

BIBLE READINGS AND PSALMS – ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

From the Order of Christian Funerals: 'In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the Word of God. The readings proclaim Christ's Paschal Mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's Kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God's designs for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called His own.'

The family are encouraged to prayerfully selected Bible readings that provide an opportunity to hear God speaking to them about their needs, sorrows, fears, and hopes, and about a Christian life lived in faith.

One or two readings are proclaimed during the Liturgy of the Word, along with a Psalm sung by the music ministry and a Gospel reading proclaimed by the minister. When two readings are proclaimed, usually the first reading is from the Old Testament, and the second from the New Testament.

The following readings are in the Lectionary for Masses for the Dead, and may be helpful for selecting Scripture for the funeral. The Canadian Catholic Lectionary uses the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translation.

Readings for funeral Masses

Old Testament

2 Maccabees 12:43-45 He acted well and honourably, taking account of the Resurrection.

Job 19:1, 23-27 I know that my Redeemer lives.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 For everything there is a season...

Wisdom 3:1-9 Having been disciplined, they will receive great good, because God tested them, and found them worthy of Himself

Wisdom 4:7-15 A blameless life is ripe old age.

Isaiah 25:6-9 The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces...He will swallow up death forever.

Isaiah 61:1-3 The Lord has sent me to comfort all who mourn.

Isaiah 65:17-21 No more shall the sound of weeping be heard...

Lamentations 3:17-26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Ezekiel 37:12-14 I will put My spirit within you, and you shall live...

Daniel 12:1-3 Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

Psalms

Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Psalm 25 To You O Lord I lift up my soul.

Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Psalm 42 My soul thirst for God, for the living God.

Psalm 63 My soul thirsts for You, O Lord my God.

Psalm 103 The Lord is merciful and gracious.

Psalm 116 I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Psalm 122 I was glad when they said to me, 'let us go to the house of the Lord!'

Psalm 130 I hope in the Lord, I hope in His Word.

Psalm 143 Hear my prayer, O Lord.

New Testament

Revelation 14:13 Blessed are the dead who lie in the Lord, they will rest from their labours, and their deeds will follow them.

Revelation 21:1-7 Death will be no more.

Romans 5:5-11 We will be saved through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have received reconciliation.

Romans 5:17-21 Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

Romans 6:3-9 Let us walk in newness of life.

Romans 8:14-23 We wait for the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:31-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Romans 14:7-12 Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 All will be made alive in Christ.

[1 Corinthians 15:51-57](#) Death has been swallowed up in victory.

[2 Corinthians 4:15-5:1](#) What can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

[2 Corinthians 5:1,6-10](#) We have a house eternal in the heavens.

[Philippians 3:20-21](#) He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of His glory.

[1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#) We will be with the Lord forever.

[2 Timothy 2:8-13](#) If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him.

[2 Timothy 4:6-8](#) There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness.

[1 Peter 1:3-7](#) God has given us a birth into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

[1 John 3:1-2](#) We will see God as He is.

[1 John 3:14-16](#) We have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters.