opportune time for families wishing to express their grief in this way. This is also an opportune time to read personal messages that may have been sent to the family since they are not permitted to be read during the Funeral Service. Other personal expressions of grief may be offered at this time: reading of poems, personal stories and remembrances, etc.

Part 2.

Funeral Liturgical for use in the Church. Christian Funeral Services are an expression of our anguish and despair at the loss of a loved one. They are also expressions of remembrance, thanksgiving and celebration made possible by the death resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Funeral Directors. Although Funeral Directors are very helpful with planning many things during this difficult time it is Parish Staff that will assist the family in planning the Funeral Liturgy itself. The Parish Staff should be consulted BEFORE arrangements are made for the Funeral.

Order of Service. There are two authorized service books offered: The Book of Common Prayer and the Book of Alternative Services.

When Can I Plan a Funeral? Certainly after a loved one has died, please contact the church office or clergy on call so we can not only offer you our support but also help you plan the rites of Christian burial. We are able to do this planning in as little as two days time, and understand the importance of flexibility, especially when family members live in different places. You may wish to plan your own funeral now and alleviate your family of that burden later. Your wishes regarding music, scriptures, and other instructions for your death will be kept in the Parish Office.

Place of Service. The proper place for the Funeral Service is the parish church. The Office of Burial is an ancient service of the Church, and the same service continues to be used for rich and poor alike. It is an expression of our oneness in Christ and our corporate life, as of those who have already known and shared the eternal life, which God has given and will give.

Detailed Preparation for the Funeral Service

Since liturgical celebration involves the whole person, it requires attentiveness to all that affects the senses. The readings and prayers, psalms and hymns should be proclaimed or sung with understanding, conviction, and reverence. Music for the assembly should be truly expressive of the texts and at the same time simple and easily sung. The ritual gestures, processions, and postures should express and foster an attitude of reverence and reflectiveness in those taking part in the funeral rites. The funeral rites should be celebrated in an atmosphere of simple beauty, in a setting that encourages participation. Liturgical signs and symbols affirming Christian belief and hope in the paschal mystery are abundant in the celebration of the funeral rites.

Readings

In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the word of God. The readings proclaim to the assembly the paschal mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God's designs for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own. A careful selection and use of readings from Scripture for the funeral rites will provide the family and the community with an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears, and hopes. Families are encouraged to participate in the selection of Scripture readings. You can find some examples of appropriate Scripture readings below. Other readings can be chosen in consultation with the parish staff.

From the Old Testament

Job 19: 21-27a Lamentations 3: 17-26, 31-33
Isaiah 25: 6-9 Daniel 12.1-3
Isaiah 61: 1-3 Wisdom 3: 1-6, (7-9)

Psalms 23, 25, 42, 51, 90, 121, 122, 126, 130, 139

From the New Testament

Romans 6.3-9 Romans 8: 14-19
Romans 14-7-9 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28
1 Corinthians 15.51-57 2 Corinthians 4: 7-18
2 Corinthians 5.1-9 Philippians 3.20-21
Thessalonians 4.13-18 2 Timothy 2.8-12a
1 Peter 1.3-9 1 John 3: 1-2
1 John 4.7-18a Revelation 21: 2-7

The Gospel

Matthew 5.1-12a John 6: 37-40
Matthew 11.25-30 John 10: 11-16
Mark 15.33-39; 16.1-7 John 11: 17-27
Luke 24.13-16 (17-27) 28-35 John 14: 1-6
John 5: 24-27 John 20:1-9

See Appendix: **Funerals Readings: NRSV**

Homily

A brief homily based on the readings is most always given after the gospel reading at the funeral service. Families may share with the preacher gifts of the deceased person that are expressions of Christian Character. It may be possible to have these gifts recognized appropriately in the sermon.

Prayers and Intercessions

If the Book of Alternative Services is used families are encouraged to lead the Prayers of the People as found on page 579 & 593.

Music

Music is integral to the funeral service. It allows us to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the us and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love. The texts of the songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death, and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from Scripture. Since music can evoke strong feelings, the music for the celebration of the funeral service should be chosen with great care. The music at funerals should support, console, and uplift all participants and should help to create in us a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory. Families are encouraged to participate in the selection of hymns. Hymns can be chosen in consultation with the parish staff and in reference to the Hymn Book.

Holy Eucharist

Families can choose a Funeral Service with or without Holy Communion. Church families are encouraged to take part in a service of the Holy Eucharist in the parish church at the time of bereavement, with the Funeral Service, or as soon afterwards as possible. Families can participate here by bringing the gifts (bread and wine) forward for use in Holy Communion.

Symbols Used During the Funeral Liturgy

Easter Candle

The Easter (Paschal) candle reminds the faithful of Christ's undying presence among them, of his victory over sin and death, and of their share in that victory by virtue of their initiation. It recalls the Easter Vigil, the night when the Church awaits the Lord's resurrection and when new light for the living and the dead is kindled. During the funeral liturgy the Easter candle may be placed beforehand near the position the coffin will occupy at the conclusion of procession.

