

Funeral Scripture Readings

Old Testament Readings (select one)

1. A Reading from the Book of Job

19: 1, 23-27

Then Job answered and said:
Oh, would that my words were written down!
 Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead
 they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,
 and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
Whom I myself shall see:
 my own eyes, not another's shall behold him,
And from my flesh I shall see God;
 my inmost being is consumed with longing.
The Word of the Lord.

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2. A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

[Longer Form]

3: 1-9

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 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.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
 and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
 and the Lord shall be their King forever.
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 ones,
 and his care is with the elect.
The Word of the Lord.

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3. A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

25: 6a, 7-9

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.

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New Testament Readings (select one)

1. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

[Shorter Form]

6: 3-4, 8-9

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

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2. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

5:17-21

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned

in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

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3. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

8: 31b-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

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Gospel Readings (select one)

1. A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

5: 1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. Jesus began to teach them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil
against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in
heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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2. A Reading from the holy gospel according to John

6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowd:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live
forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews
quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus
said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and
drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my
blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and
my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I
in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the
one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down
from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will
live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord

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3. A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

14: 1-6

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's
house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going
to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and
take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."
Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the
way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father
except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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