

# Readings for a Funeral



*“I am the resurrection and the life,  
whoever believes in me will never die.”*

# Old Testament Reading

(Choose one of the following Old Testament Readings)



**Option 1.            A Reading from the Book of Job            (19:1.23-27)**

Job said,

“Ah, would that these words of mine were written down,  
inscribed on some monument  
with iron chisel and engraving tool,  
cut into the rock forever.

This I know: that my Redeemer lives,  
and he, the Last, will take his stand on earth.  
After my awaking, he will set me close to him,  
and from my flesh I shall look on God.  
He whom I shall see will take my part:  
these eyes will gaze on him and find him not aloof.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 2.            A Reading from the Book of Exodus (23:20-23)**

The Lord says this:

‘I myself will send an Angel before you to guard you as you go and bring you to the place that I have prepared. Give him reverence and listen to all that he says. Offer him no defiance; he would not pardon such a fault, for my name is in him. If you listen carefully to his voice and do all that I say, I shall be enemy to your enemies, foe to your foes. My angel will go before you.’

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 3.            A Reading from the Book of Wisdom            (3:1-9)**

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,  
no torment shall ever touch them.  
In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,  
their going looked like a disaster,  
their leaving us, like annihilation: but they are in peace.  
If they experienced punishments as men see it,  
their hope was rich with immortality;  
slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.  
God has put them to the test  
and proved them worthy to be with Him;  
He has tested them like gold in a furnace,  
and accepted them as a holocaust.  
When the time comes for His visitation they will shine out;  
as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.  
They shall judge nations, rule over peoples,  
and the Lord will be their King forever.  
They who trust in Him will understand the truth,  
those who are faithful will live with Him in love;  
for grace and mercy await those He has chosen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 4.            A Reading from the Book of Wisdom            (4:7-15)**

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest.  
Length of days is not what makes age honourable,  
nor number of years, the true measure of life;  
understanding, this is man's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe  
old age. He has sought to please God, so God has loved him;  
as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.  
He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his  
understanding or treachery seduce his soul;  
for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade,  
and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.  
Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life;  
his soul being pleasing to the Lord,  
he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.  
Yet people look on, uncomprehending;  
it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await the chosen  
of the Lord, and protection, his holy ones.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 5.            A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah            (25:6-9)**

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts  
will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food.  
On this mountain He will remove  
the mourning veil covering all peoples,  
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,  
He will destroy Death forever.  
The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;  
He will take away His people's shame  
everywhere on Earth, for the Lord has said so.  
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God  
in whom we hoped for salvation;  
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.  
We exult and we rejoice that He has saved us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 6.            A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:17-26)**

My soul is shut out from peace;  
I have forgotten happiness.  
And now I say, 'My strength is gone,  
that hope which came from the Lord'.  
Brooding on my anguish and affliction  
is gall and wormwood.  
My spirit ponders it continually  
and sinks within me. This is what I shall tell my heart,  
and so recover hope: the favours of the Lord are not all past,  
His kindnesses are not exhausted;  
every morning they are renewed;  
great is His faithfulness.  
'My portion is the Lord' says my soul  
'and so I will hope in Him.'  
The Lord is good to those who trust Him, to the soul that  
searches for Him. It is good to wait in silence  
for the Lord to save.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 7.            A Reading from the book of Revelations (12:1-3)**

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me  
"Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord!"  
Happy indeed, the Spirit says;  
now they can rest for ever after their work  
since their good deeds go with them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 8            A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**

*A Time for Everything*

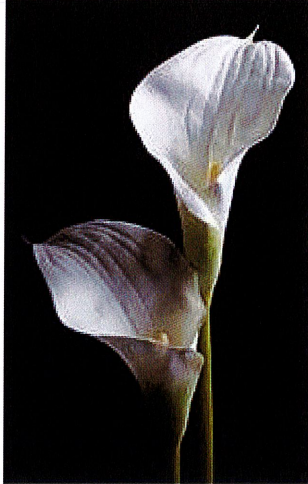
There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance.  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak.

