

## *Gospel Suggestions for Funerals*

3A

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:1-12

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

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.  
There he sat down and was joined by his disciples.  
Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:  
'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.  
Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.  
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.  
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.  
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of the right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you  
and speak all calumny against you on my account.  
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

3B

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

11:25-30

*Come to me, and I will give you rest.*

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth,  
for hiding these things from the learned and the clever  
and revealing them to mere children.  
Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.  
Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father;  
and no one knows the Son except the Father,  
just as no one knows the Father except the Son  
and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.  
'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened,  
and I will give you rest.  
Shoulder my yoke and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.  
Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## 3C

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

15:33-39; 16:1-6

*Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.  
 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
 ‘*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you deserted me?’ When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, ‘Listen, he is calling on Elijah.’  
 Some ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, ‘Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.’  
 But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.  
 And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom.  
 The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died and he said, ‘In truth this man was a Son of God.’  
 When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him.  
 And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.  
 They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’  
 But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back.  
 On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement.  
 But he said to them, ‘There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him’.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## 3D

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

7:11-17

*Young man, I tell you to get.*

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people.  
 When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.  
 And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her.  
 When the Lord saw her, he felt sorry for her.  
 ‘Do not cry’, he said.  
 Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, ‘Young man, I tell you to get up’.  
 And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother.  
 Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, ‘A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.’  
 And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

23:44-46. 50.52-53. 24:1-6

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

It was about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed,  
a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.  
The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle;  
and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said,  
'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit'.  
With these words he breathed his last.  
Then a member of the council arrived,  
an upright and virtuous man named Joseph.  
This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.  
He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud  
and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid.  
On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn,  
the women went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared.  
They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb,  
but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there.  
As they stood there not knowing what to think,  
two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side.  
Terrified, the women lowered their eyes.  
But the two men said to them,  
'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?  
He is not here; he is risen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

24:13-16. 28-35

*Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory.*

On the first day of the week,  
two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus,  
seven miles from Jerusalem,  
and they were talking together about all that had happened.  
Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side;  
but something prevented them from recognising him.  
When they drew near to the village to which they were going,  
he made as if to go on;  
but they pressed him to stay with them.  
'It is nearly evening', they said, 'and the day is almost over.'  
So he went in to stay with them.  
Now while he was with them at the table,  
he took the bread and said the blessing;  
then he broke it and handed it to them.  
And their eyes were opened and they recognised him;  
but he had vanished from their sight.  
Then they said to each other,  
'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road  
and explained the scriptures to us?'  
They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem.  
There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions,  
who said to them, 'Yes it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.'  
Then they told their story of what had happened on the road  
and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

*Lazarus, come out!*

Mary the sister of Lazarus went to Jesus,  
and as soon as she saw him  
she threw herself at his feet, saying,  
'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'  
At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her,  
Jesus said in great distress,  
with a sigh that came straight from the heart,  
'Where have you put him?'  
They said, 'Lord, come and see'.  
Jesus wept; and the Jews said,  
'See how much he loved him!'  
But there was someone who remarked,  
'He opened the eyes of the blind man,  
could he not have prevented this man's death?'  
Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb:  
it was a cave with a stone to close the opening.  
Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.'  
Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell, this is the fourth day.'  
Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'  
So they took away the stone.  
Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:  
'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.  
I knew indeed that you always hear me,  
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,  
so that they may believe it was you who sent me?'  
When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice,  
'Lazarus, here! Come out!'  
The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff  
and a cloth round his face.  
Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'  
Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

12:23-28

*If a wheat grain dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you, most solemnly,  
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single grain;  
but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;  
anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,  
wherever I am my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?

But it is for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven,

‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again’.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

14:1-6

*There are many rooms in my Father’s house.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father’s house;  
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;  
so that where I am you may be too.

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

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going,  
so how can we know the way?’

Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.’

The Gospel of the Lord