Pall

A pall is to be placed over the coffin when it is received at the church. A reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased, the pall is a sign of the Christian dignity of the person. The use of the pall also signifies that all are equal in the eyes of God (see James 2:1-9).

Colour White

The church uses the colour white during the time of a Funeral Service as a symbol of the resurrection.

Other Symbols

Only Christian symbols may rest on or be placed near the coffin during the funeral liturgy. Any other symbols, for example, national flags, or flags or insignia of associations maybe used after consultation with the Rector.

What is Appropriate? Funerals are times of a heightened need for memories. This can sometimes distort the purpose of the churches rites: making them opportunities for someone's favorite songs, favorite poems, and favorite devotions. We will work with you to help you keep an appropriate focus for word and music at a Funeral that preserves the intention of the church's rites and adequately connects them in a personal way to a loved one.

Printed Programs. Many Parishes provide a personal, printed program for each Funeral Service as a participation aid others may not. You may consult with parish staff as to the availability of this service.

Place of Service. The proper place for the Funeral Service is the parish church. The Office of Burial is an ancient service of the Church, and the same service continues to be used for rich and poor alike. It is an expression of our oneness in Christ and our corporate life, as of those who have already known and shared the eternal life, which God has given and will give. If the Funeral Service is to be conducted in another place other than the Parish Church arrangements must be made in consultation with the Rector of the parish.

Part 3.

The Committal.

The service as celebrated in the cemetery is short. Occasionally a body or cremated remains will be shipped to another place for burial. When this is done, there are some adaptations made to the prayers that are prayed at the church. It is important for us to know that this is the plan for burial prior to the funeral. During this service a hymn can be chosen.

Other Important Things to Know.

Fees. There are no fees required by the church for Funeral Services. All churches, however, do maintain cemeteries. There may be some fees for services provided. Please check with parish staff or cemetery committee regarding such fees.

Additional Ceremonies. The Burial Office of the Church is complete in itself. If the family desire the rites of any fraternal society to which the deceased belonged, it is recommended that such rites take place apart from the Burial Service of the Church, preferably the evening before in the home, or funeral home. After the final blessing at the grave is permissible.

Flowers. It is recommended that only the immediate family send flowers, and it is suggested that opportunities be given for friends to make donations to some Church purpose or charitable fund, in memory of the deceased. It is recommended that the flowers brought into the Church be limited to those used at the altar and two or three floral-pieces from the immediate family.

Other Participants

At the invitation of the Rector of the parish other people can also participate in the Funeral Service: Servers, Eucharistic Assistants, Lay Readers or other clergy. Clergy from other denominations may also be involved in the Funeral Service at the invitation of the Rector.

Funeral Reception Ministry. Our parish provides a light reception in the parish hall, which includes tea/coffee, sandwich and cookies following the service at the graveside. This reception is organized by the Funeral Reception Ministry Group and is available upon request.

Appendix: FUNERAL READINGS: NRSV

Old Testament Readings

A reading from Job.

(Job 19.1, 21-27a)

Then Job answered:

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!

²² Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? ²³ "O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴ O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; ²⁶ and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Isaiah.

(Isaiah 25.6-9)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Isaiah.

(Isaiah 61.1-3)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for 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.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Lamentations.

(Lamentations 3.17-26, 31-33)

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is;
¹⁸ so I say, "Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the LORD."
¹⁹ The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!
²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.
²¹ But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."
²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not
reject forever.
³² Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his
steadfast love;
³³ for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.
The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Daniel.

(Daniel 12.1-3)

"At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Wisdom.

(Wisdom 3.1-6)

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. ²In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, ³and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; ⁶like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

(Romans 6.3-9)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

(*Romans 8.14-19*)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.
The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

(*Romans 14.7-9*)

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians.

(*1 Corinthians 15.20-28*)

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection," it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.
The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians. (*1 Corinthians 15.51-57*)

⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians. (*2 Corinthians 4.7-18*)

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you. ¹³But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture--"I believed, and so I spoke"--we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians. *(2 Corinthians 5.1-9)*

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. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling-- ³if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's 2nd letter to the Philippians. *(Philippines 3.20-21)*

But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's 1st letter to the Thessalonians. *(1 Thessalonians 4.13-18)*

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy.

(2 Timothy 2.8-12a)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David--that is my gospel,⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained.¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.¹¹ The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him;¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the 1st letter of Peter.

(1 Peter 1.3-9)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the 1st letter of John.

(1 John 3.1-2)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the 1st letter of John.

(1 John 4.7-

18a)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear
The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Revelation to John.

(Revelation 21.1-7)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."
⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.
The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(Matthew 5.1-12a)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(Matthew 11.25-30)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(Mark 15.33-39; 16.1-7)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(Luke 24.13-16)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(John 5.24-27)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life."²⁵ "Very truly, I tell 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."²⁶ "For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself;²⁷ and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man."

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(John 6.37-40)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And 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 on the last day. ⁴⁰This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(John 10.11-16)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(John 11.17-27)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(John 14.1-6)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ^c⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(John 20.1-9)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**