

# **Musical Suggestions for the Order of Christian Funerals**

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## Foreword

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Music is integral to all Christian worship, including our funeral rites. It expresses feelings and convictions beyond words and has the power to console, uplift and unify as no other human expression. The texts of songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the Paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death and triumph and should be related to the readings from Scripture (OCF 30-31). Music should be provided for the Vigil and Funeral Liturgy and, whenever possible, for the processions and rite of committal (OCF, 32). Instrumentalists, cantor(s) and even choirs should be encouraged to assist the assembly's full participation in the songs, responses and acclamations of these rites (OCF 32-33).

In the Fall of 1997, about 30 parish priests, liturgists, and musicians from the Diocese of Madison were surveyed regarding the music sung at the Funeral Mass and related rites. About half responded to the survey. The accompanying list of musical suggestions was compiled from the suggestions submitted by those surveyed as well as by members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

This list is not intended to be a definitive list of approved funeral music, nor does it include every suggestion made by those surveyed. It is an attempt to offer guidance and insight to parish priests, liturgists, and musicians regarding appropriate music for the *Order of Christian Funerals*, as well as illustrating what are the current musical trends throughout the Diocese.

The Liturgical Commission and Office of Worship intend to update this list every few years, in order to facilitate full celebration of the funeral rites in the Diocese of Madison. Please contact the Office of Worship if you have any questions or comments regarding this list or the *Order of Christian Funerals*.



## Abbreviations

<i>OCF</i>	Order of Christian Funerals (the Funeral Rite)
<i>BB</i>	Breaking Bread
<i>G</i>	Gather
<i>GII</i>	Gather II
<i>GC</i>	Gather Comprehensive
<i>MI</i>	Music Issue
<i>RS</i>	Ritual Song
<i>WC</i>	We Celebrate
<i>W3</i>	Worship, third edition

## **Music for the Funeral Vigil (The Wake)**

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Although it is not yet common to include music at the funeral vigil, its use is strongly encouraged in the *Order of Christian Funerals* and those parishes which celebrate the vigil have found this to be an important element. Well-chosen music can touch the mourners and others present at levels of human need that words alone often fail to reach (OCF, 68).

Whenever possible, an instrumentalist and cantor should assist the assembly's participation (OCF, 68). It will be much easier to provide the musical resources necessary when the vigil is celebrated in the church. However, a cantor (with or without an instrumentalist) can lead the singing of simple hymns and songs at the funeral home for the vigil.

In the choice of music for the vigil, preference should be given to singing an opening song and the Responsorial Psalm. The litany, the Lord's Prayer, and a closing song may also be sung (OCF, 68).

*In addition to the hymns, songs, and psalms listed below, most of the music on the following pages is appropriate for the vigil. Selections on this page marked with an asterisk (\*) can be sung without instrumental accompaniment.*

### **Songs and Hymns for the Vigil**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Composer/Tune</b>	<b>Source(s)</b>
Amazing grace*	NEW BRITAIN	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
I heard the voice of Jesus say	KINGSFOLD	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
I know that my redeemer lives*	DUKE STREET	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
O God, our help in ages past*	SAINT ANNE	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
Psalm 27: The Lord is my light and my salvation	David Haas	G, GII, GC, RS, WC
Psalm 27: I believe I shall see . . .	Various	GII, GC, RS, W3
Psalm 103: The Lord is kind and merciful	Various	G, GII, GC, RS, WC, W3
Sing with all the saints*	HYMN TO JOY	GC, RS, WC, W3
The strife is o'er*	VICTORY	BB, MI, GC, RS, W3

*Especially appropriate for an evening Vigil:*

Lord of all hopefulness*	SLANE	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
Psalm 134: In the silent hours of night, bless the Lord*	Howard Hughes	GC, RS, W3
Psalm 134: Silently, peacefully, we will rest in you	Mike Hay	WC

## Hymns and Songs for the Funeral Mass

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The music at funerals should support, console, and uplift the participants and should help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory (OCF, 31). Since music can evoke strong feelings, it should be chosen with great care. The songs and hymns listed below are appropriate for use at funerals as opening or closing songs, or at other parts of the liturgy (such as the preparation of the gifts or communion).

