

St Michael's War Memorial Church

Options within Funeral Mass and Funeral Prayer Service

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Opportunities for Involvement of family and relatives

1. Introductory Rites
 - a. Sprinkling of holy water onto coffin
 - b. Lighting of the candle
 - c. Placing of the pall (2 people)
 - d. Placing of Christian symbols eg rosary beads, crucifix / flowers
2. Welcome – short 1-2 minute welcome of relatives/friends/parishioners to the funeral
3. Eulogy – limited to ten (10) minutes
4. First Reading and Responsorial Psalm
5. Second Reading and Gospel Acclamation
6. Prayers of the Faithful

7. Offertory Procession – 2-3 people. (optional)
8. Pallbearers (optional)

Recorded Music – Hymn Options

Entrance Hymns

- Sing a new song
- Here I am Lord
- Come to Me
- City of God
- Blest be the Lord
- Come as you are

Offertory Hymns

- The Lord is my Shepherd
- Only a shadow
- Like a Shepherd
- Hosea

Communion Hymns

- One bread, one body
- Nearer my God to thee
- I am the Bread of Life
- Be Not Afraid

Recessional Hymns

- Amazing Grace
- How Great Thou Art
- On Eagle's wings

Once recorded hymns are selected, the Parish will provide the hymn words which match the recording.

First Reading and Responsorial Psalm Options (both read by the same person)

- *Self-selected First Reading and Responsorial Psalm to be restricted to Old Testament*

Option 1

FIRST READING: **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

A reading from St. Paul's Letter to Timothy

I have fought the good fight to the end;

I have run the race to the finish;
I have kept the faith;
all there is now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will give me on that Day;
And not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Psalm 22*

Response: The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd,
There is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
Where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
To revive my drooping spirit.

ALL: Response

He guides me along the right path;
He is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
No evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
With these you give me comfort.

ALL: Response

You have prepared banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
My cup is overflowing.

ALL - Response

Surely goodness and kindness
Shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house
Shall I dwell forever and ever.

ALL - Response

Option 2

FIRST READING: **ISAIAH 61: 1-3**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord God anointed me and sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord,
a day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all those who mourn and to give them
for ashes a garland;
for mourning robe the oil of gladness,
for despondency, praise.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: I have carried you on eagle's wings! I will care for you in all your years!

My heart is full of peace.
You have been within my life!
Your guiding hand has always covered me,
I am full of confidence in You!

ALL - Response

My soul is like a child,
Cradled safe within your arms!
You have carried me across my years.
Leading me through sorrow and through joy!

ALL - Response

Never need I be afraid!
No matter how uncertain things may be.
Sometimes through me, sometimes in spite of me,
You seem to find your purpose in my life.

ALL - Response

Option 3

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 25: 6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

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

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.

ALL: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: *The Lord is kind and merciful*

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

ALL - Response

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust.

ALL - Response

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flowers like the flower of the field
the wind blows and he is gone
and his place never sees him again.

ALL - Response

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth.

ALL - Response

Second Reading and Gospel Acclamation Options (both read by the same person)

- *Self-selected Second Reading and Gospel Acclamation to be restricted to New Testament*

Option 1

SECOND READING: ROMANS 14: 7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others;
if we live, we live for the Lord;
if we die, we die for the Lord,
so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Come, you whom my Father has blessed says the Lord:

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you

since the foundation of the world.

Alleluia!

Option 2

SECOND READING: Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, 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 convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Alleluia!

Option 3

SECOND READING: John 3: 1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John.

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. 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

ALL: Thanks be to God

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia.

Gospel Options

Option 1

GOSPEL: John 14: 1-6

Priest: The Lord be with you

ALL: And with your Spirit

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Option 2

GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 1-12a

Priest: The Lord be with you

ALL: And with your Spirit

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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

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

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

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

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

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful Options

Option 1

For (**Name**), who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that **he/she** may now be admitted to the company of the Saints. Lord hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayers

Option 2

The family and friends of (Name) seek comfort and consolation. In their grief may they be reminded of your great mercy and love. Lord hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayers

Option 3

For all of us assembled here – that we may be inspired by (Name's) deep love of family and his/her living of life to the fullest. Lord hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayers.

Option 4

For all who have died, especially the relatives and friends of all present here today. Welcome them into the light of your presence. Lord hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayers