When death occurs in the lives of our loved ones, we are faced with a sense of loss, a questioning of faith and a need for support and direction in our lives. We share a spiritual journey that was taught us by Jesus Christ and we pray that it will bring you comfort and hope.

The first stage of the journey is somewhat like the experience Jesus had in the Garden of Gethsemane. That was a time of questioning, a time of prayer, and a time of seeking support from those around him. As we prepare for the Funeral Liturgy of the person who has died, we learn from the Lord’s example.

The second stage of the journey is a beautiful scene painted there in front of the cross on Calvary. Jesus looks down from the cross and gives His Mother Mary to John the disciple whom He loved, and directs John to care for her. This part of the journey centers on letting go of our loved one and in the Funeral Liturgy, realizing how God will care for them and for us.

The final stage in our journey centers on coming to understand the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the Preface Prayer of the Funeral Liturgy, it is stated, “For the faithful person life is changed not ended.” Coming to know our loved one in Eternal Life, is something taught us by the Lord as He walked the road to Emmaus, and where the disciples came to know Him in the breaking of the Bread. As we remember our loved one and remember the values and lessons that they taught us, we begin to experience the mystery of Life after death that Jesus has shown us.
FUNERAL LITURGY OUTLINE

*Introductory rites*
  Greeting
  Sprinkling with Holy Water
  Placing of the Pall
  *Opening Hymn*
  Entrance Procession
  Opening Prayer

*Liturgy of the Word*
  First Reading
  Responsorial Psalm
  Second Reading
  Gospel
  Homily
  General Intercessions

*Liturgy of the Eucharist*
  Offertory Procession
  *Offertory Hymn*
  *Communion Hymn*
  Meditation / Time for Remembrance

*Final Commendation*
  Invitation to Prayer
  Prayer of Farewell
  Prayer of Commendation
  *Closing Hymn*
  *Procession to the place of committal*

ORDER OF THE MASS

**ALL STAND**

**Greeting:**
Priest: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
*Assembly: Amen*

**Sprinkling with Holy Water:**
The priest now sprinkles the coffin with holy water, saying:
In the waters of baptism (N.) died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he/she now share with him eternal glory.

**Placing of the Pall:**
The white cloth signifying our baptismal garment is now placed over the coffin. Family members may take part in placing the pall over the coffin.

**Opening Hymn:**

**Opening Prayer said by priest:**
*Assembly: Amen*

**ALL BE SEATED**
LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Old Testament
   after the reading the reader will say:
   “The Word of the Lord”
Assembly: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: This is sung by the cantor and the assembly.  Unless another Psalm is requested it will be Psalm 23
Assembly: The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: New Testament
   after the reading the reader will say:
   “The Word of the Lord”
Assembly: Thanks be to God

ALL STAND

Cantor: Alleluia
   During Lent the acclamation changes to:
   Praise To You, Lord Jesus Christ,
   King Of Endless Glory
Assembly: Alleluia or Lenten acclamation
Cantor: If we die with Christ we shall live with Him.  And if we are faithful to the end we shall reign with Him.
Assembly: Alleluia or Lenten acclamation

Gospel:  Priest: The Lord be with you.
Assembly: And with your spirit
   Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to...
Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.
After the reading:
Priest: The Gospel of the Lord
Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

ALL BE SEATED

Homily

General Intercessions:  After each prayer the reader will say: “Lord, in Your mercy”
Assembly: Hear our prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Procession
The bread and wine are now brought to the altar and the priest prepares the gifts. During the preparation an offertory hymn is sung.

Offertory Hymn:

The priest now invites all to pray:
Assembly: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His Name, for our good, and the good of all His Holy Church.

ALL STAND

Priest: The Lord be with you
Assembly: And with your spirit
Priest: Lift up your hearts
Assembly: We lift them up to the Lord
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
Assembly: It is right and just.

Priest: (says a prayer then asks us to join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise)
Assembly: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

ALL KNEEL

Consecration Eucharistic Prayer

Priest: The mystery of faith
Assembly: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer then says
Priest: Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever.