I have seen the burdens laid on the human race.  
All that God does is apt for its time: but although he has given us an  
awareness of the passage of time,  
we cannot grasp the beginning or the end of what God does.

The Word of the Lord

# The Responsorial Psalm

(if the Psalm is sung there is no need to get someone to read a Psalm)



## Option 1

## Psalm 41

**R** *My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.*

Like the deer that yearns  
For running streams,  
So my soul is yearning  
for you, my God. R

My soul is thirsting for God,  
The God of my life;  
When can I enter and see  
The face of God? R

And I will come to the altar of God,  
The God of my joy.  
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,  
O God, my God. R

Why are you cast down, my soul,  
Why groan within me?  
Hope in God; I will praise Him still,  
My Saviour and my God. R

**R**    *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures  
where He gives me repose.

Near restful waters He leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

R

He guides me along the right path;  
He is true to His name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

R

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

R

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

R



# New Testament Reading

(Choose one of the following New Testament Readings)



## **Option 1. A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)**

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at His appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous is it likely that He would now fail to save us from God’s anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of His Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

**Opotion 2. A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.**  
(5:17-21)

If it certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall bought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. When law came, it was to multiply the opportunities of falling, but however great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater; and so, just as sin reigned wherever there was death, so grace will reign to bring eternal life thanks to the righteousness that comes from Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 3. A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.**  
(6:3-9)

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in His death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with Him and joined Him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated His death, we shall also imitate Him in His resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with Him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him; Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over Him any more.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 4. A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.**  
(8:14-23)

The Spirit Himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well; heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing His suffering so as to share His glory.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal His sons.

From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 5. A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans**  
(8:31-35, 37-39)

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that He will not refuse anything He can give.

Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - He rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand He stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of Him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

### **Option 6. A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as Scripture says: By my life – it is the Lord who speaks – every knee shall bend before Me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore that each of us must give account of himself.

The Word of the Lord.

### **Option 7. A Reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** (15:51-57)

I will tell you something that been secret; that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed. This will be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised and we shall be changed as well.

When this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory.

Death, where is your victory? Death where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 8. A Reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (4:14-5:1)**

We know that He who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by His side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things which are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 9. A Reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)**

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus; God will bring them with Him.

With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 10.**

**A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians**

(3:20-21)

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of His own glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which He can subdue the whole universe.

The Word of the Lord.

**Option 11.**

**A Reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to Timothy**

(4:6-8)

I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. All there is to come for me now is the Crown of Righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for His appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

## ***Prayers of the Faithful – Option A***

*Some or all of these prayers may be used, or new intercessions composed.*

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where He intercedes for His Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to His.

1. In baptism **N.** received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

*Lord, in your mercy.*

***R. Hear our prayer***

2. Our brother/sister **N.** was nourished at the table of the saviour. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

3. Our brother/sister **N.** spent his/her life following Jesus, poor, chaste and obedient. Count him/her among all holy men and women who sing in our courts.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

4. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

5. Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

6. Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest and peace to all whose faith is known to You alone.

*Lord, in your mercy*

**R. Hear our prayer**

7. The family and friends of **N.** seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

*Lord, in your mercy*

**R. Hear our prayer**

8. We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister **N.** Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.

*Lord, in your mercy*

**R. Hear our prayer**

**Priest:** Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**



## ***Prayers of the Faithful – Option B***

*Some or all of these prayers may be used, or new intercessions composed.*

**Priest:** God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people living and dead.

1. For **N.** who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

2. For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

3. For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

4. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

5. For the family and friends of our brother/sister **N.**, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

6. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***R. Hear our prayer***

**Priest:** God, our shelter and our strength,  
You listen in love to the cry of your people;  
Hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters.  
Cleanse them of their sins  
And grant them the fullness of redemption.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R.** Amen