

Selection of Readings

Readings for the Funeral Mass are taken from the Order of Christian Funerals. There is an Old Testament Reading, a Responsorial Psalm, a New Testament Reading.

The following list offers suggested readings for funeral masses as given in the Lectionary. Each selection includes a brief synopsis of that particular reading. Please select one reading from the Old Testament, one Responsorial Psalm, and one from the New Testament.

Old Testament Readings:

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| ___ Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 | (As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.) |
| ___ Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 | (He will destroy death forever.) |
| ___ Lamentations 3:17-26 | (It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.) |

Responsorial Psalm:

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| ___ Ps 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6 | (The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.) |
| ___ Ps 25:6 & 7b, 17-18, 20-21 | (To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.) |
| ___ Ps 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b & 9a, 13-14 | (The Lord is my light and my salvation) |

New Testament Readings:

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|------------------------------|---|
| ___ Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 | (We too might live in newness of life.) |
| ___ Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 | (He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.) |
| ___ Philippians 3:20-21 | (He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.) |
| ___ Corinthians 15:51-57 | (Death is swallowed up in victory.) |
| ___ Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 | (There shall be no more death.) |

(1st Reading)
Isa 25:6a, 7-9

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!”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

(1st Reading)
Lam 3:17-26

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

(1st Reading)
Wis 3:1-6, 9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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 in the eyes of men, 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 him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy one,
and his care is with his elect.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

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

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshed my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.

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

Even though I walk in the dark valley.
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

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

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

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

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

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

Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Relieve the troubles of my heart;
and bring me out of my distress.
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins.

Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Preserve my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
because I wait for you, O LORD.

Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 & 8b & 9a, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Response: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

Response: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple.

Response: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me,

Your presence, O Lord, I seek.
hide not your face from me.

Response: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

Response: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

(2nd Reading)
Rom 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of St. 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

(2nd Reading)
Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

(2nd Reading)
Phillipians 3:20-21

**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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

(2nd Reading)
Cor 15:51-57

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians**

Brothers and sisters: Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

Death is swallowing up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

(2nd Reading)
Rev 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God