

Funeral Liturgy Planning Music

General Considerations

The parish church in which your funeral liturgy will be celebrated is, in most cases, the same church in which you regularly worshiped or where you ‘belonged’. Furthermore, the members of your parish family pray the funeral liturgy. For this reason, it is most appropriate for the current music minister and parish choir to provide the music at all parish funeral liturgies. You may request that other musicians from outside the parish participate in the liturgy. Such personnel are welcome. However, they must respect the plans that are in your file, and/or the current practices of the staff music director.

The scriptures, prayers, and symbols used in the liturgy are given to us by the Church to strengthen our belief in resurrection to everlasting life. For this reason, we pray the funeral liturgy not as a “farewell” to the deceased, but to console one another in the faith of Christ. Just like Sunday liturgy, the music in a funeral liturgy should strongly support the meaning of the scriptures as well as the general theme, in this case, resurrection. Our current catholic hymnbooks are filled with selections that are most appropriate for such liturgies. In the pages that follow, you will see titles and texts of these hymns.

Secular songs, (non-religious or popular) in most cases, usually lack the qualities that make them appropriate for the Catholic funeral liturgy. For this reason, we ask that such music not be used during the liturgy. These songs might be most appropriately shared with family and friends who gather at the Wake service at the funeral home. (please see the “Wake Service Planner” for more details)

Marian Hymns

Most Marian hymn texts do not support the scripture texts or prayers of the funeral liturgy. However, we do understand that some of our deceased or family members of the deceased may have a great devotion to Our Lady. In view of this deep devotion, a Marian hymn may be used, but we ask that it be used only as a “Preparation of Gifts”, or “Communion Meditation”.

The Lord’s Prayer

The Church has incorporated into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, a special place for the praying of the Lord’s Prayer. It is at this time that this prayer is to be prayed by all of the assembled faithful. For this reason, we strongly recommend that the prayer be recited. “The Lord’s Prayer” by Albert Malotte, is composed in ‘solo’ form which prevents participation of the assembly. For this reason we discourage the use of this version during the Liturgy. If this particular piece is a ‘favorite’ song of the deceased or family members, it should only be used as a “Meditation Hymn” after communion.

Funeral Liturgy

Appropriate Music and Text

The following list of songs and hymns are those that are appropriate for a funeral liturgy according to their texts. After you review the texts and make your selections, you may list them by title in the “Preferred Music Selections” section of the planning sheet. Please contact the Director of Music/Liturgy if you would like additional assistance when making your selections.

The songs listed below were chosen because of their texts, which all center around the theme of trust, faith, and joy in the Resurrection of Christ.

FUNERAL MUSIC SAMPLE CD

Responsorial Psalms

CD-1 Ps 25 I Lift My Soul to You

(Refrain) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, my God.

Vs 1 Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth, for you are my God, and for you I will wait.

Vs 2 Good and upright is the Lord; he shows us the way. He guides the meek to justice, he teaches the humble to follow his ways.

Vs 3 Your way, O Lord, is kindness to those who are true. Your friendship is with those who love you; you reveal to them your Word.

CD-2 Ps 27 The Goodness of the Lord

(Refrain) I believe, I believe, I shall see the goodness of the Lord, in the Land of the Living.

Vs 1 The Lord is my light, the Lord is my rock, my salvation. The Lord is my refuge, guarding my life, in whom should I be afraid?

Vs 2 There is one thing I ask; may I live in the house of my Lord. I shall gaze on God's goodness, all of my days, I shall live in the shelter of God

Vs 3 I believe I shall see the goodness of God in the land of the living; be strong, wait for the Lord.

CD-3 Ps 23 The Lord is My Shepherd

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

1- The Lord is my shepherd...in verdant pastures...

CD-4 Ps 63 My Soul is Thirsting

Refrain My soul is thirsting for you O Lord, thirsting for you my God.

1 – O God you are my God; and I will always praise you. In the shadow of your wings I cling to you, you hold me high.

2 – I will never be afraid; I will not be abandoned. Even when the road is long and weary, your hand will rescue me.

CD-5 Ps 103 The Lord is Kind & Merciful

Refrain The Lord is kind and merciful.

