Music Suggestions for Vigils, Funerals or Memorials

Music is a form of prayer that expresses deep feelings and convictions that words alone cannot. As we celebrate the lives of our loved ones, and mourn their passing, music can play a powerful part in celebrating, lamenting, healing and offering hope during a difficult time. Luckily, there are a multitude of hymns that express our fundamental Christian belief; namely, that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we are offered the promise of eternal life.

Those planning a vigil, funeral or memorial liturgy are encouraged to incorporate songs that are scripturally and liturgically based. While the below suggestions are not a complete list, most of these songs can be found in parish hymnals:

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Processional/Gathering Songs

- Amazing Grace
- Be Not Afraid
- Blest Are They
- Center of My Life
- Christ Is Alive
- Come to Me
- Eye Has Not Seen
- I Received the Living God
- I Want to Walk as the Child of the Light
- Jesus, Remember Me
- Holy is Your Name
- How Can I Keep From Singing
- Sing a New Song
- You are Mine
- You are Near
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Sung Psalm

- Ps. 23 Shepherd Me, O God
- Ps. 25 To You, O Lord
- Ps. 27 The Goodness of the Lord
- Ps. 27 In the Land of the Living
- Ps. 27 The Lord is My Light
- Ps. 63 My Soul is Thirsting
- Ps. 118 This is the Day the Lord Has Made
Presentation of the Gifts

This part of the Mass is very short since there is no collection as on Sunday.

Be with Me, O Lord
Come Unto Me
Deep River
Like a Child Rests
Shelter Me, O God

Communion

Behold the Lamb
I Am the Bread of Life
On Eagle's Wings
Eye Has Not Seen
My Soul in Stillness Waits
Be Not Afraid
Pan de Vida
Seed, Scattered and Sown
Taste and See
Song of the Body of Christ
Let Us Break Bread Together
My Soul is Longing
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Post Communion Meditation

Ave Maria (solo)
Notre Dame Alma Mater (See Below)
Panis Angelicus (solo)

Final Commendation (Song of Farewell):

May the Angels Lead You into Paradise
The Lord is Good to All Who Call on Him
May Saints and Angels Lead You On

Recessional:

Celtic Song of Farewell (solo)
Jesus Christ is Risen
I Am the Bread of Life
I Know that My Redeemer Lives
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
For All the Saints
Baptized in Water
This Is the Feast of Victory
The Strife is O'er
Sing a New Song
Sing to the Mountains
Soon and Very Soon
We Shall Rise Again