Assembly: Amen

ALL STAND

The priest now invites us all to recite “The Lord’s Prayer”. Following this prayer the priest will extend the sign of peace and invite us to do the same saying:

Priest: The Lord be with you
Assembly: And with your spirit
Priest: Let us offer one another some sign of peace.

After the sign of peace the priest returns to the altar and as he breaks the host the assembly sings:
Assembly: Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

ALL KNEEL

Priest: (now invites us to share in the banquet)
Assembly: Lord, am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Hymn:

Meditation Hymn: (optional)

After receiving communion you may be seated. At this time if there is to be a time for remembrance the priest will invite the speaker to come forward.

Priest: (says a prayer after communion, closing with: “We ask this through Christ our Lord”
Assembly: Amen

ALL STAND

Final Commendation
The priest will invite us to pray by using the following words: “Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother/sister...

The Cantor will sing the Hymn of Farewell or the priest will invite the community to pray:

Priest: Saints of God, come to his/her aid! Hasten to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!
Assembly: Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Priest: May Christ, who called you, take you to himself; may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.
Assembly: Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Priest: Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.
Assembly: Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Closing Hymn:
SUGGESTED PLACEMENT
OF HYMNS

Opening Hymn
Alleluia, Sing To Jesus    Eye Has Not Seen
Here I Am, Lord           We Remember

Offertory Hymn
Ave Maria                  Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Be Not Afraid              On Eagle’s Wings

Communion Hymn
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Like A Shepherd            One Bread, One Body
Prayer Of St. Francis     You Are Mine

Closing Hymn
Amazing Grace             Go In Peace
How Great Thou Art         Peace Is Flowing
Let There Be Peace On Earth

INDEX OF SUGGESTED HYMNS
(Pages indicated are those found in Breaking Bread)

Alleluia, Sing To Jesus          751
Amazing Grace                    424
Be Not Afraid                     426
Eye Has Not Seen                  492
Go In Peace                       690
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman           707
Here I Am, Lord                   375
How Great Thou Art                418
I Know That My Redeemer Lives     689
Let There Be Peace On Earth       510
Like A Shepherd                   629
One Bread, One Body               357
On Eagle’s Wings                  433
Peace Is Flowing                  507
Prayer Of Saint Francis           508
The King Of Love                  502
We Remember                       456
You Are Mine                      491
Either one or two readings plus a responsorial psalm may be chosen. The first reading is chosen from the Old Testament while the second reading is from the New Testament. The Responsorial Psalm is sung by the cantor and may be chosen by the family from the following list.

**Old Testament Readings:**
1. I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
   (JOB 19:1, 23-26)
2. He Accepted Them As A Holocaust  
   (WISDOM 3:1-9)
3. A Blameless Life Is A Ripe Old Age  
   (WISDOM 4:7-15)
4. The Lord God Will Destroy Death Forever  
   (ISAIAH 25:6a, 7-9)
5. It Is Good To Wait In Silence  
   (LAMENTATIONS 3:17-26)
6. Think Of The Dead Rising Again  
   (2 MACCABEES 12:43-46)

**Responsorial Psalms:**
1. The Lord Is My Shepherd  
   (PSALM 23)
2. The Lord Is My Light And My Salvation  
   (PSALM 27)
3. The Lord Is Kind And Merciful  
   (PSALM 103)

**New Testament Readings:**
1. Let Us Walk In Newness Of Life  
   (ROMANS 6:3-9)
2. Alive Or Dead, We Belong To The Lord  
   (ROMANS 14:7-12)
3. All People Will Be Brought To Life  
   (1CORINTHIANS 15:20-28)
4. Death Is Swallowed Up In Victory  
   (1CORINTHIANS 15:51-57)
5. What Is Seen Is Transitory  
   (2CORINTHIANS 4:13-5:1)
6. God Has Appointed Jesus To Judge  
   (ACTS 10:32-43)

Then Job answered and said:
Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever!
As for me, I know that my vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust.
This will happen when my skin has been stripped off, and from my flesh I will see God:

The Word of the Lord.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace.
For if to others, indeed, they seem punished, yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings* he took them to himself.
In the time of their judgment* they shall shine and dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.
3. A Reading From The Book Of Wisdom.  
Wisdom 4:7-14

But the righteous one, 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 passes for gray hair,  
and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.  
The one who pleased God was loved,  
living among sinners, was transported—  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind  
or deceit beguile his soul;  
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right  
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.  
Having become perfect in a short while,  
he reached the fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.  
But the people saw and did not understand,  
nor did they take that consideration into account.*

The Word of the Lord.