1 – Bless the Lord O my soul and all my being bless His Name; bless the Lord and forget not his benefits.

2 – He gathers all your iniquities, and comforts your sorrows; redeems your life from destruction, and crowns you in his kindness.

3 – Merciful, merciful and gracious is our God; slow to anger abounding in kindness.

All Other Songs and Hymns

CD-6 Be With Me Lord

(Ref) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.
When I am in trouble, be with me, Lord.

1. If you seek a shelter, then come to the Lord, our God. Say to the Lord, "My refuge, I place my trust in you."
2. No evil shall snare you, no harm come upon your home. God sends to you his angels to guard you on your way.
3. Your feet shall not stumble; The angels will lift you high. You shall defy the viper and those who cause you harm.
4. Because of your love, because of your faithfulness, God will indeed be with you to save you from all fear.

CD-7 I the Lord

(ref) I the Lord am with you, always by your side.
Come and take my hand, for I will lead you home.
Follow me, Follow me.

(1) I am the resurrection, and I am the life; if you believe in me you shall live forever.

(2) you shall have new life, and live it to the full.
Turn your sorrow into joy for life has just begun!

CD-8 Go In Peace

1. There will be no more darkness. There is no more night, no more night. There will be no more sadness, only joy and light, joy and light. Lift your eyes beyond the hills and see the dawn. There is beautiful mercy in the arms of the holy one.

(Ref) Go in peace, God be with you. Go in peace, be at rest with the saints and the angels. Now you are free. Go in peace.

2. See the Father is waiting with a robe of white, purest white. Go and feast at his table with the bread of life, bread of life. Lift your heart, rejoice and sing for you are home; home at last and forever in the arms of the holy one.

CD-9 Hold Me in Life

Hold me in life for you are my safety; always my eyes are looking for you.

- (1) Because you are just who you are, don't pass me by but show me your mercy, I will wait for you all my life.
- (2) Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait and follow some other? Lord my God I am certain of you.

CD-10 We Shall Rise Again

1. Come to me all you weary, with your burdens and pain. Take my yoke on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and your should with find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
2. Though we walk through the darkness, evil we do not fear. You are walking beside us with your rod and your staff. Only goodness and kindness follow us all our lives. We shall dwell in the Lord's house for so many years to come!
3. We depend on God's mercy, mercy which never fades. We remember our covenant and the promise Jesus made; If we die with Christ Jesus, we shall live with Him, and if we are faithful, we shall reign with Him!
4. Do not fear death's dominion, look beyond earth and grave. See the brightness of Jesus shining out to light our way. Loving Father and Spirit, loving Jesus the Son, all God's people together we shall live on as one.
5. At the door there to greet us, martyrs, angels and saints, and our family and loved ones, every one freed from their chains. We shall feel their acceptance, and joy of new life. We shall join in the gathering reunited in God's love!

(Refrain – between each verse)

We shall rise again on the last day with the faithful rich and poor, coming to the house of Lord Jesus we will find and open door there, we will find an open door.

CD-11 You Are Mine

Vs 1 I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.

Vs 2 I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night I will be your light, come and rest in me.

(refrain) Do not be afraid I am with you, I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine.

Vs 3 I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who live in shame. All the blind will see the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.

Vs 4 I am the Word that leads all to freedom. I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all you pain, stand up now walk and live!

CD-12 By Name I Have Called You

By name I have called you, by name I have saved you. By name you are mine, you are precious to me. By name I have called you, by name I will send you, forever, with you I will be.

Vs 1

Before you were born I knew you; within your mother's womb I formed you; I appointed you to speak in my name.

Vs 2 Comfort my people; speak to their hearts; speak tenderly to them.

CD-13 Like a Child Rests

Like a child rests in its mother's arms, so will I rest in you.

Vs 1 My God, I am not proud. I do not look for things too great.

Vs 2 My God, I trust in you. You care for me, you give me peace.

Vs 3 O Israel, trust in God, now and always trust in God.

CD-14 We Will Rise Again

Vs 1 Like a shepherd I will feed you, I will gather you with care. I will lead you and hold you close to my heart. (Refrain) We will run and not grow weary for our God will be our strength. And we will fly like the eagle, we will rise again.