Title	Composer/Tune	Source(s)
All creatures of our God and King	LASST UNS ERFRUEN	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
Amazing grace	NEW BRITAIN	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
Be not afraid	Bob Dufford	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS
Blest are they	David Haas	WC, G, GII, GC, RS
Christ is alive	TRURO	RS, W3
City of God	Dan Schutte	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS
Eye has not seen	Marty Haugen	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS, WC
For all the saints	SINE NOMINE	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
I have loved you	Michael Joncas	BB, MI, GC, GII, RS
I heard the voice of Jesus say	KINGSFOLD	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
I know that my redeemer lives	DUKE STREET	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
I want to walk as a child of the light	HOUSTON	GII, GC, RS, WC, W3
Jerusalem, my happy home	LAND OF REST	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
Jesus, remember me	Jacques Berthier	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS, WC, W3
Keep in mind	Lucien Deiss	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC
Litany for a funeral procession	John Becker	Oregon Catholic Press (octavo)
Lord of all hopefulness	SLANE	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
O God, our help in ages past	SAINT ANNE	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
O Lord, you died that all might live	MELITA	W3
On eagle's wings	Michael Joncas	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS
Rest in peace	Russell Schulz-Widmar	RS
Shepherd of my heart	Francis Patrick O'Brien	GII, GC
Sing with all the saints	HYMN TO JOY	GII, RS, WC, W3
Only a shadow	Carey Landry	BB, MI
The strife is o'er	VICTORY	BB, MI, GC, RS, W3
We shall rise again	Jeremy Young	G, GII, GC, RS
We walk by faith	DUNLAP'S CREEK	W3
We walk by faith	Marty Haugen	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS, WC
We will rise again	David Haas	G, RS
What wondrous love	WONDROUS LOVE	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS, W3

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**Hymns and Songs** (continued from previous page)

<b>Title</b>	<b>Composer/Tune</b>	<b>Source(s)</b>
<i>Especially appropriate for the communion processional (also see Responsorial Psalms below):</i>		
Eat this bread	Jacques Berthier	BB, MI, G, GC, GII, RS, WC, W3
I am the Bread of Life	Suzanne Toolan	BB, MI, G, GC, GII, RS, WC, W3
Taste and See	James Moore	G, GII, GC
You satisfy the hungry heart	Robert Kreutz	GC, RS, WC, W3

*Especially appropriate for the procession to the place of committal (closing hymn/song):*

In paradisum (May choirs of angels) Chant		BB, MI, GC, RS, W3
May saints and angels	TALLIS' CANON	RS, W3
May the angels lead you	Various settings	GC, RS, W3

## **Seasonal Hymns and Songs**

Funeral music should take into account the liturgical season which is being celebrated. Easter provides an excellent time to make a connection between the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our own dying and rising to eternal life. Selections during Advent may focus on our longing for the coming of the kingdom while music during Lent can highlight God's merciful forgiveness. The hymns and songs below are suggestions for the various seasons. It is not a comprehensive list. You may sing other appropriate hymns and songs that your parish knows.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Composer/Tune</b>	<b>Source(s)</b>
All creatures of our God and King ( <i>Easter</i> )	LASST UNS ERFRUEN	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
Comfort, comfort, O my people ( <i>Advent</i> )	GENEVA	BB, MI, GC, RS, W3
I know that my redeemer lives ( <i>Easter</i> )	DUKE STREET	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
Jesus walked this lonesome valley ( <i>Lent</i> )	Traditional	GC, RS, W3
O Sun of Justice ( <i>Lent</i> )	Chant	RS, W3
Of the Father's love begotten ( <i>Christmas</i> )	DIVINUM MYSTERIUM	BB, MI, GC, RS, W3
The strife is o'er ( <i>Easter</i> )	VICTORY	BB, MI, GC, RS, W3
This is the feast ( <i>Easter</i> )	FESTIVAL CANTICLE	BB, MI, GC, RS
Wait for the Lord ( <i>Advent</i> )	Jacques Berthier	G, GII, GC, RS, W3
When the King shall come again ( <i>Advent</i> )	GAUDEAMUS PARITER	GC, RS, W3

## Responsorial Psalms

The psalms are rich in imagery, feeling and symbolism. They powerfully express the suffering and pain, the hope and trust of people of every age and culture. Above all the psalms sing of faith in God, of revelation and redemption. They enable the assembly to pray in the words that Jesus himself used during his life on earth. In the psalms, the members of the assembly pray in the voice of Christ, who intercedes on their behalf before the Father (OCF, 25).



Since the psalms are songs, whenever possible, they should be sung (OCF, 26). Psalm texts should come from the Book of Psalms, and the Responsorial Psalm should never be replaced by another hymn or song, even if that text is scriptural.

Psalms are also very appropriate for use during the communion procession. Although it is not common in this Diocese, congregational singing during the communion procession is a recommended practice which serves as a visible sign of unity.

