

Planning a Funeral at the Church of the Atonement



THE CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT
5749 N. Kenmore Ave.
Chicago, Il 60660
773.271.2727

www.atonementchicago.org

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.
Romans 8:38-39

Paul's words to the church in Rome are a source of profound comfort to Christians in times of loss, grief, and despair. Even though the pain at the death of a loved one is very real, we hear in this holy text that nothing will be able to separate us from God's love. The Funeral Mass and the Burial Office are powerful reminders of this promise. While we mourn our loss, the words, music, and actions of the liturgy reassure us that God's love is stronger than death. Planning this service can be a particularly meaningful way of honoring the life of your loved one. The following is an outline of what you will need to think about in making preparations for a funeral service at Atonement. We hope this is a help and a comfort in your time of grief.

Contact your clergy

When it comes to funeral arrangements, there are many decisions to be made. It is always best when conversations can be shared and expectations expressed while our loved ones are healthy, but this scenario is not always possible. The clergy of Atonement can help you in these discussions. When planning a funeral, it is important that you contact your clergy person as soon as possible. Their experience and concern for you can be very helpful in making decisions and preparations for the service. If you have a relationship with a particular clergy person, you may contact them directly. Otherwise, please call the church office at 773.271.2727, and a priest will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

Make arrangements with a funeral home

When a death occurs, family members face decisions regarding the body of the deceased. These matters are sensitive and can reveal a wide variety of underlying values. In the Episcopal tradition, burial, cremation, and organ donation are all acceptable practices, and decisions regarding these options are best made by each family in consideration of traditions, values, family location, cost, and particular family needs.

The funeral home will assist you with arrangements for interment or cremation. Funeral homes also offer a variety of other services, such as placing an obituary in the newspaper and providing a guest book for the service. Funeral homes commonly used by our parishioners include:

- ❖ Drake & Son Funeral Home at 5303 N. Western Ave. (773.561.6874)
- ❖ John E Maloney Funeral Directors at 1359 W. Devon Ave. 60660 (773.764.1617)
- ❖ Pride Funeral Service & Cremation at 4711 N. Broadway, Ste. 106 (708.998.2381)
- ❖ Cremation Society of Illinois (800.622.8358)

We are also happy to work with a funeral home of your choosing. Funeral directors can also work with your clergy to help you set a date for the funeral. In deciding upon this date, consider realistically how soon family and friends can be brought together. Sometimes it is necessary to hold a funeral service separately from the burial or entombment.

Viewing

If you would like to have a viewing before the funeral begins, we are happy to provide the space for this. Usually viewings take place in the Resurrection Chapel an hour and a half before the funeral begins. Flowers, guest books, and a prayer desk are appropriate for this vigil before the funeral liturgy begins.

Plan the funeral service

Your clergy will meet with you to assist in planning the service. Before meeting with them, you should give some thought to the following:

Date and time of service

Every effort is made to hold the service when requested by the family while taking into consideration requirements by the funeral home and interment arrangements.

Communion

The funeral liturgy is from the Book of Common Prayer (p. 469/491). The family may decide whether or not to include Holy Eucharist in the service. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist stands as a powerful reminder of the presence of Christ with us in this world and in the next and can be an important part of the funeral service. However, the presence of Holy Communion during this funeral may not feel appropriate in your particular situation. Ultimately, the inclusion of Holy Communion is a personal choice based on your loved one's wishes as well as what you feel would be most comforting for the deceased's family and friends at this time.

Rite

The Book of Common Prayer offers two options for the funeral liturgy. Rite I is written in traditional language, while Rite II is written in more contemporary language. For example, the opening anthems for the service appear like this in Rite I (traditional) language:

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 469

This is the same text in Rite II (contemporary) language:

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed himself to me in faith,
shall not die forever.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 491

Funerals at Atonement may also take the ancient form of a Requiem Mass, with black vestments and the traditional parts (the *propers*) of the ancient liturgy, usually offered by a small choir.

Again, in making this decision, consider which kind of church service your loved one normally preferred. Did they, or do you, enjoy the traditional language of Rite I? What about the contemporary language found in Rite II, the language that is used at most liturgies at Atonement? What kind of language would be most comforting to your friends and family as they participate in the liturgy?