Vs 2 I am strength to the weary, to the weak I al new life. Though the young may grow weary, I will be their hope.

Vs 3 Lift up you eyes and see who made the stars. I lead you and I know you, I call you each by name.0

Vs 4 Fear not I am with you, I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; uphold you with my hand.

CD-15 Like a Shepherd

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock and gathers the lambs in his arms. Holding them carefully close to his heart, leading them home.

Vs 2 I myself will shepherd them for others have led them astray. The lost I will rescue and heal their wounds and pasture them giving them rest.

Vs 3 Come unto me if you are heavily burdened, and take my yolk upon your shoulders; I will give you rest.

CD-16 Blest Are They

Vs 1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God. Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Vs 2 Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth. Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.

Vs 3 Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God!

(Refrain) Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Vs 4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.

Vs 5 Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me. rejoice and be glad, your is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

CD-17 O God, You Search Me

1. O God you search me and you know me. All my thoughts lie open to your gaze. When I walk or lie down you are before me; ever the maker and keeper of my days.
2. You know my resting and my rising. You discern my purpose from afar, and with love everlasting you besiege me; in every moment of life or death, you are.
3. Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have known its meaning through and through. You are with me beyond my understanding; God of my present, my past and future, too.
4. Although your Spirit is upon me, still I search for shelter from your light. There is no where on earth I can escape you, even the darkness is radiant in your sight.
5. For you created me and shaped me, gave me life within my mother's womb. For the wonder of who I am I praise you; Safe in your hands all creation is made new.

CD-18 Eye Has Not Seen

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love Him. Spirit of love, come give us the mind of Jesus; teach us the wisdom of God.

Vs 1 When pain and sorrow weigh us down, be near to us O Lord. Forgive the weakness of our faith, and bear us up within your peaceful word.

Vs 2 Our lives are but a single breath, we flower and we fade. Yet all our days are in your hands, so we return in love what love has made.

Vs 3 To those who see with eyes of faith, the Lord is ever near. Reflected in the faces of all the poor and lowly of the world.

Vs 4 We sing a myst'ry from the past in halls where saints have trod, yet ever new the music rings, to Jesus Living Song of God.

CD-19 Take Me Home

(ref) Take me home, to your dwelling place in your sweet embrace ready to hold me in your arms. Take me home to your loving eyes with you alone I'll rise, singing forever in your arms, take me home.

CD-20 Onward to the Kingdom

Sing we now, and on we go; God above and God below; Arm in arm, in love we go onward to the kingdom.

Vs 1 Star above to show the way, through the night and into day, with the light we won't delay onward to the kingdom.

Vs 2 Come now sisters, brothers all, time to heed the Lord's call, we will travel standing tall onward to the kingdom.

Vs 3 In the promised land we'll be, one with God, where all are free. The deaf will hear the blind will see when we reach the Kingdom.

CD-21 I Know That My Redeemer Lives! (Version 1)

refrain – I know that my redeemer lives, on the last day, I shall rise again, and in my flesh I shall see God. On the last day, I shall rise again.

1- I shall see my Savior's face, and my own eyes shall behold my God, On the last day I shall rise again!

2- Within my heart this hope I hold, that in my flesh I shall see my God, On the last day I shall rise again!

CD-22 I Know That My Redeemer Lives! (Version 2)

1- I know that my redeemer lives the one who calls me home. I long to see God face to face, to see with my own eyes.

(Refrain) I know that my redeemer lives, that I shall rise again.

2- I know that I shall one day see the goodness of the Lord. When God will wipe away our tears and death will be no more. (ref)

3- The last day I shall rise again, shall be remade like God. My home shall be by God's own side, the dying rising Lord! (ref)

CD-23 There is a Longing

Refrain – There is a longing in our hearts O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us. There is a longing in our hearts for love, we only find in you O God.

1- For justice, for freedom for mercy hear our prayer. In sorrow, in grief: be near hear our prayer O God.

2- For wisdom, for courage, for comfort hear our prayer. In weakness, in fear: be near, hear our prayer O God.