4. A Reading From The Prophet Isaiah.  
Isaiah 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:  
"Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him,  
and he saved us!  
This is the LORD to 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. Lamentations 3:17-26

My life is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is;  
My enduring hope, I said, has perished before the LORD.  
The thought of my wretched homelessness  
is wormwood and poison;  
Remembering it over and over, my soul is downcast.  
But this I will call to mind; therefore I will hope:  
The LORD’s acts of mercy are not exhausted,  
his compassion is not spent;  
They are renewed each morning—  
great is your faithfulness!  
The LORD is my portion, I tell myself,  
therefore I will hope in him.  
The LORD is good to those who trust in him,  
to the one that seeks him;  
It is good to hope in silence for the LORD’s deliverance.

The Word of the Lord.

6. A Reading from the Book of Maccabees  
2 Maccabees 12:43-46

Judas then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting  
to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to  
provide for an expiatory sacrifice.  
In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch  
as he had the resurrection in mind;  
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,  
it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.  
But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits  
those who had gone to rest in godliness,  
it was a holy and pious thought.  
Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved  
from their sin.

The Word of the Lord.
RESPONORIAL PSALMS

The Lord Is My Shepherd - Psalm 23

RESPONSE

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

RESPONSE:

He guides me in right paths for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil;
for you are at my side with your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

RESPONSE:

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

RESPONSE:

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

RESPONSE:

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want

The Lord Is My Light And My Salvation

Psalm 27

RESPONSE: The Lord is my light and my salvation

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

RESPONSE: The Lord is my light and my salvation

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

RESPONSE: The Lord is my light and my salvation

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Your presence, O Lord, I seek.
Hide not your face from me;
do not in anger repel your servant.

RESPONSE: The Lord is my light and my salvation

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

RESPONSE: The Lord is my light and my salvation
The Lord Is Kind And Merciful
Psalm 103

RESPONSE: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

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

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

RESPONSE: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

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

RESPONSE: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

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

RESPONSE: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS
1. A Reading From The Letter Of Paul To The Romans.
Romans 6:3-9
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. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word Of The Lord.

2. A Reading From The Letter Of Paul To The Romans.
Romans 14:7-12
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.
Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”
So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.
The Word Of The Lord
3. A Reading From The First Letter Of Paul To The Corinthians.
1Corinthians 15:20-28

But now 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; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for “he subjected everything under his feet.” But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

4. A Reading From The First Letter Of Paul To The Corinthians.
1Corinthians 15:51-57

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: “Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin,* and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

5. A Reading From the Second Letter Of Paul To The Corinthians
2 Corinthians 4:13-18 - 5:1

Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, therefore I spoke,” we too believe and therefore speak, knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

6. A Reading From the Acts of the Apostles
Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth* with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.
The Catholic liturgy provides courage and comfort for those mourning the death of a loved one. We believe that the family and friends who are actively involved in the planning and participation in the ceremony experience a deeper consolation and strength.

The Funeral Mass especially communicates our faith in Jesus’ victory over death and our personal share in that resurrection.

Catholic Theology teaches that death is not an end but a beginning, therefore, hymns that are joyful and speak of promise, hope, and life eternal are very appropriate.

It is in that spirit that we have provided hymns in this booklet which we feel help to convey that idea of promise and hope.

This list of hymns is by no means exclusive and is meant only to facilitate you in making the choices which will make this liturgy more significant for you.

The same applies to the readings that are found within this booklet. There may be readings from both the Old and New Testaments that will have more meaning for you and your loved ones.

The Bereavement Committee is available to provide the resources you need to make this liturgy specific to your needs.
"We Are The Living Presence Of Jesus Christ
As Recognized Through Our
Love, Prayer And Service."

Saint Edward The Confessor
Roman Catholic Church
New Fairfield, Connecticut

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