*Selections marked with an asterisk (\*) are also appropriate for the communion procession.*

Psalm	Refrain	Composer/Tune	Source(s)
23	My shepherd is the Lord* Shepherd me, O God* The Lord, is my shepherd*	Joseph Gelineau Marty Haugen Various	GC, RS, WC, W3 BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS, WC BB, MI, GII, GC, RS, WC, W3
25	To you, O Lord	Marty Haugen	G, GII, GC, RS
27	The Lord is my light	David Haas	G, GII, GC, RS, WC
42 & 43	My soul is thirsting for the living God*	Joseph Gelineau	W3
63	My soul is thirsting for you	Various	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS, WC, W3
103	The Lord is kind & merciful*	Various	G, GII, GC, RS, WC, W3
116	I will walk in the presence*	Various	GII, GC, RS, WC, W3
122	I rejoiced when I heard them	Various	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS, WC, W3
130	Out of the depths	Various	BB, MI, RS, WC, W3

## Mass Settings and Service Music

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As at Sunday Eucharist, several parts of the celebration should always be sung, even if there is no other music. These are the psalm, Gospel acclamation, the Eucharistic acclamations (Holy, Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation, the Great Amen), and the Lamb of God. Ideally, these should be well-known by the congregation, and may be the same that are used on Sundays. The following settings were the most-often mentioned in our survey of Diocesan musicians.

### Complete Mass Settings

Title	Composer/Tune	Source(s)
Community Mass	Richard Proulx	GC, RS, W3
Danish Amen Mass	Traditional	WC
Land of Rest Acclamations	arr. Richard Proulx	GII, GC, W3
Mass of Christian Unity	Jan Vermulst	WC
Mass of Creation	Marty Haugen	BB, MI, G, GC, RS, W3, WC
Mass of Light	David Haas	G, GII, GC, RS
Mass of Remembrance	Marty Haugen	G, GII, GC, RS
People's Mass	Jan Vermulst	GC, WC

### Gospel Acclamations

(also see Complete Mass Settings)

Title	Composer/Tune	Source(s)
Alleluia from "O sons and daughters" (in these sources called "Easter Alleluia")		GC, W3 G, RS
Alleluia from "The strife is o'er"		BB, MI, GC, RS, W3
Celtic Alleluia	Walker/O'Carroll	G, GII, GC, RS, BB, MI
Chant Alleluia	Chant	GC, RS, W3
Lenten Gospel Acclamation	Various	BB, MI, G, GII, GC, RS, WC, W3

### Lamb of God

(also see Complete Mass Settings)

Title	Composer/Tune	Source(s)
Agnus Dei	Chant	GC, RS, W3
Holy Cross Mass	David Clark Isele	RS, W3
Psallite Mass	Michael Joncas	GII, GC, RS

A common and acceptable practice during the Lamb of God involves the use of *tropes* (verses) to extend the length of the litany. Always begin and end with *Lamb of God*. Appropriate tropes for extending the litany during funerals are *Bread of Life*, *Saving Cup*, *Lord of Life*, *Victor Over Sin and Death*, and *Passover from Death to Life*. Of course, these may need to be adapted to suit the rhythm of a particular musical setting.

### Songs of Farewell

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The Song of Farewell follows the prayer after communion. According to the *Order of Christian Funerals*, there is an invitation to prayer, which is followed by a period of time for all to pray in silence. After the silence, the song begins. The song may serve several functions:

- ◆ Intercedes for the deceased, that God will count him/her among the blessed, and that God will grant him/her a merciful judgment
- ◆ Expresses our affection for the deceased
- ◆ Eases our sadness and strengthen our hope
- ◆ Consoles one another in the faith of Jesus Christ
- ◆ Prays for our own behalf
- ◆ Commends the deceased to the Lord

See the *Order of Christian Funerals* numbers 174 and 403 for appropriate texts. Although other texts may be used, these texts serve as a model, and normally should be chosen.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Composer/Tune</b>	<b>Source(s)</b>
I know that my redeemer lives	Howard Hughes, SM	W3
I know that my redeemer lives	DUKE STREET	GC, RS, W3
Lord, our God, receive your servant	John Bell	GIA (octavo)
Receive his/her soul	Steven Janco	GII, GC, RS
Receive his/her soul	David Haas	RS
Saints of God	Richard Proulx	RS, W3
Song of Farewell	Michael Joncas	G, GII, GC, RS
Song of Farewell	Ernest Sands	MI, BB
Song of Farewell	Smolarski / OLD HUNDREDTH	BB, MI, WC

## **Music for the Committal**

The community continues to show its concern for the mourners by participating in the rite of committal (OCF, 213). The singing of well-chosen music at the rite of committal can help the mourners as they face the reality of the separation (OCF, 214).

At the rite of committal with final commendation, whenever possible, the song of farewell should be sung. In either form of the committal rite, a hymn or liturgical song that affirms hope in God's mercy and in the resurrection of the dead is desirable at the conclusion of the rite (OCF, 214). Many of the songs on the previous pages are appropriate for the committal. *Note: All of the pieces listed below can be sung without accompaniment at graveside.*

<b>Title</b>	<b>Composer/Tune</b>	<b>Source(s)</b>
I know that my redeemer lives	DUKE STREET	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
O God, our help in ages past	SAINT ANNE	BB, MI, GC, RS, WC, W3
Sing with all the saints in glory	HYMN TO JOY	GC, RS, WC, W3
Song of Farewell	Smolarski/OLD HUNDREDTH	WC, MI, BB



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