3- For healing, for wholeness, for new life, hear our prayer. In sickness, in death: Be near, hear our prayer O God.

CD-24 The Strife Is O'er

Alleluia!

1- The strife is o'er the battle done, Now is the Victor's triumph won; O let the song of praise be sung...

2- On the third morn he rose again, Glorious in majesty to reign, O let us swell the joyful strain...

3- O risen Lord, all praise to thee, who from our sin has set us free, That we may live eternally...

CD-25 Jerusalem My Destiny

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Jerusalem my destiny
Though I cannot see the end for me, I cannot turn away.
We have set our hearts for the way; this journey is our
destiny. Let no one walk alone, the journey makes us
one.

(vs) To the tombs I went to mourn the hope I thought
was gone. Here among you I awoke to unexpected dawn.

CD-26 The Supper of the Lord

Precious body, precious blood, here in bread and wine,
here the Lord prepares the feast divine.
Bread of love is broken now, cup of life is poured:
come, share the supper of the Lord.

1. This is the bread of God coming down from heav'n,
giving life to us, to all the world.
2. "I am the living spring of eternal life;
you that drink from me shall not thirst again."
3. "I am the bread of heav'n giving life to you;
you that eat this bread shall never die."
4. "All those who feed on me have their life in me,
as I have my life in the living God."
5. All praise to you, O Christ, present in this feast,
in this bread we share in one life, one Lord.

CD-27 I Am the Bread of Life

Vs 1

I am the bread of life, you who come to me shall not hunger;
and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me
unless the Father beckons.

And I will raise you up...on the last day.

Vs 4

I am the resurrection, I am the life. If you believe in me even
though you die, you shall live forever.

Vs 5

Yes, Lord I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who
have come into the world.

CD-28 Where My Father Lives

Where my Father lives there is room for all;
there is room for all where my Father lives,
and a place for you will be waiting there.
Come to me: I will bring you home.

1. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
2. Have faith in God; have faith in me.
Know wherever I am, you will also be.
3. If you love me and keep my commands,
I will not leave you orphaned: I will return.
4. Peace I leave, my peace I give.
God's own Spirit will guide you throughout your life.

CD-29 Be Not Afraid

Vs 1

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety, though you do not know the
way. You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will
understand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain

Be not afraid, I go before you always. Come, follow Me and I
will give you rest.

Vs 2

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not
drown. If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be
harmed. If you stand before the power of hell, and death is at
your side, know that I am with you through it all.

Vs 3

Blessed are your poor for the Kingdom shall be theirs. Blest are
you that weep and mourn, for one day you will laugh. And if
wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me, blessed,
blessed are you.

CD-30 On Eagle's Wings

Vs 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord; who
abide in his shadow for life, say to the Lord: "my refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

(refrain) And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear
you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Vs 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you and
famine will bring you no fear. Under his wings you
refuge, his faithfulness, your shield.

Vs 3 You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the
arrow that flies by day. Though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.

Vs 4 For to his angels he's given a command to guard
you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear
you up lest you dash your foot against a stone.

CD-31 Here I Am, Lord

Vs 1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people
cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I
who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness
bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I
send?

Vs 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn
away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts
for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom
shall I send?

Vs 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor
and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I
will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

(Refrain) Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard
you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

(not on CD) You Are Near

Yahweh, I know you are near, standing always at my side. You guard me from the foe and you lead me in ways everlasting.

Vs 1

Lord you have searched my heart and you know when I sit and when I stand. Your hand is upon me protecting me from death, keeping me from harm.

Vs 2

Where can I run from your love? If I climb to the heavens you are there; if I fly to the sunrise or sail beyond the sea; still I'd find you there.

(NOT on CD) Amazing Grace

(verses well-known)

(NOT on CD) How Great Thou Art

Vs 3

And when I think that God his son not sparing, sent him to die,
I scarce can take it in; that on the cross my burden gladly
bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin.

Vs 4

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble
adoration and there proclaim, my god, how great thou art.

(NOT on CD) Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Other Suggestions

**Any Easter season hymn is appropriate –
such as:**

-Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

-All Creatures of Our God and King

-Holy God We Praise Thy Name