



*Guide to choosing funeral
readings and music
at St. John the Baptist*

Please choose a First Reading from the following selection:

1. First Reading: Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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. 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.

2. First Reading: Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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

3. First Reading: Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

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.

4. First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything

appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. The Word of the Lord.

5. First Reading: Sirach: 2: 1-11

A reading from the book of Sirach

My child, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of adversity. Cling to him, do not leave him, that you may prosper in your last days. Accept whatever happens to you; in periods of humiliation be patient. For in fire gold is tested, and the chosen, in the crucible of humiliation. Trust in God, and he will help you; make your ways straight and hope in him. You that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy, do not stray lest you fall. You that fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not be lost. You that fear the LORD, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy. Consider the generations long past and see: has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed? Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken? Has anyone called upon him and been ignored? For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; forgives sins and saves in time of trouble. The Word of the Lord.

6. First Reading: Ezekiel: 37: 12-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel. You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have spoken; I will do it—oracle of the LORD. The Word of the Lord.

7. First Reading: Proverbs 31: 10-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land. She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all." Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates. The Word of the Lord.

Please choose a Second Reading from the following selections:

1. Second Reading: Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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. 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. Second Reading: Romans 8:18, 22-25

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance. The Word of the Lord.

3. Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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.

4. Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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. So we are always courageous, although 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. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil. The word of the Lord.

5. Second Reading: 1 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.

6. Second Reading: Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. The Word of the Lord.

7. Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so 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 shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. The Word of the Lord.

8. Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

A reading from the Second Letter of Timothy

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance. The Word of the Lord.

9. Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a

A reading from the book of Revelation

Then 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." The Word of the Lord.

Please choose a Gospel Reading from the following selection:

1. Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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. Gospel Reading: John 3:14-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. The Gospel of the Lord.

3. Gospel Reading: John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said, "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. Gospel Reading: John 11:32-35, 38-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. Then Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear

me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.” The Gospel of the Lord.

5. Gospel Reading: John 14:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.

Music occurs in five different places during the funeral Mass. The following steps will help you make appropriate selections.

Please choose a Responsorial Psalm from the following selection:

A. Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

Shepherd Me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

1. God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.
2. Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name.
3. You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold.
4. Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.

B. Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33

Let your mercy be on us, O God, as we place our trust in you

1. Your words, O God, are truth indeed,
and all your works are ever faithful;
You love justice and right,
your compassion fills all creation.
2. See how the eye of God is watching,
ever guarding all who wait in hope
to deliver them from death
and sustain them in time of famine.

3. Our soul is waiting for God,
for God is our help and our shield;
May your kindness and love be on us
who place our hope in you.

C. Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 42-43

Like the deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.

1. Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God?
2. See I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,
Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival.
3. Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
and bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling place.
4. Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp;
O God, my God!

D. Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I have found my servant David,
and with my holy oil anointed him.
My hand shall always be with him,
And my arm shall make him strong.
2. “My mercy and my faithfulness shall be with him;
By my name his might shall be exalted.
He will call out to me, ‘You are my father,
My God, the rock of my salvation.’”

E. Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145

The Lord is near to all who call on him.

1. Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
2. The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The Lord is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The Lord is near to all who call upon him,

to all who call upon him in truth.

Please choose one Opening hymn and one Closing hymn from the following:

Amazing Grace (586)	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (513)
Here I Am, Lord (671)	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (622)
Eye Has Not Seen (616)	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (520)
We Shall Rise Again (762)	Battle Hymn of the Republic (759)
Lord of all Hopefulness (560)	Though the Mountains May Fall (595)
How Great Thou Art (496)	

Please choose one hymn for the Preparation of the Gifts and one hymn for Communion from the following:

Be Not Afraid (596)	I Am the Bread of Life (822)
I Have Loved You (504)	One Bread, One Body (813)
Taste and See (827)	Precious Lord, Take My Hand (847)
Eye Has Not Seen (616)	All That We Have (597)
Here I Am, Lord (671)	On Eagle's Wings (593)
We Remember (578)	Prayer of St. Francis (721)

The hymn *May the Angels Lead You Into Paradise* will be led by the Funeral Schola and bells after the Prayer of Commendation.

For the front or back cover design, you are welcome to provide a suitable picture of your loved one. We can scan the picture for you or will accept a digital image as well.

If not using a photo, we can help you find an appropriate image.