

Suggested Scripture Readings for Christian Funerals

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27a	<i>I know that my Redeemer lives and I shall see God</i>
Isaiah 25:6-9	<i>The banquet of the LORD</i>
Isaiah 61:1-3	<i>Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden (61:1-4, 8-11)</i>
*Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33	<i>Great is the LORD's faithfulness</i>
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	<i>The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom</i>
Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9	<i>The righteous are with God</i>

Psalms

+Psalm 23	<i>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; (23:4)</i>
Psalm 24	<i>They shall receive a blessing from the God of their salvation (24:5)</i>
Psalm 34:1-10,22	<i>Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD. (34:9)</i>
Psalm 42:1-7	<i>My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? (42:2)</i>
Psalm 46:1-7	<i>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (46:4)</i>
+Psalm 90	<i>Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants. (90:13)</i>
Psalm 91:9-16	<i>On eagle's wings – assurance of God's protection: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. (90:14)</i>
+Psalm 118	<i>Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD. (118:19)</i>
Psalm 121	<i>Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep; (121:4)</i>
+Psalm 130	<i>My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning (130:5)</i>
Psalm 139:1-12	<i>O LORD, you have searched me and known me. (139:1)</i>
Psalm 143	<i>LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness.(143:1)</i>
Psalm 149	<i>Sing the praise of the LORD in the congregation of the faithful (149:1)</i>
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a; or 3:1-8	<i>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.</i>

New Testament Letters

Romans 1:16	<i>I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation</i>
Romans 5:1-11	<i>Reconciled to God by Christ's death</i>
Romans 5:17-21	<i>Through Adam came sin and through Christ comes justification</i>
Romans 8	<i>Life in the Spirit</i>
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	<i>Nothing can separate us from God's love (8:26-39)</i>

(New Testament continues on the next page)

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Romans 9	<i>Future glory</i>
+Romans 14:7-9	<i>Accepting diversity in the community of faith (14:1-12)</i>
1 Corinthians 15:12-26	<i>Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died (15:12-20)</i>
1 Corinthians 15:51-57 or 55-58	<i>Death is swallowed up in victory</i>
2 Corinthians 4:16-18	<i>Living by faith</i>
Ephesians 1:11-23	<i>God raised Christ from the dead and made him head over all the church</i>
Philippians 3:20-21	<i>Jesus will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body</i>
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	<i>The dead in Christ will rise</i>
2 Timothy 4:6-7	<i>I have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith</i>
Hebrews 13:6-8	<i>Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever</i>
Hebrews 13:14-16	<i>We are looking for the city that is to come</i>
1 Peter 1:3-9	<i>New birth to a living hope through the resurrection</i>
*1 John 3:1-3	<i>We are God's children</i>
Revelation 7:9-17	<i>The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb</i>
+Revelation 14:13	<i>Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord</i>
Revelation 21:2-5a or 21:1-7	<i>A new heaven and a new earth</i>

New Testament Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12	<i>Blessed are the poor in spirit</i>
*Matthew 11:25-30	<i>The yoke of discipleship (11:16-19, 25-30)</i>
Matthew 24:1-13	<i>The one who endures to the end will be saved</i>
Luke 6:20-31	<i>Jesus speaks blessings and woes</i>
Luke 12:35-40	<i>God will give you the treasure of the kingdom</i>
Luke 23:39-43	<i>You will be with me in paradise</i>
John 3:16	<i>God gave his Son for the life of world</i>
John 5:24-29	<i>Any who hear my word and believe in him who sent me has eternal life</i>
*John 6:37-40	<i>All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day</i>
John 10:1-5	<i>Jesus the Good Shepherd</i>
John 11:21-27	<i>The raising of Lazarus: I am the resurrection and the life</i>
John 11:32-44	<i>The raising of Lazarus</i>
John 12:23-36	<i>Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit (committal)</i>
John 14:1-6	<i>Christ the way, the truth, and life</i>

The Resurrection of Jesus

Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20

For more choices, consider texts for the season, festival or commemoration, or from the Revised Common Lectionary.

**appropriate for the burial of a child*

+appropriate for the graveside or graveside procession

