



# Church of the Holy Eucharist

*Follow Christ, Love All, Grow Disciples*

## Funeral Liturgy Planner

*Dear Bereaved,*

*We at Holy Eucharist extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family as you grieve in this time of loss. You will be remembered in our prayers.*

*A funeral minister will assist you in planning the funeral liturgy at a meeting at the church. We hope this packet will be helpful in your planning. We recommend that you read through all the enclosed materials in preparation and complete the checklist.*

*Flowers are a beautiful gift from family and friends but last for a short time. As a possible alternative to flowers, we ask that you consider suggesting a contribution to Holy Eucharist Church in memory of your loved one. All contributions are acknowledged in your name. If you have any questions, please call our parish office at 609 268-8383.*

*Sincerely*

*Holy Eucharist Parish*

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### A Word of Consolation

“If a tiny baby could think, it would be afraid of birth. To leave the only world it has known would seem a kind of death. But immediately after the birth the child would find himself in loving arms, showered with affection and cared for at every moment. Surely the baby would say, “I was foolish to doubt God’s Plan for me. This is a beautiful life.”

For the Christian, passing through death is really a birth into a new and better world. Those who are left behind should not grieve as if there were no hope. Life is changed, not taken away. Our dear ones live on, in a world beautiful beyond anything we can imagine. With Jesus and Mary they await the day when they will welcome us with joy.

“Do not grieve too much,” they say to us. “We are living and are still with you. For those who have been faithful, O Lord, life is not ended, but merely changed; and when this earthly abode dissolves, an eternal dwelling place awaits them in heaven.”

*Preface, Mass for Christian Burial From the Roman Sacramentary*



Church of the Holy Eucharist  
520 Medford Lakes Rd  
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609 268 8383  
[www.holyeucharist.org](http://www.holyeucharist.org)

## Options at a Mass of Christian Burial

The following are options in which we invite the family or friends of the deceased to participate in during the funeral liturgy. They need not be Catholic.



- During the opening rite of a funeral, a long white cloth called a “Pall” is placed over the casket. The cloth is to remind us of our Baptism when we were “clothed with Christ”. The ancient Hebrews also saw linen as a symbol of immortality. This is why Jesus’ body was “wrapped with linen and laid in the tomb”. This “Pall” can be placed on the casket by two friends or family members.



- Two separate scripture passages, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament are read during the Mass and if you desire, a family member or friend can be the reader. These are read at the Ambo, which is near the altar. We ask you to choose one each from the old and new testament readings included in this booklet.
- The third reading is the Gospel and is also from the New Testament. This is read by the Priest or Deacon presiding at the service. We ask that you choose one of the Gospel readings included in this booklet.
- The Prayer of the Faithful is a prayer of petition and thanksgiving. Those gathered respond “Lord, hear our prayer”. This can be read by a family member or friend.



- At Mass, we offer back to God the gifts he has given us symbolized as bread and wine. During the Eucharistic Prayer, they are consecrated into the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Two to four family members or friends are asked to proceed to the rear of the church and bring these gifts forward to present to the priest.
- If you have a family member who is a Eucharistic Minister in our church or in another church, we would welcome their participation since we offer to our community the opportunity to receive the Eucharist under both species, bread and wine. We ask that they make themselves known in advance by calling the parish office at 609 268-8383 Ext. 100
- All are invited to come forward in the communion procession. If you are not a member of the catholic community, we invite you to come forward for a blessing. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest as you approach the priest, deacon or Eucharistic minister to receive the blessing.
- If the deceased had a favorite religious song or piece of music that you would like to have included in the service, you may request it. It is not appropriate to play “popular songs” at a funeral mass. If the religious song you request is a bit unusual, you may have to provide us with the sheet music in order for it to be included. With regard to any musical selections we ask that you consult with the liturgy planner.
- Guidelines for the Eulogy  
We ask that eulogies be kept to between 3-5 minutes and focus on the faith and goodness of the deceased. There are two opportunities that we suggest for the eulogy: sometime during the viewing either at the Funeral Home or in the Atrium if having the viewing at Holy Eucharist, or at the Baptismal Font in the Atrium 10 minutes before the funeral liturgy is to begin. If your choice is to have the words of remembrance at the Baptismal Font the funeral director must be notified to have everyone at the Baptismal Font 10 minutes prior to the Funeral Liturgy. Please keep in mind when having the Eulogy done at this time that the Mass will begin promptly at the designated time



***"In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters. In this life you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest"***



## Outline of the Funeral Rite

### Introductory Rites:

The Mass begins with the entrance song. The celebrant and other ministers enter in procession and reverence the altar with a bow and/or a kiss. The altar is a symbol of Christ at the heart of the assembly and so deserves this special reverence. The Introductory Rites conclude with an opening prayer, called the Collect. The celebrant invites the gathered assembly to pray and, after a brief silence, proclaims the prayer of the day. The Collect gathers the prayers of all into one and disposes all to hear the Word of God in the context of the celebration.