Readings

You will be asked to select several readings from the Bible. The Book of Common Prayer suggests several readings that are particularly appropriate for funeral services. For a complete selection of the suggested readings, please see the Appendix at the end of this document. If there will be Holy Communion during the service, you

must select a reading from the Gospel, which will be read by a Deacon or Priest. Other readings may be done by family members or friends.

Music

You may decide that you would like to select a few hymns from The Hymnal 1982. Hymns may be sung at the beginning of the service, following one or two of the readings, or during Holy Communion. The hymns you select should be ones that are familiar to the congregation that will be assembled. Hymns that are well known across various denominations which also appear in The Hymnal 1982 include (but are not limited to):

- H662 Abide with me
- H671 Amazing Grace
- H488 Be thou my vision
- H608 Eternal Father, strong to save (the Navy hymn)
- H362 Holy, Holy, Holy
- H517 How lovely is thy dwelling-place
- H423 Immortal, invisible
- H376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee
- H390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- H645 The King of love my shepherd is

Music selected for the prelude will be determined by the organist, though if there are specific pieces of music which you would like, you are welcome to make that request. You may also choose to select a particular vocal or instrumental solo to be performed during the course of the service. The Organist and Choirmaster will make arrangements for any additional music needed for the liturgy.

Eulogies

While many funeral homes encourage the offering of eulogies as a part of memorial services, eulogies are not appropriate at the burial rites within the Church. Instead, the priest will offer a homily, which is a theological reflection on the chosen texts and the witness of faith of the deceased. If there are friends or family members who would like to offer words, you are most welcome to arrange for this at the reception following the liturgy, or, at times when appropriate, one person may offer words of welcome and memory before the liturgy begins, at the discretion of the priest.

Pallbearers

The decision of whether to have pallbearers, actual (with the presence of a casket) or honorary (with the presence of an urn), is up to you as you plan this liturgy. The funeral director will instruct the pallbearers if a casket is to be present in the church. Otherwise, the clergy will direct them.

Ushers

The church will provide ushers experienced in the special needs of a funeral service. Please let the clergy know if you wish anyone special to serve as an usher.

Worship Leaflets

Funeral leaflets will be prepared by the church staff, based on your planning conversation with the priest. In addition to the order of service, funeral leaflets often include:

- ❖ Full name of the deceased, with dates of birth and death
- ❖ A photo of the deceased
- ❖ Names of participants in the liturgy

- ❖ Information about interment and/or reception following the liturgy
- ❖ One or two organizations the family has designated to receive memorial gifts

Floral arrangements

The church does not provide flowers for a funeral liturgy; however, the family is welcome to order flowers if desired. Additional arrangements may be placed in the nave or Montgomery Hall at the officiating priest's discretion. Please keep in mind that while a casket spray is not appropriate for the funeral liturgy, during which the casket will be covered by a pall. The exception to this would be if there is also a viewing in the Resurrection Chapel prior to the funeral.

The following nearby florists have provided flowers for a number of services at Atonement and are very familiar with our requirements:

- ❖ **Anna Held Floral Studio** – 5557 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL 60640 (773.561.1940)

Arrangements for a reception after the service

It is often important to family and friends to be able to gather together after the service to share reminiscences and fellowship. This may be done in a variety of ways. Some families invite friends to return to their home or make arrangements in a private club. Some families choose to cater a reception here at the church.

The following nearby caterers have provided food for previous funeral receptions at Atonement:

- ❖ **Food For Thought Catering** – lsarnik@fftchicago.com or 773.655.6616
- ❖ **Gracious Catering** – chefclarissa@justgracious.com or 847-912-6848
- ❖ **Conn's Catering** – info@connscatering.com or 773.262.2666

Fees and Donations

There is no charge for the funeral or memorial service itself. However, if music is desired as part of the service, a fee of \$250 will be charged for the services of our organist. The presence of additional musicians would raise the organist's fee to \$300, who would then provide the fees for individual instrumentalists, vocalists, or the choir.

