Funeral Readings

The list of approved funeral readings are below. It can be helpful to choose these before choosing the music. Typically, one Old Testament Reading, one New Testament Reading, and one Gospel Reading are needed for the Funeral Rite.

Old Testament Readings

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

"He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view."

Job 19:1, 23-27a

"I know that my Vindicator lives."

Wisdom 3:1-9 or 3:1-6, 9

"As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself."

Wisdom 4:7-15

"An unsullied life, the attainment of old age."

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."*

Daniel 12:1-3

"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake."

New Testament Readings that can be used as the first reading during the Season of Easter.

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 or 10:34-36, 42-43

"*He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead."*

Revelation 14:13

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Revelation 20:11--21:1

"The dead were judged according to their deeds."

Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7*

"There shall be no more death."

* = Recommended for Funerals for Children

New Testament Readings

Romans 5:5-11

"Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath."

Romans 5:17-21

"Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more."

Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9*

"We too might live in newness of life."

Romans 8:14-23

"We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies."

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

"What will separate us from the love of Christ?"

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12*

"*Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."*

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 or 15:20-23*

"*So too in Christ shall all be brought to life."*

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

2 Corinthians 4:14--5:1

"What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal."

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

"We have a building from God, eternal in heaven."

Philippians 3:20-21

"He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

"Thus we shall always be with the Lord."

2 Timothy 2:8-13

"*If we have died with him we shall also live with him."*

1 John 3:1-2

"We shall see him as he is."

1 John 3:14-16

"We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers."

Gospel Readings

Matthew 5:1-12a

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Matthew 11:25-30*

"Come to me and I will give you rest."

Matthew 25:1-13

"Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!"

Matthew 25:31-46

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father."

Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 or 15:33-39*

"Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last."

Luke 7:11-17

"Young man, I tell you, arise!"

Luke 12:35-40

"*You also must be prepared."*

Luke 23:33, 39-43

"Today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a or

23:44-46, 50, 52- 53

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Luke 24:13-35 or 24:13-16, 28-35

"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

John 5:24-29

"Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life."

John 6:37-40*

"Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day."

John 6:51-58*

"Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day."

John 11:17-27 or 11:21-27

"I am the resurrection and the life."

John 11:32-45*

"Lazarus, come out!"

John 12:23-28 or 12:23-26

"If it dies, it produces much fruit."

John 14:1-6

"In my Father's house there are many dwellings."

John 17:24-26

"I wish that where I am they also may be with me."

John 19:17-18, 25-39*

"And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit."