

FUNERAL READINGS



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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

This booklet offers a selection of readings suitable for funerals. You can choose up to three readers, or one person to do all the readings. Please select ONE reading from the Old Testament (from 1 to 5) and ONE reading from the New Testament (from 6 to 11). The booklet also includes the Prayers of the Faithful at the end. Please choose individuals who are comfortable reading in public and, if possible, not closely related to the deceased, as they might become too emotional to speak. The eulogy should be delivered at the beginning of the Mass and must not exceed three minutes. The priest will invite you to come up to read when the time comes.

FIRST READING OPTIONS

Please choose ONE reading from the Old Testament

1

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

But 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 people, 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 God shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and God's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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.

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.
Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of the prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and heard this word of the Lord:
"At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING OPTIONS

Please choose ONE reading from the New Testament

6

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives for oneself,
and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother?

Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
for it is written:

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:

Christ the firstfruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him
we shall also live with him;
if we persevere
we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him
he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

Beloved:

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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST:

Dear friends, let us turn to the Lord, the God of hope and consolation, who calls us to the everlasting glory in Christ Jesus.

Reader: Response is "**Lord, hear our prayer.**"

Reader:

Lord, You raised the dead to life; welcome our brother/sister N. into Your Eternal Kingdom. **We pray to the Lord**

Reader:

Today we entrust N. into your loving care. We thank You for the gift of her/his life and her/his love for us all. Welcome her/him now into your heavenly home where he/she will know peace and happiness forever. **We pray to the Lord**

Reader:

We pray for N. who was so dearly loved by her/his family and many friends. Dear God You loved and supported her/him in life, and in faith we believe she/he has entered into her/his eternal life with You. **We pray to the Lord**

Reader:

N. enjoyed the sacramental life of Your Church; he/she was nourished with Your Body and Blood. Grant him/her now a place at Your table in Your Heavenly Kingdom. **We pray to the Lord**

Reader:

For all of us assembled here today to worship in faith, that we may all one day be gathered in God's Eternal Kingdom. **We pray to the Lord**

PRIEST:

Lord God, in the resurrection of your Son, You have shown us that life is stronger than death. Support us as we travel towards You on our pilgrim journey and bring us one day to the fullness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**