Columbarium fees

Within the church proper, beneath the Resurrection Chapel is the Columbarium of the church, wherein the ashes of the dead, encased in simple boxes, may be put as a final resting place. Space is available in the Columbarium; please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Donations to the church

The Church of the Atonement incurs custodial and administrative costs each time a funeral is performed. Families planning a funeral service for a loved one are invited to make a donation to the church to offset these expenses, though the amount given is left to your discretion. In lieu of an honorarium to the priest, we ask that you consider making a donation to those in need in our community by supporting the outreach ministries of the church. Any additional donation is used to support the general functions and ministries of the church unless otherwise specified by the donor. If you wish to make a specific memorial gift, our Rector would be happy to discuss ideas with you and can be reached at 773.271.2727.

Live Streaming fees

If you have friends and loved ones who are not able to make the trip to be at the funeral in person, Atonement is able to live stream the funeral liturgy on our YouTube channel. Prior to the service, you would be provided with a link to forward along to those who require it. There is an additional fee of \$250 for this service.

Writing your check

All fees and/or donations may be paid in one check made payable to Church of the Atonement. It is helpful to write the word *funeral* and the funeral date in the memo line. Please give your check to the priest prior to the service.

What to expect the day of the service**Parking**

We will reserve a parking space in front of the church for the hearse or the funeral home. There is a small parking lot directly across from the church on the west side of Kenmore Avenue. You are most welcome to use these spaces, or to find parking on the street.

Arrival and gathering

When the body arrives at the church, the priest will come to greet the body and to offer prayers for the departed and for those who mourn. At this point, immediate family members are welcome to retire to Montgomery Hall until the liturgy begins. It is requested that the family arrive thirty minutes before the Funeral. Ushers will have reserved pews at the front of the church for the family.

The casket or ashes

The family is seated before the casket is brought into the church. At the conclusion of the liturgy, the family and the priests follow the casket out of the church. The ushers will help you to know when to leave. Ashes are placed in the chancel before the service begins and may be carried out by the family at the end of the service.

Photography

In order to maintain a spirit of worship, photographs and videotaping are not permitted during a funeral.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Parish Ministries Coordinator at 773.271.2727.

APPENDIX OF SUGGESTED READINGS

Suggested Old Testament Readings

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. 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.

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; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 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.

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 your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, 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 reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

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 a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others 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 holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

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, never satisfied with my flesh?

O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

Suggested Psalms to follow the Old Testament Reading

Psalm 42:1-7

- 1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God?”
- 4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the
house of God,
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.

- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 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.
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 12 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 90:1-12

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
“Go back, O child of earth.”
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday
when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

- 10 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.
- 11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?
- 12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 130

- 1 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.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.

- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, *
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Psalm 139:1-11

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

Suggested New Testament Readings

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

For all 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 have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and 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. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 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.

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 died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 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 hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler 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 someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, 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 it is 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 body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When 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.” “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.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because 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.

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. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For 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. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though 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. Yes, we do have confidence, 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.

I 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. 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.

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 21:2-7

And I saw the holy city, the 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, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; 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." 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." Then 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. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Suggested Psalms to follow the New Testament Reading

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your 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 23 (King James Version)

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul; *
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his
Name's sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies; *
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
- 6 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

- 1 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?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.

- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
 yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, *
 yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 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;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
 and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 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.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head *
 above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
 with sounds of great gladness; *
 I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
 have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
 Your face, Lord, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, *
 nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;
 cast me not away; *
 do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
 the Lord will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O Lord; *
 lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
 for false witnesses have risen up against me,
 and also those who speak malice.

17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.

Psalm 106:1-5

- 1 Hallelujah!
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord *
or show forth all his praise?
- 3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!
- 4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have
for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;
- 5 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.

Psalm 116

- 1 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.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the Lord has treated you well.

- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.
- 9 I believed, even when I said,
“I have been brought very low.” *
In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the Lord’s house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Suggested Gospel Readings

John 5:24-27

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. “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. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

John 6:37-40

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; 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 on the last day.

This 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.

John 10:11-16

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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.

John 11:21-27

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

John 14:1-6

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In 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? And 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.

And you know the way to the place 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 except through me.