#### Greeting

#### Sprinkling with Holy Water (Placing of the Pall)

#### Entrance Procession

#### Opening Prayer

### Liturgy of the Word:

In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. The Scriptures are the word of God, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In the Scriptures, God speaks to us, leading us along the path to salvation. The high point of the Liturgy of the Word is the reading of the Gospel. Because the Gospels tell of the life, ministry, and preaching of Christ, it receives several special signs of honor and reverence. The gathered assembly stands to hear the Gospel and it is introduced by an acclamation of praise

#### Readings:

#### Old Testament

#### New Testament

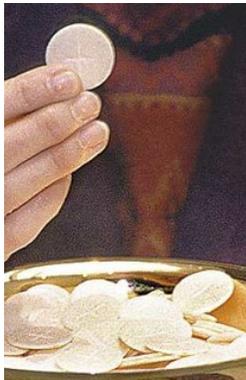
#### Gospel

#### Homily

#### Prayer of the Faithful

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the preparation of the gifts and the altar. As the ministers prepare the altar, representatives of the people bring forward the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood of Christ. The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In this prayer, the celebrant gathers not only the bread and the wine, but the substance of our lives and joins them to Christ's perfect sacrifice, offering them to the Father. The people approach the altar and, bowing with reverence, receive Holy Communion. People may receive the Body of Christ either on the tongue or in the hand. The priest or other minister offers the Eucharist to each person saying, "The Body of Christ." The person receiving responds by saying, "Amen," a Hebrew word meaning, "So be it". If you are not a member of the catholic community, we invite you to come forward for a blessing. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest as you approach the priest, deacon or Eucharistic minister to receive the blessing.



### Final Commendation

The rite of committal, the conclusion of the funeral rites, is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member.

#### Invitation to Prayer

#### Silence

#### Song of Farewell

#### Prayer of Commendation

*There are many scripture selections which express the Christian understanding of death and resurrection. Please pick one each from the old and new testament and from the gospel and notate on enclosed checklist.*

### **Old Testament Readings ( choose one)**

**1. A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-9**

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
But they are in peace.  
For if before men, indeed they be punished,  
yet is their hope 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 visitation they shall shine,  
and shall 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 his elect.  
The Word of the Lord.

**2. A Reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-6,9**

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Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.  
The Word of the Lord.

## Old Testament Readings Con't

### **3. A reading from the book of Wisdom 4:7-15**

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

### **4. A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 25:6a,7-9**

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

The Word of the Lord

## **New Testament Readings (Choose one)**

### **1. A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 6:3-9**

Brothers and sisters:

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 St. Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son  
but handed him over for us all,  
will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,  
who also is at the right hand of God,  
who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly  
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor present things, nor future things,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor any other creature will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

## New Testament Readings Cont'd

### **3. A reading from St. Paul to the Romans** **14:7-9, 10c-12**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one 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 accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord

### **4. A reading from St. Paul to the Thessalonians** **4:13-18**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
about those who have fallen asleep,  
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,  
so too will God, through Jesus,  
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,  
that we who are alive,  
who are left until the coming of the Lord,  
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command,  
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,  
will come down from heaven,  
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left,  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds  
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

## New Testament Readings Cont'd

### **5. A reading from Revelation**

**21:1-5a, 6b-7**

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.  
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.  
He will dwell with them and they will be his people  
and God himself will always be with them as their God.  
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,  
and there shall be no more death or mourning,  
wailing or pain,  
for the old order has passed away.”

The one who sat on the throne said,  
“Behold, I make all things new.”

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.  
To the thirsty I will give a gift  
from the spring of life-giving water.  
The victors will inherit these gifts,  
and I shall be their God, and they will be my own.

The Word of the Lord

### **Gospel Reading ( choose one)**

**1. A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12**

When he saw the crowds, Jesus went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them saying:

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

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

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness,

for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy,

Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.

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

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of  
righteousness

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**2. A reading from the holy gospel according to John 5:24-29**

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word  
and believes in the one who sent me  
has eternal life and will not come to condemnation,  
but has passed from death to life.

Amen, amen, I say to 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 also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself.

And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Do not be amazed at this,  
because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs  
will hear his voice and will come out,  
those who have done good deeds  
to the resurrection of life,  
but those who have done wicked deeds  
to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel Reading (cont'd)

### **3. A reading from the holy gospel according to John 6:37-40**

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,  
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,  
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will  
but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me,  
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,  
but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,  
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him  
may have eternal life,  
and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **4. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 11:17-27**

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus  
had already been in the tomb for four days.  
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.  
Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary  
to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,  
she went to meet him;  
but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus,  
"Lord, if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died.  
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,  
God will give you."

Jesus said to her,  
"Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him,  
"I know he will rise,  
in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her,  
"I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord.  
I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,  
the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Gospel Reading (cont'd)

### **5. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him,

"Master, 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **6. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:24-26**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"Father, those whom you gave me are your gift to me.

I wish that where I am they also may be with me,

that they may see my glory that you gave me,

because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,

but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known,

that the love with which you loved me

may be in them and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Please note your choice of readings on the enclosed check list—one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and a Gospel reading**

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